



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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Windy City Grotto

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*grottos with access agreements

QUARTERLY MEETING REMINDER

SATURDAY, JUNE 1st, 7:00 PM

BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

IU GEOLOGY BUILDING, ROOM 143

(SAME ROOM AS BIG MEETING)

The quarterly meetings are for the elected Board to conduct business and for our members and other interested persons to have an open forum to talk 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 meetings are informal, and everyone is encouraged to attend and participate. The IKC Board *wants* your input.

Preliminary Agenda Items: Brief recaps of last quarter's activities (Under-Earth Day, HNF mine gating, etc); Report from the Treasurer; Buddha Property management issues (fence discussion, tree planting for 2003, property tax strategies); DNR abandoned mine gate project; Blanton Property update; Land Acquisition Committee activities; HNF inventorying project; and more....

Meeting directions: The Geology Building is located at 10th and Walnut Grove. Tenth Street runs east/west and is one of the major streets that cut across the IU Campus. Park behind the building, parking permits are not enforced at night. Enter the building from the rear at the west end. The room is halfway down the hall on the right.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

- 01 JUN = IKC QUARTERLY MEETING, Bloomington (see above)
- 01 JUN = HANCOCK WORKDAY, Bloomington (see above)
- 01 JUN = LOST RIVER TOUR, Orleans
- 08 JUN = DNR MINE GATING, Pike County
- 10 JUN = INDIANA CAVE SURVEY MEETING, Columbus
- 15 JUN = HNF FIELD WORK DAY, contact Steve Lockwood
- 16 JUN = BUDDHA PRESERVE WORK DAY, Bedford (see page 7)
- 24-28 JUN = NSS CONVENTION, Camden, Maine
- 20 JUL = HNF COMMITTEE MEETING/FIELD DAY, contact Steve Lockwood
- 17 AUG = HNF FIELD WORK DAY, contact Steve Lockwood
- 21 SEP = HNF COMMITTEE MEETING/FIELD DAY, contact Steve Lockwood
- ?? SEP = IKC QUARTERLY MEETING/ANNUAL COOK-OUT (date and location TBD)
- ?? SEP = DNR MINE GATING, Parke County (date TBD)

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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IKC FOUNDER PASSES ON

The caving community lost one of our visionaries. William (Bill) Wilson, 49, was stricken by a heart attack while on a field trip at the Karst Frontiers conference in Gainesville, Florida and did not recover, passing away on March 1st, 2002.

Bill was a nationally-recognized expert in evaluation of sinkhole hazards, karst hydrology, contaminant transport through karst networks, and utilization of ground-penetrating radar related to cave and subsurface void detection. Through his consulting company, Subsurface Evaluations, he worked on many projects where development and karst topography were in conflict.

Bill's Indiana caving connection was a result of his Indiana State University's master's thesis on the geomorphology of the caves of Garrison Chapel Valley under the direction of Dr Don Ash. Bill spent several years in the early 1980s visiting and researching the caves in that area and developed a personal interest in wanting to protect them. Recognizing that the NSS grottos might not be the best vehicle to promote "radical" management techniques and leveraging the organizational structure of the newly formed Michigan Karst Conservancy, Bill initiated discussions to form the Indiana Karst Conservancy. After several informal meetings, a handful of cavers embarked on incorporating and establishing a tax-exempt entity with Bill elected the IKC's first Presi-

dent in March of 1986.

In the first year of our existence, Bill negotiated managerial responsibilities for Coon, Grotto, Shaft, and Wayne's caves. Both Shaft and Wayne's were gated which stirred some controversy, but also established a means to "take back" caves which were being heavily visited without much oversight.

With the completion of Bill's graduate work, he accepted a position in Florida in late 1986 and moved on. But the seed of his vision had been planted and left to grow and flower in the hands of others.

Bill's thoughts in the first *IKC Update* are as true today, as when he wrote them in 1986:

Caves contain unique scientific and scenic resources that should be preserved for future generations. Effective conservation requires vigilance and assertive action. Whatever has been saved is still there to be taken, and you never get anything back after damage is done. The Conservancy will protect caves standing between the caves and vandals, and the Conservancy will work to obtain access to caves closed by owners.

Cavers appreciate and know more about the caves than any other group. It is natural and sensible that cavers should obtain control of the caves, manage them, and protect them, for the benefit of everyone.



RAMBLINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Economic development and environmental protection shouldn't be mutually exclusive, but unfortunately often are. Although I'm skeptical, the stated purpose of the I-69 extension is to enhance the economy of southwestern Indiana. But at what cost? Community isolation, dissection of farms, and the paving over of caves?

I ran into this problem recently myself. An amusement park was to be built a mile from my home. I had visions of nightly fireworks ruining my night sky (I enjoy astronomy). The state road would likely be widened. Our house is already too close to the ever-increasing traffic. Visions of trailer parks danced through my head. Where else to house all the new minimum-wage earners? But the county commissioners were not to be dissuaded. This was "economic development", after all. Despite the lack of any clear plan for turning this vision into reality, they gave these jokers substantial property tax incentives to go ahead with the project. The land was stripped of topsoil and timber. A wetland was filled in. I was ready to sell my house and move. In the end, the developers couldn't get enough sponsors, and ran out of money. We had dodged a bullet. The land has sat idle for the last four years.

Many people enjoy living in the country. Certainly I'm happy that I do. But having someone buy up 40 acres of prime agricultural land, divide it into 100 small plots, pave over half of it, and put in septic systems, isn't my idea of "getting back to the land." More often than not, it's just a way for someone to make a quick buck; and the people who actually buy these properties still find themselves commuting 40 miles each way to work. Clearly, it would be more environmentally responsible to renew decrepit urban properties that are contributing to the squalor of the city. But that would cost too much. Money calls the shots. If it can't be done on the cheap, it won't get done.

This very thing is underway near a karst-related nature preserve in Washington County. An IKC member showed the county commissioners where the cave passages were. Some of the proposed development (and planned septic) was clearly in

the cave recharge area. Another non-profit and a state agency came to our aid. But let's face it -- most people, rural or not, don't respond favorably when self-proclaimed experts (or worse, the "gov'mint") enters their community at the eleventh hour and tries to call the shots. Fortunately, at the last hearing, things went our way. Some inroads have been made to selling a portion of the property "on the cheap" to protect the karst. But make no mistake: This was no altruistic act. The idea is to throw the environmentalists a bone, so the rest of the development could move forward. And frankly, if it weren't for the very vocal dissent from the landowners immediately adjacent to the development, the battle would probably have been lost by now.

To a large extent, the county commissioner's hands were tied. You see, there are no zoning ordinances in Washington County. The same is true of Owen, Lawrence, and most other counties in the karst belt. So things weren't much different at the Buddha Preserve. If the IKC hadn't moved quickly with some substantial cash in hand, the same thing would be happening there. If it came down to a court battle, we would likely have had no chance.

So it seems like every time we turn around, the IKC finds itself in opposition to "progress." Is there a better way? Can the IKC leverage zoning ordinances in these counties? Unfortunately, the answer is probably "no." Most people find zoning to be an affront to their property rights. It infringes on their personal freedom. Two Washington County commissioners were voted out of office in the last election, primarily because they dared to support such a concept. To most people, zoning becomes a good idea only when their own butt is in a sling; and by then, it's usually too late.

What to do? Beats me. We are limited in the political realm due to our non-profit status. Every situation is different, and requires a different reaction. Please share your thoughts and experiences, and the board will discuss it. Maybe we can come up with an approach that isn't so *ad hoc*.

Bruce Bowman

NEWS BRIEFS...

❑ IKC elections on March 16th yielded a few changes to the Executive Board. Bruce Bowman was re-elected President. Jim Adams was elected Secretary after a two year hiatus (actually he served as a Director during those two years). Keith Dunlap was re-elected Treasurer. Directors elected/re-elected were Don Ingle, Kriste Lindberg, Steve Lockwood, Bob Sergesketter, Bill Tozer, and Bob Vandeventer. The other Directors remaining on the Board include Bruce Devore, Dave Haun, Nick Noe, Tom Sollman, Dick Vernier, and Kathy Welling. We would like to express our appreciation to Tom Rea who has served as a Director for the past twelve years and declined a nomination in order to encourage “new blood” on the Board.

❑ In early April, we were notified by Jill Biel’s husband that Jill, 52, had passed away after being diagnosed with Cancer just a few months prior. Jill was the owner and president of McGrain Tree Farm which owned a number of timber tracts in Washington and Harrison counties, including the property which contains Suicide and Suicide Annex caves. Jill’s passing should not impact our access as our agreement was with the Farm and remains valid until 2007.

❑ Over the past twelve years, the Indiana DNR and the IKC have been monitoring Coon, Grotto, and Jim Ray’s caves for winter disturbances in these critical *Myotis sodalis* hibernacula. This monitoring is done passively with electronic “speloggers” which are installed near the entrances of the caves and record the date and time of each human disturbance (triggered by light). The information collected is providing a means to determine the effectiveness (or ineffectiveness) of our closure methods in discouraging unauthorized entry. In the fall of 1996 we installed new signage and other deterrents. As you can see, since that time there have been no unauthorized visits into Grotto Cave and only one in Coon Cave. Ray’s Cave has had a few more disturbances, but none during the core winter months when the greatest impact would occur. This was the third year the DNR used the new speloggers designed/constructed by IKC member Dick Vernier. The DNR is also monitoring several other caves using these speloggers.

Winter	Number of Disturbances		
	Jim Ray's	Coon	Grotto
01 / 02	0	0	0
00 / 01	0 ⁽¹⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾
99 / 00	2 ⁽²⁾	0	0
98 / 99	3 ⁽¹⁾⁽³⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾
97 / 98	1	1	0
96 / 97	0 ⁽¹⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾
95 / 96	3	9	4
94 / 95	8 ⁽¹⁾	8 ⁽¹⁾	5 ⁽¹⁾⁽⁴⁾
93 / 94	-- ⁽⁵⁾	-- ⁽⁵⁾	-- ⁽⁵⁾
92 / 93	7 ⁽¹⁾	3 ⁽¹⁾	8 ⁽¹⁾
91 / 92	6	1	5
90 / 91	4 ⁽¹⁾	8 ⁽¹⁾	n/a

1) Excludes one visit for biennial bat census
 2) Includes two visit for landowner's relatives
 3) Excludes one visit for anabat testing
 4) Spelogger failed on day 182 of 227 days
 5) Data loss due to improper batteries

❑ As part of the biota study being conducted on the Hoosier National Forest by Dr Julian Lewis, an interim report has been published, summarizing the first year’s efforts and findings. The 114 page report covers the investigation of 72 sites (64 cave and 8 springs) with 37 distinct obligate subterranean species identified. Topping the list of caves is Wesley Chapel Gulf Cave with 17 species, 14 of them classified as being of “management concern”.

❑ The IKC covers most of its basic expenses and obligations with membership dues. However, we are greatly dependent upon general donations to supplement and support many of our other projects. Since September, thirty-seven individuals/organizations have donated a total of \$1105 (this excludes donations made towards the Buddha/land acquisition funds -- these donors are recognized on page 8). General fund donors include Bill Ackerman, John Benton, Ted Bice, Don Bohling, George Brutchen, Larry Bundy, Chris Carpenter, Jeff Cobb, Jeff Cody, Bruce Devore, Cheryl Early, Tim Heppner, Hal Hемpe, Tem Hornaday, Mark Kraus, David Lasser, Bob Mastata, Dick Maxey, Jon Miller, Doug Moore, Nick Noe, Ernie Payne, Andrew and Shavon Peacock, Russ Pusilo, Robert Roundy, Ralph Sawyer, Stephen and Diana Schuh, Bob and Phyllis Sergesketter, Gordon Smith, Susie Strickland, Bob Vandeventer, Richard Van Rheenen, Kathy Welling, Scott Worpell, and Bluesprings Caverns.

❑ Three new members have joined the IKC in the past quarter. Welcome Patty Cummings (399), Chris Brown (400), and Brent Grist (401). The IKC membership now stands at 192.

PROGRESS AT THE BUDDHA KARST PRESERVE

by Tom Rea

Since acquisition of the Buddha Cave property a lot of work has been done to convert it into a user-friendly preserve. This work involves four major projects: tree planting, trash cleanup, the parking lot, and the nature trail.

When purchase was a sure thing last year, Keith Dunlap ordered 1,000 native trees and shrubs from the state nursery. We made plans to plant the trees with the volunteer labor that would be available on Under Earth Day, April 13. To prepare for the planting, Keith and Bambi Dunlap, Bob Vandeventer, Kriste Lindberg, and I visited the preserve a week early, on April 7, and mowed strips in which to plant the trees and marked the locations with flags indicating which were to be bushes and which were to be trees. Keith Dunlap and I roughly laid out a nature trail from the parking lot, past a cut-off trail to the Buddha Cave entrance, past the other cave entrances and up to the northwest corner.

The Under Earth Day work session was very productive with 28 participants. All of the trees were planted in multiple rows along the south, east, and north property lines. Four concrete boundary monuments were obtained from the DNR and were installed (two more posts are required but they are not available). Finally, eight or ten rolls of fence wire were pulled out of Chase Pit and carried to the roadside in front of the parking lot.



Tom Sollman and Bob Sergesketter planting tree seedlings during Under Earth Day at Buddha.

During the following week I called all the rubbish services I could find in the Mitchell and Bedford areas but could not find anyone willing to pick up the trash. The only option seemed to be to have a dumpster delivered into which we would place the trash and fence rolls and then it would be picked up, for a cost of several hundred dollars. I rejected



Old wire rolls extracted from the Chase Pit sinkhole during Under Earth Day at Buddha.

that offer and on April 24, I took my big trailer down to Buddha and was able to load all of the trash onto it. I hauled the stuff to Twin Bridges Land Fill in Hendricks County, with which I was familiar, and dumped it for \$29.

On the way to the HogFest, Bob Vandeventer, Kriste Lindberg, and Dave Haun caught me at Buddha. We finished deciding on the route of the nature trail -- past the ponds and the spring and back to the parking lot by way of the southwest corner. Sometime around the first of May I mowed the cave trail from the parking lot and started mowing the parking lot end of the nature trail.

On May 11 my other grotto, the Michigan Interlakes Grotto, wanted to visit Buddha Cave. Some of them stayed at Spring Mill and some of them camped on my property. I led them down and, while they visited the cave, I measured off the specified 4,000 square foot parking lot, 100 feet by 40 feet, and squared it up. I took the gate off the hinges and pulled the old gatepost out of the ground. Then I enlarged the hole and set a piece of telephone pole 30 inches deep in con-

...continued on page 11 ☞

BUDDHA ACQUISITION STATUS

by Keith Dunlap

We are done! I said that in the March issue, but this time I *really* mean it. Thanks to all the contributors listed on this page and the Indiana Heritage Trust fund, the Buddha property is fully funded and we were

even able to roll back more than \$18,000 into the Land Acquisition restricted fund. This puts us in a very positive position to pursue other opportunities with the confidence that we can act quickly if needed.

BUDDHA DONATION LIST		
\$10,000 or more		
EAS IPALCO Golden Eagle Environmental		
\$1,000 to \$9,999		
Bruce Bowman		Tom Rea
Bob Decker		Tom Sollman
Keith Dunlap		Bruce Trotter
Kriste Lindberg		Bob Vandeventer
Steve Lockwood		Central Indiana Grotto
Everett Pulliam		National Speleological Foundation
\$250 to \$999		
George Brutchen		Ernie Payne
Tony & Leslie Cunningham		Bob & Phyllis Sergesketter
Mark Deebel		Bill Tozer
Dave Haun		Bob Zatarski
Susan O'Shield & David Anderson		Saint Joseph Valley Grotto
\$100 to \$249		
Aaron Atz	Pat & Nathana Jarboe	Bill Schultze
Bill Baus	David Lasser	Gordon Smith
Keith Calkins	Jerry Lewis	Kevin Strunk & Jeanette Holland
Chris Carpenter	Cheryl McCurdy	Steve Taylor
Bruce & Deb Devore	Dan McDowell	Dick & Sue Vernier
Bambi Dunlap	Elizabeth Moreland & Jim Clark	Rich & Joyce Whisler
Jeff Farr	Nick Noe	Kent Wilson
Scott Fee	Don Peters	Jamie Winner
James Gruntman	Walt Pirie	Jack Wood
Tim Heppner	Larry Reece	Dayton Underground Grotto
Tem Hornaday	Charles & Gloria Rex	Evansville Metro Grotto
Don Ingle	Robert Roundy	Northern Indiana Grotto
\$50 to \$99		
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Carl Brown	John Marguart	Don & June Shofstall
Jeff Cody	Anmar Mirza	Jeff Snure
Bruce Doezema	Carl Nelson	Louisville Grotto
Sam Frushour	Patrick Newby	Michigan Interlakes Grotto
Christine Gerace	Russell Pusilo	Tri-State Grotto
John & Ellen Janka	Kelle Reynolds	Windy City Grotto
Mark Kraus		Joshua Rubinstein
\$5 to \$49		
Bill Ackerman	Douglas Moore	Aaron Stavens
Ron Adams	Scott Nordhoff	Susie Strickland
Ted Bice	Sandy Packman	Don Swart
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Larry & Linda Bundy	Charles Perkins	Mark Webb
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George Cesnik	Jan Pursley	Barry Welling
Mike Dowden	Steve Ragsdale	Kathy Welling
Scott Hammon	Jennifer Reiss	Gary Whittaker
Dick Horn	Richard Van Rheen	Scott Worpell
Hank Huffman	Russ Romme	Eastern Indiana Grotto
Bill & Mary Klimack	Kirk Sangsland	Lost River Conservation Ass'n
Kim & Tom Metzgar	Russel Schavey	Mid-Hoosier Grotto
Jon Miller	Steve Schuh	Near Normal Grotto
Lynn & Jane Miller	Ray Sheldon	Sub-Urban Grotto
	Bruce Silvers	
Last updated: 04/15/2002		
Donations total: \$37,790		

HNF KAOLINITE MINE GATING PROJECT

by Keith Dunlap

Last year, the IKC undertook a cooperative project with the Hoosier National Forest to secure several kaolinite mine entrances in Lawrence County, southwest of Bedford. The purpose of the gates were to prevent entry by humans due to their perceived danger, while at the same time maintaining suitable habitat for bats and other adaptable wildlife. Four gates were installed in early November. However, during that installation workday, a fifth entrance was discovered, needing closure. So our cost-challenge agreement was revised and planning began for this new entrance.

Our work first started by ridgewalking the area to make sure there were not additional entrances (no other entrances were found). Then a mini workday was organized to open up the entrance such that it could be determined what size culvert would fit (we decided a 36-inch culvert should fit). A grate was then designed and approved, and materials purchased.

On May 19th, a small core of volunteers gathered at the HNF office to load up the culvert, grate, other materials which were previously staged there. We then caravanned to the worksite with the first order of business to haul the 350-pound, 10-foot long culvert through the woods to the mine entrance. Fortunately, it was all downhill and the culvert could be rolled part of the way. Next the entrance needed to be enlarged a little more in a few spots. This was done with manual sledging as well as the use of



IKC volunteers inserting the 36-inch culvert into the abandoned mine entrance on the Hoosier NF.

an electric chisel. Once we got close, we man-handled the culvert into the hole and did some "fine-tuning" until the culvert was where it needed to be. It was then pinned in place.

Next we worked on closing up the rest of the entrance, constructing a frame pinned to the rock and eventually covered with expanded-metal mesh. Concurrently, others



The finished culvert gate with the steel grate, restricting human entry, but allowing bats and other "cave-dwelling" biota to enter and use the mine.

worked on hauling the 350-pound grate to the entrance and installing it on the end of the culvert.

When all the metal work was done, the painting task started while the remainder of the volunteers started hauling the equipment (welder, oxygen/acetylene tanks, tools, etc) back *up* the hill to the vehicles.

All told, this gate took about 80 man-hours of direct labor and untold miles and travel time. As part of the cost-challenge agreement, the IKC contributed the material, labor, equipment, and know-how, while the HNF contributed funds to somewhat compensate the IKC for their efforts.

Participants included Keith Dunlap, Steve Lockwood, Kelle Reynolds, Bob and Phyllis Sergesketter, Tom Sollman, Bruce Trotter, Dick and Sue Vernier, and Bob Zatarski.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

by Kriste Lindberg

You, too, can be a karst conservationist! That is, even if there is not a ready-made position available. It is possible to create one where it did not formerly exist. All you have to do is do it. Sound easy? It is, if you find the right agencies to partner with. As some of you saw in my presentation at the Indiana Cave Symposium, many are willing to partner with persons who they feel will do a good job representing them in karst issues.

So far, the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department and I have teamed up with the Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District to create one position to help with karst education and outreach.

For example, as I briefly mentioned in the last issue of the *IKC Update*, we have received state funds from Clean Water Indiana, which is administered through the IDNR Division of Soil Conservation, to do a sinkhole conservation demo site in Monroe County. We are currently looking for landowners with sinkholes that fit our criteria. Mainly, they need to be highly visible and accessible to the public.

We are beefing up our water quality efforts, in general. We'll be working more with Project Wet, Hoosier Riverwatch, and other programs to do so. As a matter of fact, we're hosting a Hoosier Riverwatch workshop in August. We will be monitoring the quality of water in all city parks with flowing water. Miller-Showers Park on the north side of town is already in the process of being revamped in order to meet our new, higher standards. These standards are being helped along by Phase II requirements, Bloomington is already ahead of the game. According to a recent letter encouraging government collaborations in such matters:

"As directed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management has already notified the designated cities and towns that will be required to implement new, more restrictive, stormwater regulations. These areas are called 'MS4s,' MS4 stands for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems. Designated MS4s will implement their own programs, beginning with development of a Stormwater Management Plan. It is imperative that your SWCD get involved in this process. The plan in-

cludes strategies for:

- public education and outreach,
- public participation,
- good housekeeping/pollution prevention,
- illicit discharge detection and elimination,
- construction site runoff, and
- post construction runoff"

Locally, the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, and IU are MS4s.

The City of Bloomington's Environmental Commission is getting involved, as well. I gave a presentation to them back in March. The Storm Drain Marking Program began through them. I mentioned this program in the last *IKC Update* and am now coordinating it. A good article came out in the local newspaper, the Herald-Times. Our new website is also up and running. It can be found at www.city.bloomington.in.us/utilities/stormdrain.

Thanks to caver Rance Fawbush, City of Bloomington Utilities MIS Manager, for helping provide the site! Note the references to karst throughout. We are looking for volunteer groups to help with the stenciling and marking. If you know of any groups that may be interested, contact me.

Back in March, I also gave a presentation at WonderLab focusing on drainage, including how a drop of rain can travel from the sky and end up in your drinking water. The title of the program was, "From Rain to Drain". Clever, eh? It was well-received,



Students from Templeton Elementary School peering into the entrance of Shirley Spring Cave.

and provided a good introduction platform for the Storm Drain Marking Program and other things we are doing.

We've been busy with Leonard Springs Nature Park, too. Back in April I gave a tour to a group of eager cub scouts and one for Templeton Elementary School kids, as well. They thoroughly enjoyed it, as did their leaders and teachers. I have the feeling we'll be seeing them again. As a matter of fact, we're working on developing more programs for scouts and the local schools.

Also, May saw Bloomington's EarthFest, which was hosted at Monroe County Parks and Recreation's Karst Farm Park. Interested hikers were bussed from there down the road to Leonard Springs Nature Park, where they were taken on a guided tour led by either myself or Steve Cotter, Natural Resources Coordinator.

**From
Rain
to
Drain**

**Saturday,
March 30**

**Special
Activities:
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

**Find out how water
moves underground!**

**Guest Scientist:
Kriste Lindberg,
Indiana Karst
Conservancy**

WONDERLAB
www.wonderlab.org
812-337-1337

Along the way, they were introduced to various artists stationed along the trail doing their thing -- including a painter and a photographer -- they were encouraged to practice their skills along with the artists by either taking a photo or drawing a picture on materials provided by City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation! Thanks also to IKC Director Don Ingle, Bob Armstrong, and Val Frazee for holding down the fort, the IKC display, and Lost River materials back at Karst Farm Park. It was a cool and windy day!

The above are just a few examples. Upcoming are an educational tour of the Lost River with Bob Armstrong and the Hoosier National Forest, a septic workshop focusing on karst areas, strengthening 4-H programs using caves as a hook to get kids interested in geology, and so on. Now, get going!

continued from page 7...

crete to serve and a new gatepost. I left the gate off it's hinges so the concrete could set thoroughly. I also set four by four posts in the remaining three corners of the parking lot. On May 23 I transferred the hinge pins to the now post and re-hung the gate. It now swings freely all the way open. When the gate is closed the free end rests on the ground. This is deliberate and should not be relieved. This prevents the gate from constantly worrying the post and eventually loosening it. I also set a couple of more posts around the parking lot.

In addition to setting the rest of the posts and completing the nature trail, an important task remains to be done. The new trees are leafing out nicely but they need to have the vegetation killed around them. There is

more work there this spring than one person can accomplish so I would like to propose a Buddha Karst Preserve workday on June 16. I would like to hear from people willing to show up so I can plan what can be accomplished, but if you just show up that will be fine, too.

Volunteers who helped out during Under Earth Day included Deb and Pat Burns, George Cesnik, Bruce Devore, Bambi and Keith Dunlap, Bill Greenwald, Hal Hempe, Thomas Hempe, Don Ingle, Brian Killingbeck, Brian Leavell, Kriste Lindberg, Adam Manship, Denise Miller, Everett Pulliam, Tom Rea, Rachel, Robert Sollman, Tom Sollman, Brandon Stephens, Greg Tucker, Wayne Tucker, Mark Webb, Barry Welling, Kathy Welling, Jamie Winner, and Guy Wolfe.

CAVE PATRON / PROPERTY MANAGER ANNUAL REPORTS

compiled by Keith Dunlap

Several years ago, we implemented a policy such that each cave patron and property manager would present an annual report to the Board at the March Business meeting. Our intent is to also publish these reports, either in their entirety or summarized versions...

Suicide Cave (patron Ronnie Burns)

"...Visitation in 2001 was light, with a total of five trips and fourteen visitors. I have on file a signed release for each caver. I have checked the forms and find them in order. All clauses of the contract [with the landowner] are being met, including the fact that all cavers have been at least 18 years old and at least one with each trip has been a member of the IKC. I am including a copy of the IKC log that is used to keep track of trips to the cave. On it you will find information about trip dates, trip leaders, and number of participants..."

Ronnie also noted that he accompanied the owner, Jill Biel, into the cave last year. Her first time in this cave (although she has been in other caves).

Shiloh Cave (patron James Adams)

"...The system of permitting up to six trips into Shiloh Cave for the general caving community continued in 2001. Each trip is limited to 10 participants. Although the past few years saw only light interest in visitation, five trips were taken in 2001. A sixth trip was planned but had to be canceled at the last minute due to a schedule conflict of the trip leader. Two groups postponed their trips until 2002.

April 2001 was a busy month with three trips scheduled. On April 7, seven members of the Western Indiana Grotto visited Shiloh. The following weekend, members of the St Joseph Valley Grotto visited on Saturday, April 14 and Sunday, April 15 with 10 cavers on each trip.

August saw a visit in connection with Cave Capers, an annual caving weekend held near Spring Mill State Park. On Saturday, August 11, I led a group into the cave consisting of cavers from various NSS grottos in Indiana and elsewhere.

The final trip to Shiloh took place on Saturday, October 7 when I led eight cavers from the Central Indiana Grotto for what has become an annual fall caving trip for that grotto.

Tom Sollman has continued to make biota counts. You may recall from last year's report that he unexpectedly counted over 375 sculpin fish in the cave in January 2001. The reason for the sudden appearance of this species remains unknown and Tom reports that he has not seen any sculpin in recent visits..."

Wayne's Cave (patron Tom Willett)

Tom provided the following cave usage statistics for 2001:

Month	Trips	People
Jan	3	16
Feb	4	17
Mar	3	10
Apr	1	8
May	3	14
Jun	1	4
Jul	0	0
Aug	2	7
Sep	3	18
Oct	2	10
Nov	3	18
Dec	<u>4</u>	<u>21</u>
Total	29	143

"Nothing of note about the cave except someone claimed they removed the lock with a pair of pliers and replaced it with their own. We were given the key however and replaced the lock with our own."

Orangeville Rise (property manager Steve Lockwood)

"The funds to relocate the property markers were approved by the Board at the June IKC meeting. Jesse Gwinn then surveyed the Orangeville Rise property in August of 2001. The survey report was submitted to the IKC in September of 2001 and then recorded at the Orange County Courthouse. The property markers were all located and marked. The survey showed that the end of the guardrail on the north side of the property was within the property boundary for approximately 20 feet. The survey also showed that the neighbor's fence on the west side of the rise property was within the property boundary by approximately 10 feet in some areas. Tom Rea and Keith Dunlap took digital pictures of the property markers later. The property manager also measured distances to permanent objects surrounding the property markers.



In January of 2002, I met with Frank Hodges of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil Conservation at the Orangeville Rise property to discuss erosion control. Mr Hodges indicated that the erosion that had occurred on the north side of the rise pool was healing nicely and he recommended that it be left alone. Alternatives to control the erosion on the east side of the rise pool were discussed. Some of the alternatives discussed were rip wrap and large stones. Mr Hodges also suggested that a small fence or sign could be added at the north end of the guardrail to warn people not to go beyond this point. After much discussion Mr Hodges offered to have a civil engineer look at the erosion on the east side of the rise pool. The civil engineer later recommended that no action be taken because the solid rock wall of the rise pool continues behind the area being eroded and the erosion is naturally occurring and does not pose a threat to the road. The guardrail location was also discussed and Mr Hodges indicated that the IKC could request that the guardrail within our property area be moved.

I also visited the Orangeville Rise in June, September, and December of 2001 also in March of 2002 and trash was removed from the property. The trash included glass bottles, plastic bottles, plastic trash bags, and other forms of trash."

Sinks of Indiana Creek CE (steward Richard Newton)

"Took a walk down to the sinks of Indian Creek today and found everything in fairly good order. No trees cut, or trash on the banks. Looks like the fire ring has grown a little with some trash in it. Also a grill was present. A four wheeler has spun a little dirt between the ring and the bank. A few shotgun shells were near the ring. A camper was setting a hundred yards south near an access road. Does not look like too much activity is taking place. The field is growing up with quite a few saplings. Will be a thicket in a few years. Japanese honeysuckle is covering a couple of hundred square feet. The old roadway from the east is seeing almost no travel."

Coon/Grotto caves (patron Keith Dunlap)

"There were no incidents/problems reported to the patron during CY2001.

There were 3 recreational trips to Coon Cave involving 42 cavers. There was 1 recreational trip to Grotto Cave involving 3 cavers. There were 3 trips into each cave for scientific/conservation purposes (to remove and install various equipment/service the alarm systems, and the biennial bat census).

An above-ground workday was organized this year on July 9th.

The annual report to the property owner was drafted and mailed on 12/27. The five-year management agreement with the landowner was re-signed for the fourth time (through Dec 2007).

I made several 'drive-by' checks of the property during the past year. There were no unauthorized visits recorded in either cave by the monitoring speloggers during the hibernacula closure period (9/2000 to 4/2001). This is the fourth consecutive period without any violations.

The temperature monitoring project continued in both caves (started the 8th year deployment on 8/21).

Dr Vigil Brack conducted a bat identification workshop at the entrance to Grotto Cave on April 16th. A number of northern long-ear bats were captured in addition to Indiana, little brown, big brown, and pips. The bat populations were up in both caves with record numbers of Indiana and little browns in both caves. The number of little browns in Grotto is the largest hibernating colony known in any Indiana cave.

The caves are remaining in good condition and no in-cave clean-ups are planned."

Buddha Cave (interim patron Bill Tozer)

"I accepted the Buddha Cave patron position at the June IKC Board meeting. Our intentions were to permit access immediately. The first official trips were at Cave Capers. The speleo-logger recorded three prior trips. It is not known who entered the cave on these trips.

Every effort has been made to accommodate last minute plans. It seems most cavers never plan beyond three days for their trips. I gave permission with their assurance that the liability waivers would be in the mail before they entered the cave. With that assurance, I sent them the written permission form. Almost all of the requests were from organized cavers.

One date had trips scheduled in the morning and afternoon. Naturally they overlapped but the groups were small and there were no problems.

During the very wet months this winter, I cautioned them about parking in the field. If the field was soft, I recommended parking along the road. No one reported any problems.

However, I could envision mud ruts in a wet spring.

Officially, there were 17 trips with 78 cavers in all. I had one individual call but never followed up, perhaps after he realized that no one lived nearby.

I have entered the liability waiver releases into MS Access database. Printouts by alphabetical listing and by date have been submitted. Once set up it is easy to maintain and provides information readily.

Some broken speleothems were reported in the upper level across the pit and one at the bottom of the pit near the upstream crawl. These have apparently been there for some time. The formations at the bottom of the pit are clean due to the annual washing. Of course there is debris tucked in the ceiling by these same floods.

The old bolts in the cave do not look safe and will be removed at the spring work day."

Shaft Cave (patron Jeff Cody)

"This year there were seven known trips to Shaft. Four trips were granted by me and three trips were granted by other liaisons. The most notable was a trip in August for The Wormfest by the Dayton Grotto. Most trips consisted of groups of four or five at one time.

The surface area around the cave and the access trail appeared to be free of any excess trash. The sign is still in place. I currently have several more signs to replace it when the need arises.

Current plans are to replace the old fence around the pit in June with a woven wire fence. The only potential problem is the large flat rock above the entrance appears to be loose. The rock looks too large to fall into the hole.

All the groups so far have met me at my house on the way to the cave. I am on the way for any group coming from the north."

Sullivan Cave (patron Bob Vandeventer)

"This report is for the IKC on the activity at Sullivan Cave from March 2001 to March 2002 by Bob Vandeventer Sullivan Cave Patron.

It was another big year for trips to the cave with more after July when I retired from work and had time to go along. This did help scheduling all the trips and even get some people in during the week as well as weekends. For some reason January and February of this year became a popular time for cave trips with someone there every weekend. I did

stay on the property several times while waiting for people to show up and enjoyed the nice camping area. The good thing to report is there were no real problems with people showing up without proper equipment or supervision for kids.

Alpha Phi Omega from Rose Hulman made another trip helping out with cave clean up. It's become an annual event for them with more of a fun trip than a clean up but that's okay. More Boy Scout troops have contacted me for trips and I did go on several visits with the scouts and some were from out of state. I had no problems with the boys and was very impressed with some of their leaders and the adults helping out. Most of the troops offered to help with any projects in the future which I thought could be useful to us later on.

One thing we could use on the property is more rock for the parking area. People pull too far onto the grass and end up stuck or making tracks that need to be taken care of.

A special thanks again to Keith and Bambi again for being my backup for the cave trips this year."

Sullivan Cave Property (property manager Keith Dunlap)

"Last year was another busy year for the above ground activities. Of most significance was Under Earth Day 2001 when thirty volunteers planted and mulched 1700 trees. Despite a very dry spring and the invasion of caterpillars, the survival rate of the trees were very good. Bambi and I mowed around the trees all summer and experimented with using weed control chemicals (RoundUp). The spot treatments appear to be very beneficial.

Another experiment that was tried was the RoundUp treatment of the vinca (an invasive) during the winter when everything else is dormant. This seemed to be very effective with no impact on the surrounding woodland vegetation.

During the summer, the camping/parking clearing was mowed three times.

Last year, there were several new downed trees in the woods. One split and fell on the trail leading to the SR 54 parking area. Bob Vandeventer has removed part of tree, but more work is needed as time permits.

Finally, a ditch along the new driveway was dug to control runoff and better redirect flow into the culvert. This alteration appears to have worked with no further rutting observed. Re-hardening of the driveway and parking area needs to be done in 2002.

DNR completes plan to open Wyandotte Cave tours under new management

Faced with closing Wyandotte Cave due to the state budget shortfall, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources is contracting this year with a commercial cave management company to conduct tours and manage the facility.

Wyandotte Cave, LLC, Marenngo, will assume operation of the cave tours this month. The company will provide a greater variety of tour formats, more frequent departure times and an expanded gift shop.

Wyandotte Cave, LLC's principals are Gordon Smith and Timothy Grissom. Smith also operates Marengo Cave in Marengo, Indiana and Diamond Caverns in Park City, Kentucky. Grissom operates Ohio Caverns in West Liberty, Ohio.

"To save Wyandotte Cave tours and keep this geologic mas-

terpiece open to the public, the DNR needs commercial management with the resources and experience we can trust," said DNR Director John Goss.

"Gordon Smith and Timothy Grissom have more than 50 years of experience in providing cave tours. I am confident they will improve the quality of Wyandotte Cave tours to a level that is comparable to that of commercial caves," Goss said.

Wyandotte Cave is world-famous for its subterranean Monument Mountain, widely regarded as the tallest underground mountain on earth. It is located in the Wyandotte State Recreation Area on State Road 62, east of Leavenworth. More than 20,000 visitors typically tour the cave each year.


The DNR received a permanent \$8.2 million budget cut from the state General Fund earlier this

year, which has forced the DNR to cut back on services and close some facilities. The DNR no longer had funding to pay nine employees who conducted cave tours, so we would have been forced to close the facility, Goss said.

To protect the endangered Indiana bat, which winters in Big Wyandotte Cave, no tours will be conducted in that cave between the first Wednesday after Labor Day and April 30. Previously, the cave operated year around.

Tours will, however, be conducted most of the year in the New Cave, formally called Little Wyandotte, which does not play host to the Indiana bat.

The DNR included this new provision in the contract with Wyandotte Cave, LLC following consultation with the US Fish

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INDIANA CAVE SYMPOSIUM 2002

by Bruce Trotter

The Indiana Cave Symposium 2002 was held on Saturday, April 20 in Milltown, Indiana. This year marked the tenth anniversary of the symposium being co-sponsored by the Indiana Cave Survey and the Indiana Karst Conservancy. The entire event went off very well. The weather was exceptional, the accommodations were great as always, the food was tasty and plentiful, and the programs were informative. The pitch in dinner started at 5 PM with approximately 40 to 45 hungry people. The presentations started at 7 PM at the Milltown Community Center with about 55 people attending. The presenters and topics were as follows:

- John Benton and Terry Clark - Signs of Caves
- Dr Jerry Lewis - Bugs, Bombs, and Bureaucrats
- Kriste Lindberg - Agencies as Partners in Karst Conservation and Education
- Lori Pruitt - Conservation of the Federally Endangered Gray Bat in Indiana

- Bruce Trotter - Sellersburg Quarry Survey
- Mark Deebel - Caves of the Lost River Drainage Basin
- Bruce Bowman - IKC/Buddha Karst Preserve
- Todd Webb - History of Indiana Bat Management at Wyandotte Cave

As part of the program, Lori Pruitt presented Ray Sheldon, Bruce Trotter, and Jerry Walker with Certificates of Appreciation from the US Fish and Wildlife Service for their work in surveying and mapping the Sellersburg Quarry, Indiana's only maternity colony of the Federally endangered gray bat.

A special thank you should go to Bob Vandeventer for his flawless effort in providing all the audio/visual aspects of the program and to Gordon & Judy Smith and Cave Country Canoes for hosting the event.

INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY TREASURY REPORT

Income/Expense Statement From January 1, 2002 to March 31, 2002

INCOME:		
Dues Apportionment and Residuals	745.00	
Donations	750.00	
Buddha Acquisition Fund	2504.55	
SpeLogger sales (4)	494.00	
Laser Calipers	150.00	
Interest	<u>68.05</u>	
		\$4,711.60
EXPENSES:		
IKC Update (printing, production, mailing)	282.72	
Membership (postage, meeting notices, etc)	142.75	
Stewardship/Conservation	95.33	
Education/Outreach	14.90	
Donations (NSS fence, SCCi Valhalla, LRCA)	390.00	
SpeLogger fabrication (5)	534.34	
Business (Sec of State fee, service charges, etc)	22.09	
Transfer to restricted funds	<u>2504.55</u>	
		(\$3,986.68)
NET OPERATING EXCESS (DEFICIT) THIS PERIOD:		<u><u>\$724.92</u></u>

Balance Sheet March 31, 2002

ASSETS:		
Cash in Checking Account	3807.88	
Cash in Savings Account	44227.04	
Sullivan Karst Preserve	72000.00	
Buddha Karst Preserve ¹	29000.00	
Orangeville Rise Nature Preserve	7000.00	
Indian Creek Conservation Easement (valued at \$1/acre)	<u>13.16</u>	
		<u>\$156,048.08</u>
LIABILITIES & OPERATING EXCESS:		
Hancock Property Maintenance Fund	99.22	
Land Acquisition Restricted Fund ²	18442.16	
Deferred Dues Restrcticed Fund (191 members)	2730.00	
Previous Operating Excess	26038.62	
Net Excess (Deficit) This Period	<u>724.92</u>	
Current Operating Excess	26763.54	
Real estate liquidity	<u>108013.16</u>	
Total Liabilities & Operating Excess		<u><u>\$156,048.08</u></u>

NOTES:

- 1) Previous appraised value of Buddha Karst Preserve (\$82,890) reduced by the Indiana Heritage Trust payment (\$54,000) to reflect estimated devaluation due to Conservation Easement restriction.
- 2) Land Acquisition fund represents excess from Buddha Acquisition fund after the IHT payment and loan retirement, plus the previously tracked "hat" fund which has been dissolved.

IKC ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Saturday, March 16, 2002
Greenwood, Indiana

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dave Haun
Tom Rea

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

The Annual Business Meeting was called to order at 10:09 AM at the White River Library in Greenwood, President Bruce Bowman presiding. The minutes of the Spring Director's Meeting were approved as published in the March 2002 *IKC Update*.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Dunlap reported \$31,458.96 in cash with \$47,139.83 in liquid assets including accounts receivable. Dunlap moved to transfer funds from the Buddha Cave Acquisition restricted fund to the general Land Acquisition fund on March 31, 2002 (i.e.; after the Indiana Heritage Trust grant money is received). Welling seconded. Motion passed, 12-0-0. Dunlap further noted that the IKC currently has 192 members, 120 which have already renewed for 2002.

Annual Elections

Based on a sufficient number of mail-in ballots, Bruce Bowman was accepted by acclamation as President. Jim Adams was accepted by acclamation as Secretary. Keith Dunlap was accepted by acclamation as Treasurer. Directors receiving sufficient votes for three-year terms were Kriste Lindberg, Bob Sergesketter, Bill Tozer, and Bob Vandeventer; Directors receiving two-year terms were Steve Lockwood and Don Ingle. The new Board will be seated on April 1, 2002. Bowman recognized all Directors for their involvement in 2002, special thanks were given to Tom Rea for encouraging new board members.

Cave Patron/Property Manager Annual Reports

Buddha Karst Preserve -- Interim Patron Tozer summarized. Jeff Cody was appointed Patron. Bowman gave special thanks to Tozer for serving as Interim Patron.

Sullivan Cave Preserve -- Patron Vandeventer summarized. Noe moved to spend up to \$1,000 on parking lot and driveway improvement expenses. Vandeventer seconded. Motion passed 12-0-0.

Orangeville Rise -- Patron Lockwood summarized. Lockwood and Bowman will work on a letter concerning future plans, including interpretive signage, for the IDNR.

Suicide Cave -- Patron Ron Burns provided information by letter, which was read aloud by Dunlap.

Shiloh Cave -- Patron Adams summarized. The EMG will remove recent graffiti in their September grotto trip.

Shaft Cave -- Patron Jeff Cody summarized. The new woven wire fence needs installation during the annual Hancock property workday. Cody will send his report to Dunlap for inclusion in the *Update*.

Wayne's Cave -- Patron Tom Willett provided a brief e-mail report of visitation, which was read by Bowman.

Coon/Grotto Caves -- Patron Dunlap summarized.

See the June 2002 *IKC Update* for more details on all of the annual reports.

A discussion concerning liability waivers ensued, including standardizing them and when the statute of limitations expires. Welling believes that the statute of limitations expires two years from the date of noting injury. Patrons were instructed to retain all waivers until benchmarking with other land trusts can be completed.

Buckner Cave Update

Bowman led a discussion on Buckner Cave. It has been determined that a management plan and other concerns for the property will be addressed by a coalition of cavers including Vandeventer as IKC representative, Eric Higbie as CIG representative, Patti Cummings as BIG representative, and Chris Gilbert as IUSC representative. The Sullivan Cave man-



agement plan will serve as a template. Vandeventer will meet with landowner Dick Blenz to ascertain his views on the succession of the property and follow up with Bill Baus to determine the status of property containing other entrances. Cleanups of the cave will begin soon.

Buddha Karst Preserve

Bowman stated that the Buddha Karst Preserve is well on its way to becoming a state-dedicated nature preserve -- papers are in the process of making their rounds and once it is signed by the Governor, it will be official. This will most likely occur in late spring. The IKC is no longer soliciting funds for the purchase of the property. The Master Plan is now online on the IKC's website. Dunlap reported that Under-Earth Day is scheduled for April 13, 2002. Activities will focus on tree planting, sinkhole cleanup, and bolt removal. Stabilizing the driveway, trail building, fencing, kiosk installation, and other activities will be pursued later. Lindberg will check with her sources to procure four tree-planting bars for the event. Lockwood will seek opportunities with fencing contractors.

Mine Gating 2002

Dunlap reported that the next mine gating will take place on the Hoosier National Forest at the kaolinite mine site on May 19, 2002. Dunlap and Mark Stacy are in the process of determining more "opportunities" for mine gating via the IDNR. Possibilities include one site in Parke County and another in Pike County. Both will require a minimum turnout of labor. Dunlap moved to pursue the mine gating "opportunities" for the IDNR, Devore seconded, motion passed 13-0-0.

Washington County Landfill

Bowman stated that the Washington County Landfill is on proto-karst. Two adjacent landowners are having problems with run-off. After much discussion, it was determined that IKC should not become involved with legal proceedings concerning the landfill. However, referrals will be made to others who are involved with similar issues.

Carry-ins

The Indiana Cave Symposium will take place on April 20, 2002 in Milltown. Dunlap moved to spend up to \$50 on food for the event, Adams seconded, motion passed 13-0-0.

Dunlap summarized the bat gate conference that he attended in Austin, Texas with Mark Stacy and Bambi Dunlap. It was well-attended and interactive. He chaired a session and will write a full report on the conference for the upcoming June 2002 *IKC Update*. The Proceedings will also be published.

The NSS is seeking funds to put up a fence around Shelta Cave in Huntsville. Dunlap moved to support the NSS for three feet of fence at \$80 per foot

for a total of \$240. Welling seconded. During discussion, Noe asked that the motion be amended to eight feet of fencing for a total of \$640. Amendment failed for lack of a second. Original motion passed 13-0-0.

The SCCi is seeking funds for the acquisition of Valhalla Cave. Vernier moved to donate \$100 to the SCCi for Valhalla Cave. Sergesketter seconded, motion passed 10-2-1.

The HNF is continuing with plans to acquire portions of the Blanton property. IKC's involvement may increase.

Openings on the HNF/IKC Karst Inventory Project committee will be addressed at the Summer Meeting.

Several persons donated aluminum cans for Cans for Karst.

The Lost River Conservation Association is seeking funds for the education and outreach efforts. Dunlap moved to donate \$25 to the LRCA for their education and outreach efforts, Devore seconded. During discussion, Welling asked that the motion be amended to \$50, Lockwood seconded. Amendment passed, 8-5-0. Amended motion passed 13-0-0.

Agencies in the Monroe County area are gathering to offer a septic system workshop focusing on karst areas. It will be offered to those involved with septic systems in karst areas, including other agencies, developers, realtors, landowners, etc. Lindberg will keep the IKC posted.

Noe led a discussion of concerns about the extension of I-69. A final decision on the route is expected this summer. Ten percent of the expenses will be funded by the state. It was determined that the IKC would not get involved with legal proceedings. However, Bowman will write a letter to legislators on the IKC's behalf.

Sue Vernier reported that dredging is occurring to put in a casino boat near West Baden Springs. No motion.

Dunlap noted that the IKC needs to consider an endowment fund so IKC properties are self-sustaining. Bowman will place this topic on the agenda for the summer board meeting.

The Summer Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 1 at 7:00 pm. Lindberg will look into securing the same room in IU's Geology Building as it has been held in the past, Room 143. She will keep the IKC posted.

Sergesketter moved to adjourn. Welling seconded, passed 13-0. Meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM to a local Mexican eatery.

State hires biologist to inventory life in Hoosier caves

PAOLI, Ind. (AP) -- Belly down in the slimy mud lining the floor of Orange County's Bond Cave, biologist Jerry Lewis couldn't be happier.

He's just discovered a primitive insect known as a dipluran and is examining its slender body in the beam of his helmet light.

"He's one of the great rarities," Lewis said, propped up on his elbows with the helmet light focused on the half-inch-long insect. "It's incredibly rare, in the category of the rarest things in Indiana."

Lewis is on a mission to ferret out primitive life that will help decide a sophisticated debate about how to manage the Hoosier National Forest, which encompasses the cave.

The US Forest Service deploys Lewis, 48, of Clarksville to give it its best-ever gist of bug life in the 100-plus caves in the Hoosier National Forest.

"We realized we knew so little about the species found on the Hoosier," said Kelle Reynolds, the forest-wildlife biologist and cave coordinator in the Hoosier Forest. "We need to get this information."

Lewis is in the second year of a contracted project that will pay him \$85,000 and probably take three years. He already has inventoried dozens of the Hoosier caves, few of which are as accessible as Bond Cave.

Lewis, a caver of 30 years who has a PhD in aquatic biology, seems as much at home in the dark and the cool as the bats and the beetles do.

"I just see what I see," he said. "Some people can play music. I can see little bugs."

With field assistant Salisa Rafail at his shoulder, Lewis lay prone on the cave's floor with a cave crayfish that he suspects is as old as he is.

Lewis and Rafail then pored over a pale, squirmy millipede that had feasted on spoiled yogurt that Lewis left as bait on a previous visit.

Corralling the wormlike critter for inspection at his home lab, Lewis figured it was a Bollman's millipede, named for the late professor at Indiana University who was first to spot one.

"Whatever one it is," Lewis said, "it's only in Indiana caves."

At the request of government

agencies and groups such as the Nature Conservancy, Lewis and his jars, nets and boots go far.

His conclusions were used to relocate the proposed site of the campground at Charlestown State Park. And his testimony served to halt the planned discharge of sewage into a cave system in Tennessee.

He is now committed to cave projects in Oregon, Oklahoma, Missouri and Arkansas, among others.

Allen Pursell, who heads the Conservancy's Corydon office, said Lewis provides an impressive combination of expertise and devotion. "He's got a tough row to hoe," Pursell said. "It's much easier to get people excited about things that are lovely to look at."

Lewis works full-time as database manager for the neonatal intensive-care unit at Kosair Children's Hospital in Louisville, where he recruited Rafail, the unit's nutritionist, to join him in his sideline.

"I thought it was interesting," said Rafail, a Clarksville resident who's still at it after five years of getting scraped, soaked and filthy.

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and Wildlife Service.

A reduction in the number of days Big Wyandotte is open does mean that the price for tours will be comparable to commercial caves.

A 90-minute tour will be \$7 for children between the ages of 4 and 12, and \$14 for visitors age 13

and above. Previously, rates for a similar tour were \$4 and \$7.

Three privately managed caves nearby, Blue Springs Cavern in Bedford and Squire Boone Caverns in Corydon and Marengo Cave in Marengo, do not have 90-minute tours but they do offer shorter tours at similar prices.

Blue Springs charges youths

between the ages of 3 and 15 \$5 for a one-hour tour and \$10 for visitors older than 15. A one-hour tour at Squire Boone Caverns runs \$6.50 for ages 6 to 11 and \$11 for older visitors. A 70-minute tour along Marengo's Dripstone Trail goes for \$6.25 for children ages 4 through 12, and \$12.50 for ages 13 and above.

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

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