

IKC UPDATE

A Quarterly Publication of The Indiana Karst Conservancy
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INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY, INC.

PO Box 2401, Indianapolis, IN 46206-2401
Affiliated with the National Speleological Society



The Indiana Karst Conservancy is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation and preservation of caves and karst features in Indiana and other areas of the world. The Conservancy encourages research and promotes education related to karst and its proper, environmentally compatible use.

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*grottos with access agreements



ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

SATURDAY, MARCH 16th, 10 AM

GREENWOOD, INDIANA

WHITE RIVER LIBRARY

The annual business meeting is for the explicit purpose of elections. It is also for members and other interested persons to have an open forum for talking about cave and karst conservation and related topics. Past, present, and future IKC projects are discussed to solicit comments and input from our members and the caving community as a whole. The meeting is informal, and everyone is encouraged to attend and participate. The IKC Board *wants* your input.

Preliminary Agenda Items: Elections; Brief recaps of last quarter's activities; Patron/Steward annual reports; Patron annual reports; Under-Earth Day at Buddha/tree planting; Buckner developments; HNF and DNR abandoned mine gate projects for 2002; Land Acquisition Committee activities, HNF inventorying project; and more....

Following the meeting (to be over with by 1 PM), we will most likely socialize over lunch at a nearby Mexican restaurant.

Meeting directions: See page 17 (inside back cover) for directions and map.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

- 16 MAR = IKC ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, Greenwood (see above)
- 23 MAR = LOST RIVER TOUR, Orleans (see page 5)
- 23 MAR = HNF FIELD WORK DAY, contact Kriste Lindberg
- 13/14 APR = UNDER-EARTH DAY/BUDDHA TREE PLANTING, Bedford (see page 5)
- 20 APR = HNF COMMITTEE MEETING/FIELD WORK, contact Kriste Lindberg
- 20 APR = INDIANA CAVE SYMPOSIUM (evening), Milltown (see page 7)
- 04 MAY = TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA (HNF), contact Kriste Lindberg (see page 8)
- 18 MAY = HNF FIELD WORK DAY, contact Kriste Lindberg
- 19 MAY = HNF ABANDONED MINE GATING, Lawrence (see page 6)
- 01 JUN = LOST RIVER TOUR, Orleans (see page 5)
- 15 JUN = HNF FIELD WORK DAY, contact Kriste Lindberg
- 24-28 JUN = NSS CONVENTION, Camden, Maine
- 20 JUL = HNF COMMITTEE MEETING/FIELD DAY, contact Kriste Lindberg

For more information on the Indiana Karst Conservancy, visit our web site at <http://www.caves.org/conservancy/ikc> or write to our PO box. Membership to the IKC is open to anyone interested in cave and karst conservation. Annual dues are \$15. Please see inside back cover for the membership application form or to make a much appreciated donation.

The *IKC Update*, distributed for free, is published quarterly for members and other interested parties. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep the membership and caving community informed of IKC activities and other news related to cave/karst conservation. Submission of original or reprinted articles for publication is encouraged.

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RAMBLINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT...

The IKC received a very interesting letter in the mail in mid-January, from a gentleman named Art Gahimer. Apparently, Art has been policing the situation at Buckner Cave for over a year, in an attempt to keep undesirables from continuing to trash the cave. It was later confirmed that Art's activities have been occurring with the consent and approval of the landowner, Richard Blenz.

The Board of the IKC has occasionally speculated on the ultimate fate of Buckner. Given that he has no heirs, Mr Blenz has named the NSS as the benefactor, and it will eventually be the responsibility of the NSS Board of Governors to decide how to manage this property. The cave cannot be managed from Huntsville, so an appropriate local land trust will likely be sought to take over stewardship. The obvious choice for this would be the IKC, but any incorporated caving organization with knowledgeable people and non-profit designation could also take on the task.

As most IKC members know, the situation at Buckner has not been good. Personally, I have been alternately excited about eventually being given the opportunity to turn things around, yet concerned about our ability to police the situation. While a functional gate on the cave might help both with access control and restoration of the bat population that once hibernated in the entrance room, even the stoutest gate can be breached by determined individuals. This means a physical presence needs to be maintained at the cave until the word gets around that speleo-jerks are not welcome. Also, an effective cleanup would likely require substantial manpower over the course of several years, and the principal organizers within the IKC already have a very full plate.

In light of this, most of the (informal) discussions I've had have revolved around some kind of collaborative effort, involving local grottos and other caving groups. Having already contacted most of the locals, Mr Gahimer's proposal is in reasonably good alignment with these preliminary discussions. Although I don't know Art personally, it sounds to me that he deserves substantial credit for exerting control of the situation. Improved relations with the neighbors would also benefit everybody. So I believe the IKC should be very supportive of the proposed

activities, regardless of who receives ultimate responsibility for stewardship of the caves in this area. It can only make the task that much easier to manage, when the NSS receives this donation.

At the same time, every situation does not call for the IKC to ride in on our white horse to "save the day". Art has taken the lead, and I can only imagine how difficult his task has been. If he has other plans in mind, I respect that. The involvement and input of other local caving organizations also needs to receive their due consideration. To that end, I have named Bob Vandeventer to represent the IKC when networking with other groups.

If nothing else, it will be interesting to see just how innovative cavers can be when it comes to restoring a cave that has seen this much abuse. Buckner is an interesting cave, and worthy of better treatment than it has gotten over the years. It will always be a caver's cave. We're just beginning to take the first steps of a long journey of restoration and stewardship. Like Sullivan Cave, Buckner comes with a host of expectations as to what is the most appropriate management philosophy. It's my hope that despite some initial disparity in agendas, we can keep the lines of communication open, and work together so we all end up in the same place.

Bruce Bowman



Bruce Bowman (right) signing the Buddha Karst Preserve Conservation Easement documents in exchange for significant funding from the Indiana Heritage Trust.

NEWS BRIEFS...

- ❑ With the relatively inactive winter winding down, the caving calendar is once again full of cave conservation/educational projects. Check out the calendar on page 3 (and related articles throughout this issue) and pick a few projects to volunteer/participate in while having a little fun too. IKC projects can be very rewarding and there is always lots of fellowship in accomplishing good things together.
- ❑ Over the past several months, the IKC Board has been busy finalizing the management plans and management team for the Buddha Karst Preserve. Tom Rea has been appointed the Property Manager and is responsible for all activities related to the surface of the property. Jeff Cody has been appointed the Cave Patron who monitors the caves on the property and handles all access issues. If you wish to visit the caves on the property, you *must* contact Jeff to arrange permission. If you just want to visit the property (without entering the caves), you do not need permission (during daylight hours). Contact information for both Tom and Jeff can be found on page 2.
- ❑ As Bruce Bowman indicated in his Rambling's article on page 4, there are some significant changes occurring at Buckner Cave. Foremost, if you plan to visit the cave or the property, you will need to sign in at the kiosk and coordinate your plans with Art Gahimer who now lives on the property (in his truck camper). Because of the many years of the "anything goes" attitudes some visitors have had, Art will be skeptical of anyone he does not know, but you should not have any problems if you act civil while on the property.
- ❑ Bob Armstrong and Dee Slater of the Lost River Conservation Association will once again be conducting their guided auto/hiking tours of the Lost River area, starting from the east at its head waters in Washington County, through Orange County to its disappearance near Orleans, and on to its rise near Orangeville. This year there are two spring tours scheduled: March 23rd, June 1st. The orientation lecture starts at 7:45 AM on each of those dates at the southeast corner of the square in Orleans and will depart at 8 AM. Reservations are not re-

UNDER-EARTH DAY AT BUDDHA KARST PRESERVE APRIL 13/14th

The Indiana Karst Conservancy will once again be organizing a workday in celebration of Earth Day. **This year, the activities will be held at our new Buddha Karst Preserve.** If you have not visited this property before, this is an excellent opportunity to check things out. We have a long list of projects needing attention, but will likely focus on just a few. Two surface projects that we will likely work on are the removal of numerous discarded fence rolls from several sinkholes, and the planting of approximately 1000 hardwood tree seedlings. Inside Buddha Cave, we hope to get a crew to remove the old bolt anchors at the vertical rig spot. We may also do some other minor restoration work, but the cave itself is in pretty good shape. Most of the work will be performed on Saturday, but depending upon the turn-out, we likely will have some work left for Sunday. The closest camping is at Spring Mill State Park.

You do not need any special tools or skills to assist with any of the above-ground activities and family participation is encouraged. The in-cave work will require vertical equipment and experience. Liability waivers will be required for all volunteers.

The property is located 6/10th of a mile south of the community of Buddha (SE of Bedford in Lawrence County). Access to the property and parking is south of the cave (do *not* stop/park the former owner's home). If you need further directions or information, contact Tom Rea (765-653-4423 or tomrea@ccrtc.com).

quired. Tours will go, *especially* if it rains. There will be some moderate hiking and sturdy footwear and long pants/sleeves are strongly recommended. The tour is free, but a small donation is suggested for the optional printed handouts. This is a must-do tour, if you are interested in Indiana karst. For more information, contact Bob or Dee at (317) 253-6951.

- ❑ Over the past three years, the IKC has installed approximately 20 bat-friendly closures on abandoned mines for the Indiana DNR and Hoosier National Forest. These have been major volunteer projects which have also supplemented the IKC's revenue stream. For 2002, we currently have only one small project scheduled. It will be undertaken on May 19th and should only take six to eight volunteers. If you are interested in helping, please contact Keith Dunlap.
- ❑ In late November, the IKC was approached by a Monroe County landowner who was interested in negotiating a conservation easement on his property. The landowner's property was a continuous 1400-acre tract with several notable caves and likely dozens of other karst features. Bruce Bowman and Keith Dunlap visited the property and while the opportunity was inviting, it was decided the long term monitoring and responsibility was more than the IKC should take on. Subsequently, the owner was able to negotiate an agreement with the Sycamore Land Trust so this property will perpetually remain a continuous tract and be protected from development.
- ❑ Several years ago, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) initiated a project to rewrite the regulations related to Confined Feeding Operations (large hog and cattle operations which can produce huge amounts of manure). Bruce Bowman and Keith Dunlap both participated in several opportunities to review early draft regulations and about halfway through the process, the EPA released additional federal guidelines which delayed the new regulations even further. But the regulations are finally complete and become effective in March. Part of the permit review process allows for special considerations regarding siting in karst topography. It is hoped that IDEM and the Indiana Cave Survey can work out an agreement to share information which will allow for a more complete review and the avoidance of impact to known caves.
- ❑ As part of the Indiana Boat, Sport, and Travel Show in Indianapolis, the Indiana DNR Fish & Wildlife Division annually presents six awards (two each in the categories of Conservation Organization of the Year, Conservation Person of the Year, and Conservation Writer of the Year). This year, ACRES (a land trust from northern Indiana) received the Conservation Organization of the Year award, while the IKC received the Honorable Mention in that category. The award again illustrates some of the relationships we have nurtured within the DNR related to our bat protection initiatives, our land protection activities, and our forestry stewardship.



- ❑ On February 18th, the Indiana DNR announced a major reduction of services related to a \$8.2 million (15%) annual budget cut mandated by the Governor. The cuts will impact many programs on State properties (see www.state.in.us/dnr/about/budget2002.html). Two items of interest is the discontinuance of the boat rides in Upper Twin Cave at Spring Mill State Park, and the privatization of the cave tours at Wyandotte Cave in Harrison-Crawford State Forest. Depending upon who is awarded the Wyandotte contract and what use restrictions are imposed, this change could have a significant impact (either positive or negative) to the cave and the Indiana bats which hibernate there.
- ❑ In another announcement by the Indiana DNR, for the first time ever, the public is invited to offer their visions and values on how the State Forests should be managed. Over the next three months, each state forest office will host an "open house" where there will be

presentations and displays on recreational activities, budget issues, staffing, major projects, the Indiana Heritage Trust programs, and logging. Visitors will have an opportunity to talk with DNR staff and offer their comments. This could be a turning point where the State Forests start to scale back their commodity-based purpose, much as the Hoosier National Forest did a generation ago. The open house for Harrison-Crawford SF is April 17th. Other open house dates can be found on the DNR website (www.state.in.us/dnr).

- ❑ Hot off the press, the *Proceedings of the 1999 Cave and Karst Management Symposium* is now available from the NSS bookstore. The *Proceedings* contains 65 recent papers related to cave and karst management and is a fine reference for any caver's personal library. The cost is \$15, plus postage.
- ❑ Also recently published is the *2000-2001 Winter Survey for Indiana Bats in Hibernacula of Indiana* by Virgil Brack and Keith Dunlap. This is the formal report of the Indiana bat population information that was presented in the December *IKC Update*. A limited number of copies are available and those interested should contact Keith Dunlap.
- ❑ Four new members have joined the IKC in the past quarter. Welcome Richard Van Rheenen (395), Patricia Ruback (396), Robert West (397) and Dave Tibbets (398). The IKC membership now stands at 189.

INDIANA CAVE SYMPOSIUM 2002

by Keith Dunlap

The tenth annual Indiana Cave Symposium will be held on Saturday, April 20 at the Cave Country Canoe Group Meeting Hall in Milltown, Indiana. A hot-dog/hamburger cook-out will begin at 5:00 PM local time (4 PM Indianapolis time) in the campground shelter house and talks will begin promptly at 7:00 PM local time (6 PM Indy time). Please bring a covered dish and/or dessert to share. The hot-dogs/burgers, sandwich fixings, soft drinks, paper and plastic ware, and ice will be provided. Camping should be available. The Indiana Karst Conservancy and Indiana Cave Survey are co-sponsoring the event.

The purpose of the symposium is to assemble the active caving groups to share and discuss their projects, and for cavers and cave researchers to network. Presently, speakers for the symposium are being solicited from caving groups within Indiana and neighboring states. The emphasis will be on exploration, surveying, science, and conservation projects. It is preferred that the talks be on activities within Indiana. Talks will be from 5 to 30 minutes in length. A slide projector, computer projector, and an overhead projector will be available. The symposium is an excellent media to showing off your grotto's recent projects.

At this time, there are nine presentations scheduled:

- o Signs of Caves -- John Benton and Terry Clark.
- o Bugs, Bombs, and Bureaucrats -- Dr Jerry Lewis.
- o Agencies as Partners in Karst Conservation and Education -- Kriste Lindberg.
- o History of Indiana Bat Management at Wyandotte Cave -- Todd Webb.
- o Sellersburg Quarry Survey -- Bruce Trotter.
- o Buddha Karst Preserve -- Bruce Bowman.
- o Caves of the Lost River Drainage Basin -- Mark Deebel.
- o Recent Mine Gating Projects - Keith Dunlap
- o Public Knowledge of Karst and Groundwater: A Case for Education -- Carita Noe.

Additional presentations are being considered. For more information, or to schedule a talk, contact Ray Sheldon at (812) 579-6481 or e-mail RSheldon@iquest.net. Also visit the ICS's website (www.caves.org/survey/ics) for the latest information.

HNF/IKC KARST INVENTORY PROJECT UPDATE

by Kriste Lindberg

Over the past several months, the HNF karst team volunteers have been concentrating on an area just south of Huron and in the Deam Wilderness. There is so much to do in these areas that we've even gone on days that are not regularly scheduled just to get more done!

We are finding new caves all of the time and the total count is up to 138 documented caves on HNF-owned properties.



Patty Ruback checking out a new cave entrance found on a winter ridgewalk south of Huron. Lindberg

Special thanks this month go to Jerry Litaker for producing maps for several of the new caves, including Pine Valley Cave, one of the longest on the Forest.

There's so much more to do that we may be "hiring" an intern to help with the paperwork.

In the meantime, Dr Jerry Lewis is plugging away on the HNF biota study of minute critters and Dr Virgil Brack has started a bat hibernation study. Lots of information is coming in on these timely additions to the cave inventory project. It will help us better manage the caves for their protection.

Additionally, I've been working with the HNF staff to help them strengthen their cave and karst conservation education (see Education and Outreach Update) program.

Following are some of the upcoming activities where you can help:

- o March 23 - HNF/IKC Karst Project Fieldwork Day. Meet at Steve Lockwood's house in Mitchell, 10:00 AM.

- o April 20 - HNF/IKC Karst Project Meeting and Fieldwork Day. Meet at HNF HQ in Bedford, 10:00 AM for the meeting and noon for the fieldwork.

- o May 4 - 16th annual Take Pride in America Day. Meet at Hardin Ridge at 9:00 AM in the Shelterhouse No. 1.

- o May 18 - HNF/IKC Karst Project Fieldwork Day. Meet at Steve Lockwood's house in Mitchell, 10:00 AM.

- o May 19 Kaolinite Mine Gating in Lawrence County. Contact Keith Dunlap for more details.

As a reminder, a few HNF/IKC Karst Project t-shirts are still available. Hurry and volunteer some time so you, too, can receive one. They sport both the HNF and IKC logos, true-to-color and joined together, with the phrase "Partners in karst conservation". We have sizes M, L, XL, and XXL available. Proudly display your project pride!



Winter icicles and snow are nature's jewelry.

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Scott Nordhoff	Rich Whisler
Sandy Packman	Scott Worpell
Gene Pelter, Jr	Lost River Conservation Ass'n
Charles Perkins	Mid-Hoosier Grotto
Jay Pittenger	Near Normal Grotto
Jan Pursley	Sub-Urban Grotto
Steve Ragsdale	
Last updated: 02/15/2002	
Donations total: \$35,957	

BUDDHA ACQUISITION STATUS

by Keith Dunlap

We are done! The Buddha property is fully funded! In less than nine months, we raised almost \$23,000 in donations from members and friends, we applied for and received another \$13,000 in grants, and we successfully negotiated with the Indiana Heritage Trust Fund for \$54,000. The IHT funding was obviously the major component in our acquisition strategy which would allow the IKC to purchase the Buddha property without placing the organization into long-term debt. While there were no guarantees the IHT funding could be obtained, from day one we felt the property was worthy of consideration and it also helps that the IKC is in good standing with TNC and several divisions within the Indiana DNR, all who serve on the IHT approval committee.

But the IHT funding does not come without strings attached -- it is *not* free money. While the property is legally and completely owned by the IKC, in exchange for the IHT money, the State of Indiana is allowed some oversight into how the property is used in the future. There are several ways to accomplish this legally. For our specific situation, we elected to have the property dedicated as a State Nature Preserve. So in addition to the IKC's Management Plan which describes how the property will be managed internally, there is a second "Master Plan" which both the IKC and the State develop and agree to. Once signed and recorded, the Master Plan becomes a perpetual easement which dictates how the property can and can't be used even if the IKC would someday sell or transfer the property to another owner.

For those interested, you can review both the IKC Management Plan and the Nature Preserve Master Plan on the IKC's website.

Note: Anyone wishing to make a final Buddha donation to "upgrade" their contribution level can do so by contacting Keith Dunlap before March 31st.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

by Kriste Lindberg

The IKC is making a great deal of progress, especially on the inter-agency relations front. Lately, I've been working with many local government agencies to help protect our karst resources, including the City of Bloomington, Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District, Monroe County Solid Waste Management District, Indiana DNR, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Resource Conservation and Development organizations, and the Hoosier National Forest. I'm maintaining a local focus while keeping the bigger picture of the whole state in mind. The Bloomington area is being seen as a leader in this role.

Back in January, I attended the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts annual conference. Topics covered were mainly agriculture-based, as is true of much SWCD work. Indiana has quite a bit of karstland in animal and plant production. It can sure be a challenge for farmers to raise crops and critters! Unlike urban zones, much of this ag land has little or no regulation -- often times you will see cattle grazing on the edge of or even in sinkholes, springs, or streams. I've even seen cows in cave entrances! Of course, the drainage flow from these karst ag lands carries the associated contaminants far and wide. Fortunately, there are folks in the various organizations who are willing to work together with others to help protect the environment in general and sensitive karst features specifically. Much more needs to be done, however. Edu-

cation is a positive way to approach this issue.

I am doing what I can and am happy to report that the Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District just received \$8,000 in Clean Water Indiana funds to do a sinkhole demonstration project (for more information on CWI, visit: www.state.in.us/dnr/soilcons). We plan to choose a sinkhole or sinkholes that are highly visible to the public, clean them out, provide conservation buffers such as filter strips, appropriate setback, interpretive signage, and so on. This is just one of many programs available to landowners who wish to help conserve their land.

At the annual Monroe County SWCD meeting, which took place in February, I presented a slide show on the progress we have been making in the cave and karst conservation and education realm and Jerod Chew, IDNR Resource Specialist, did one on buffer strips. Both were well received. The IKC display and karst/groundwater model even made an appearance that evening, as did about 60 folks from the area and beyond. Thanks to Bob Vandeventer for helping with our information technology needs!

In addition, the City of Bloomington is updating their Growth Policies Plan (www.city.bloomington.in.us/planning/lr/gpp/2002/index.html). I've been working with city planners and the Environmental Commission (www.city.bloomington.in.us/planning/env/ec/index.html) to do what I can to ensure appropriate karst measures are taken. There is a big push to produce more stringent regulations. The GPP, once completed, will serve as a document in which to create new and improved ordinances from.

As I have mentioned in previous articles, I've also been helping local agencies assess construction sites that include karst features, primarily in Lawrence and Monroe counties. One such property includes an old farmhouse that has a gray-water pipe, which drains directly into a trashed sinkhole. The developer is working to clean up the sinkhole, remove the old home, and put the property on city sewer. Another feature worth preserving on this development is one of the largest and oldest trees in the state, an oak, said to be around 200 years old.

Of course, one of the educational tools I'm



A construction silt barrier protects a sinkhole under the watchful eye of a 200 year old Oak tree.

using to help get the word out is Project Underground. Back in January, I presented a day-long PU program to members of the Hoosier National Forest, including Wildlife Biologist Kelle Reynolds (who also heads up our HNF/IKC Karst Inventory Project from



HNF personnel taking part in Project Underground educational training. photo by K Lindberg

the HNF side), Information and Education Specialist Steve Harriss, and others. They were treated to activities from the guide, such as how to make a cave out of dripping water and salt bricks, and a tour of Leonard Springs Nature Park that included two of the four caves on the property. Speaking of the LSNP, I've been working together with an intern at the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department to produce an Adopt-a-Trail manual and supporting materials. Once done, the Bloomington Indiana Grotto will officially adopt the trail system there!

We are also using Project Underground material to introduce cave and karst conser-

vation to the Monroe County schools. I'm working with area teachers and others to get this phase underway. Thanks to Sonya Wolen, Director of Programs and Bloomington's local science museum, WonderLab, for lending a hand. She and I have been working closely together on a variety of similar collaborations. In March, the museum's focus will be on water. I will be their special guest "scientist", presenting a program that will include the karst/groundwater model, Project Underground activities, reservoir history, and so on as they relate to water in the Bloomington area -- "From rain to drain". She and I are also talking about getting a group of us like-minded educators together on a regular basis to network.

The above will also serve as a good vehicle to introduce the Storm Drain Marking Program that we will be starting soon. I will be coordinating the marking of the storm drains in city limits with "buttons" stating, "No Dumping, Drains to Stream". Believe it or not, a lot of folks aren't aware that this water is not treated before it enters our waterways. It increases awareness. We have a few storm drains already marked in Bloomington as test sites. This is part of a state and nation-wide initiative. Funds from Clean Water Indiana will be used for this program, as well.

Other upcoming education and outreach activities include a best management practices for erosion control at construction sites workshop at the City of Bloomington in cooperation with the Indiana DNR, Project Underground training for Spring Mill State Park in March, a Cub Scout tour at Leonard Springs Nature Park, a presentation for the City of Bloomington Environmental Commission, and an Indiana DNR septic tank workshop.



Dumping inappropriate wastes down storm grates which drain directly to streams is a real problem simply because people think all drains go to treatment plants. Thus a labeling system is being tried as part of an education program.

INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY TREASURY REPORT

Income/Expense Statement From September 1, 2001 to December 31, 2001

INCOME:

Dues Apportionment and Residuals	715.00	
Donations	110.00	
Buddha Acquisition Fund	17085.00	
HNF mine gates contract	5100.00	
Hat sales	10.00	
Interest	181.67	
		\$23,201.67

EXPENSES:

IKC Update (printing, production, mailing)	368.63	
Membership (postage, meeting notices, etc)	22.45	
Stewardship/Conservation	487.91	
Education/Outreach	803.50	
HNF mine gates expenses ¹	1032.63	
Insurance	483.50	
Business (safety deposit box, service charges, etc)	67.00	
Transfer to restricted funds	17094.00	
		(\$20,359.62)

NET OPERATING EXCESS (DEFICIT) THIS PERIOD: \$2,842.05

Balance Sheet December 31, 2001

ASSETS:

Cash in Checking Account	3540.46	
Cash in Savings Account	25963.74	
Notes Payable ²	-40000.00	
Sullivan Karst Preserve	72000.00	
Buddha Karst Preserve	82890.00	
Orangeville Rise Nature Preserve	7000.00	
Indian Creek Conservation Easement (valued at \$1/acre)	13.16	
		<u><u>\$151,407.36</u></u>

LIABILITIES & OPERATING EXCESS:

Hancock Property Maintenance Fund	99.22
Buddha Acquisition Restricted Fund	1505.45
Deferred Dues Restrictied Fund (181 members)	1428.75
Hat Fund (0 hats in inventory)	432.16

Previous Operating Excess	23196.57
Net Excess (Deficit) This Period	<u>2842.05</u>
Current Operating Excess	26038.62
Real estate liquidity (minus outstanding loans)	<u>121903.16</u>

Total Liabilities & Operating Excess \$151,407.36

NOTES:

- 1) This gate expense does not reflect excess material previously acquired from the DNR.
- 2) The "Notes Payable" entry was reduced by \$24,000 this quarter. This payment reduced the Buddha Acquisition Restricted Fund by a like amount.

IKC WINTER QUARTERLY MEETING

Saturday, December 8th, 2001

Pendleton, Indiana

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bruce Bowman
 Kriste Lindberg
 Keith Dunlap
 James Adams
 Bruce DeVore
 Dave Haun (by proxy Bambi Dunlap)
 Nick Noe
 Tom Rea
 Bob Sergesketter
 Tom Sollman
 Bill Tozer
 Bob Vandeventer
 Dick Vernier
 Kathy Welling

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Steve Lockwood

Also in attendance were members Bob Armstrong, Bill Bunting, Jeff Cody, Don Ingle, Everett Pulliam, and Sue Vernier; and guests Miranda Adams, Phyllis Sergesketter, and Robert Sollman.

The meeting was called to order at 1:11 PM at the Pendleton Community Library in Pendleton, Indiana. Bambi Dunlap was accepted as proxy for Dave Haun.

The minutes of the Fall Director's Meeting were approved as published on the IKC website and in the December 2001 *IKC Update*.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer K Dunlap reported the following:

The membership stands at 179.

To date, the IKC has raised \$33,780 towards the Buddha property. The Indiana Heritage Trust funding of \$54,000 has also been approved. Subtracting the purchase price, there will be approximately \$14,000 to roll back into the Land Acquisition fund or a Stewardship Endowment fund (a topic for the spring Board meeting). It will be several months before the IHT money will be available.

The IKC currently has \$51,811 in cash, of which \$28,110 is in general funds or restricted funds other than the Buddha fund.

K Dunlap will follow up with partial paybacks for the Buddha Karst Property loans before the end of the year.

Non-monetary funds as pertaining to the Buddha Karst Preserve will be liquidated. Bowman will pursue via eBay.

Buddha Karst Preserve

The following were appointed to positions at the Buddha Karst Preserve:

Cave Patron: Bruce Bowman
 Property Manager: Tom Rea

Tozer will continue to serve as interim Cave Patron until the first annual report is completed.

The temporary easement to attain IHT funds may not be needed if approval of the Master Plan is done quickly. Bowman will work with IDNR Division of Land Acquisition to determine.

Bowman led a discussion to clarify the following Master Plan items:

- o The property will be open from dawn to dusk, unless explicit written permission is secured from the IKC.
- o No collecting of foodstuffs is to be done on site, except for by permit, in order to encourage succession.
- o After much discussion, Bowman offered to pursue more information regarding picnicking, camping, and fires.

Earth Day 2002 will be held at the Buddha Karst Preserve. Activities for that day will include removal of anchors, formation repair, graffiti removal, sinkhole clean-up, and tree planting.

Survey of the south fence (about 1,050 feet) will be pursued by Rea, Bowman, Dunlap, and Jess Gwinn, Surveyor. As per discussion during the September meeting, woven wire with T-posts is preferred. Dunlap moved that cost not exceed \$1,000, including surveyor fees (expenses may be reimbursable through IHT stewardship funding.) Welling seconded. Motion passed, 12/0/2.

Other land acquisition opportunities

Other land acquisition opportunities were discussed. These included two potential tracts in Orange County, one of which is likely to be acquired by the Hoosier National Forest with assistance from The Nature Conservancy. The IKC has been providing technical assistance. There was also discussion on a 1,400-acre Con-



servation Easement in Monroe County, which was offered to the IKC. After visiting the property and determining the magnitude of effort required, it was decided the IKC was not equipped to take on such a responsibility.

Shaft Cave

Tozer moved to rescind the September 15, 2001 board motion to put a non-locking gate on Shaft Cave. Sergesketter seconded. Motion passed 12/0/2.

Tozer moved that a split rail fence be put up around the entrance to Shaft Cave, expenses not to exceed \$400. Welling seconded. During discussion, K Dunlap proposed amending the motion to change it to a woven wire fence, expenses not to exceed \$200. Sergesketter seconded. Motion to amend passed, 7/4/3. Amended motion passed, 11/0/3.

Orangeville Rise

Bowman announced for Lockwood that the re-survey of the Orangeville Rise has been completed. Nature Preserve monuments need to be installed. A workday will be needed to do it.

K Dunlap moved for the Property Manager to contact the Orange County Highway Department to pursue re-location of the guardrail to where it should be, off of the IKC property. Adams seconded. Motion passed, 12/0/0.

Lindberg announced she would put a representative from a local government agency in touch with Lockwood to discuss erosion on the property.

K Dunlap moved for a letter to be written to the adjacent landowner to acknowledge that his fenceline encroaches onto our property. The letter will grant temporary permission to continue his use of the pasture until a new fenceline can be constructed by the IKC. This permission will decrease the threat of a prescriptive easement now that the re-survey defines the legal property line. Devore seconded. During discussion, Bowman agreed to write the letter and a three-year time frame was allowed for the new fence to be constructed. Property Manager Lockwood will be responsible for setting up workdays related to the above motions. Motion passed, 11/1/0.

Shiloh Cave

Adams led the group in a discussion of issues related to Shiloh Cave. Adams and Sollman will schedule a cleanup for graffiti to be removed from the cave.

Committees

K Dunlap moved that the Membership Committee be dissolved since most of its functional responsibilities were transferred to the Treasurer in the latest bylaws revisions. Devore seconded. Motion passed 11/1/0.

Bowman dissolved the ad hoc Children's Museum Committee.

The ad hoc Buddha Management Plan Committee will stand until further management issues are finalized.

Bowman dissolved the ad hoc Bylaws Change Committee after agreement was reached not to pursue the "succession of Directors" bylaws change (the membership referred this proposal back to committee during the September 15, 2001 board meeting).

Other

The new version of the "sinkhole flyer" is complete and several thousand copies have been obtained by the IKC. Education and Outreach Committee Chairman, Lindberg, will receive two boxes for distribution. A PDF version of the flyer can also be downloaded from the IKC web page.

A new kaolinite mine has been found on the Hoosier National Forest. It will need to be gated.

K Dunlap is working on two kiosks - one for the Buddha Karst Property and one for the Sullivan Property. Kiosk design was discussed at length and the original proposal was approved.

Erik Liebhaber has been named the Bloomington Indiana Grotto Liaison.

Additional topics on the agenda were deferred to the February Director's meeting. This meeting will be held Saturday, February 9 at 7:00 PM, at the home of Kriste Lindberg. Snacks and drink will be provided. Per new bylaws requirements, the board must approve an election ballot at this meeting.

The Annual Business meeting will be held on March 16th at 10:00 AM, at the White River Township Public Library in Greenwood, followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant, which is to be announced.

Adams moved that the meeting adjourn at 4:28 PM. K Dunlap seconded. Motion passed, 12-0-0.

Respectfully submitted by Kriste Lindberg, Secretary

IKC DIRECTOR'S MEETING

Saturday, February 9th, 2002

Bloomington, Indiana

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bruce Bowman
 Kriste Lindberg
 Keith Dunlap
 James Adams
 Bruce DeVore
 Dave Haun
 Steve Lockwood
 Nick Noe
 Tom Rea
 Bob Sergesketter (by proxy Sue Vernier)
 Tom Sollman
 Bill Tozer
 Bob Vandeventer
 Dick Vernier
 Kathy Welling

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

none

The Spring Directors' Meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM at the Bloomington home of Secretary Kriste Lindberg, President Bruce Bowman presiding. James Adams was accepted as Acting Secretary for the meeting. Sue Vernier was accepted as proxy for Bob Sergesketter and all other Board Members were present.

The minutes of the December Meeting were approved as published on the IKC web site.

Treasurer Keith Dunlap reported \$30,193.57 in savings with \$44,193.57 in liquid assets *after* the \$54,000 from the Indiana Heritage Trust money is received and our \$40,000 loan (Buddha) is paid off. This will leave approximately \$18,000 in excess in the Buddha fund. Dunlap recommended that this and the "hat" fund be rolled back into the Land Acquisition Fund. Dunlap also suggested that some allocation from the general fund (\$26,200) be placed into a stewardship endowment fund. Bowman declined further discussion pending the receipt of IHT funding.

Dunlap further noted that the IKC currently has 188 paid members, which is a new record.

Bowman talked about the structure of the IKC leadership in light of recent bylaws changes. All Officers and six Director positions are up for election in March. Bowman accepted nomination for President. Adams wished to be placed on the ballot as Secretary. Dunlap placed his bid for the Treasurer position.

For the Directors, four, three-year positions and two, two-year positions are up for election. The following members agreed to be listed for those positions: Kriste Lindberg, Steve Lockwood, Bob Sergesketter, Bill Tozer, Everett Pulliam, Don Ingle, and Bob Vandeventer.

Kathy Welling moved to accept the ballot, seconded by Dunlap. Motion passed, 15-0-0.

Bowman noted that the IKC has been approved for an Indiana Heritage Trust grant for the Buddha Karst Nature Preserve. A conservation easement was signed on Wednesday, February 6, 2002. The IHT grant money should be received within 45 days.

The Master Plan for the Buddha Karst Nature Preserve was discussed with a motion to approve by Dunlap, seconded by Tom Rea. Motion approved, 15-0-0. This will come before the Natural Resources Commission at their April meeting.

Bowman was planning to take on the task of Buddha Cave Patron, since no other members had expressed interest in serving in this capacity. Member Jeff Cody has recently volunteered to take that position. Welling moved to accept Cody as Buddha Cave Patron, seconded by Adams. Motion approved, 15-0-0. Bill Tozer will continue to serve as interim patron until the first annual report is completed.



DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR DUES

Bowman talked about a Conservancy Session that is scheduled for the 2002 National Speleological Society Convention in June. The session chair, Rane Curl, has proposed that the IKC make a presentation at that session. Various topics that have been suggested by Curl were discussed. Lindberg volunteered to speak on a topic and will coordinate with the session chair.

A new effort has been proposed to clean up the Buckner Cave property near Bloomington. A coalition of cavers and organizations has been suggested and a local resident has been coordinating and pushing for this effort. There are many opinions on many aspects of the effort. Bowman led a discussion on the pros and cons and the Indiana Karst Conservancy's role in a possible coalition. Several members were able to give an overview of the property ownership in that area with respect to the cave layout and the history of various entrances of caves in the area as well as past cleanup efforts.

There seemed to be a consensus that although it might be beneficial for the IKC to be involved cleaning up the cave and working to-

ward long-term goals, without specific authority to take any positive action, it will be difficult to officially support an informal effort.

After this initial discussion, the President declared a closed meeting.

Upon reopening the meeting, Under Earth Days activities were set for April 13 and 14, 2002 at the Buddha Karst Preserve.

The Indiana Cave Symposium will be held on April 20, 2002. The IKC has been asked to make a presentation.

Rea brought in a new NSS publication, the *Proceedings of the 14th National Cave and Karst Management Symposium*. These are for sale through the NSS Bookstore, but Indiana Karst Conservancy attendees were offered copies for sale without the shipping charge.

Meeting adjourned at 9:22 PM to celebrate several birthdays.

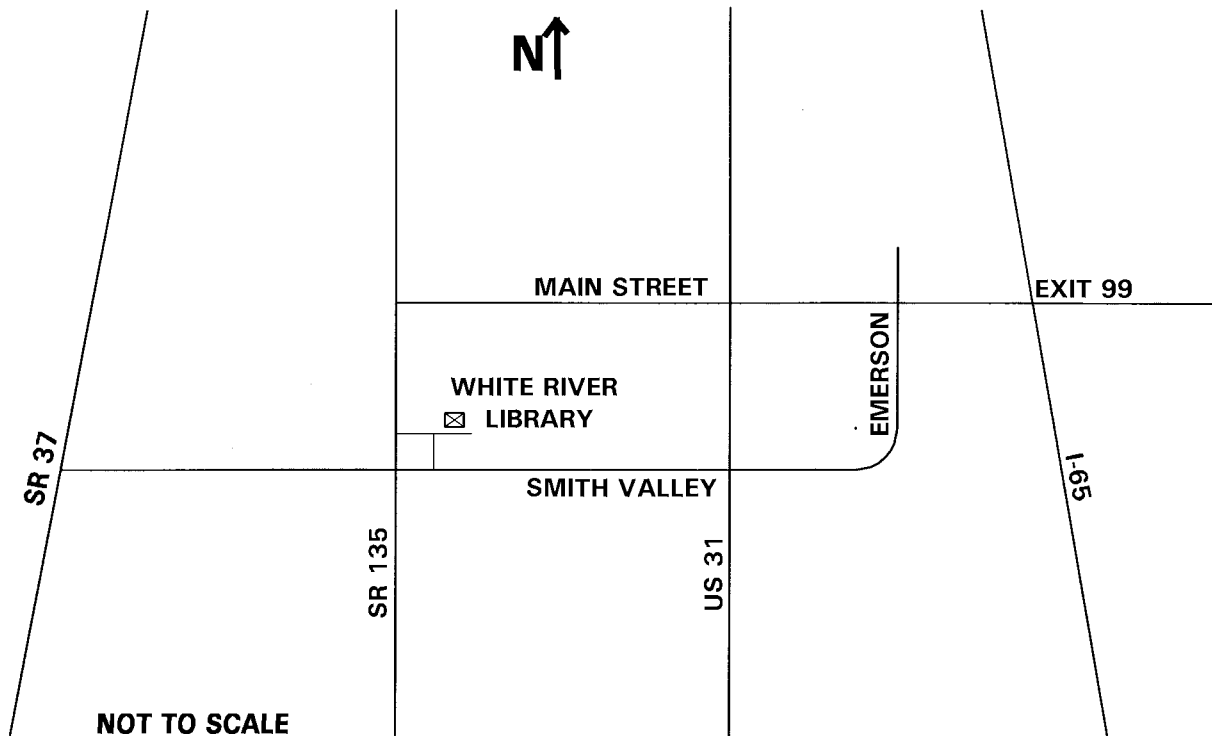
Submitted by James Adams, Acting Secretary



Aerial photo of the Sullivan Property courtesy of Hank Huffman.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
SATURDAY, MARCH 16th, 10 AM
GREENWOOD, INDIANA
WHITE RIVER LIBRARY

DIRECTIONS: The White River Library (1664 Library Blvd, 317-885-1330) is located one block north and one and one-half blocks east of the intersection of SR 135 and Smith Valley Road. Enter the library's front (south) entrance and the Community Meeting Room is immediately on the left before going through the second set of glass doors.



INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY, PO BOX 2401, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46206-2401

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I would like to help the IKC protect Indiana's unique caves and other karst features. Enclosed is:

- \$ _____ for IKC membership dues at \$15 per year (dues expire March 31st of each year, please pro-rate @ \$1.25/month).
- \$ _____ donation to the general IKC fund.
- \$ _____ donation restricted to a specific IKC project. Please specify: _____
- _____ I know of an area worthy of protection. Please contact me.
- _____ I would like to volunteer to help. Please contact me.

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY/STATE/ZIP _____
 PHONE # _____

Make checks payable to the Indiana Karst Conservancy, Inc. and mail to the IKC Treasurer, c/o Indiana Karst Conservancy, PO Box 2401, Indianapolis, IN 46206-2401. The IKC is an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with membership dues and donations fully tax deductible.

