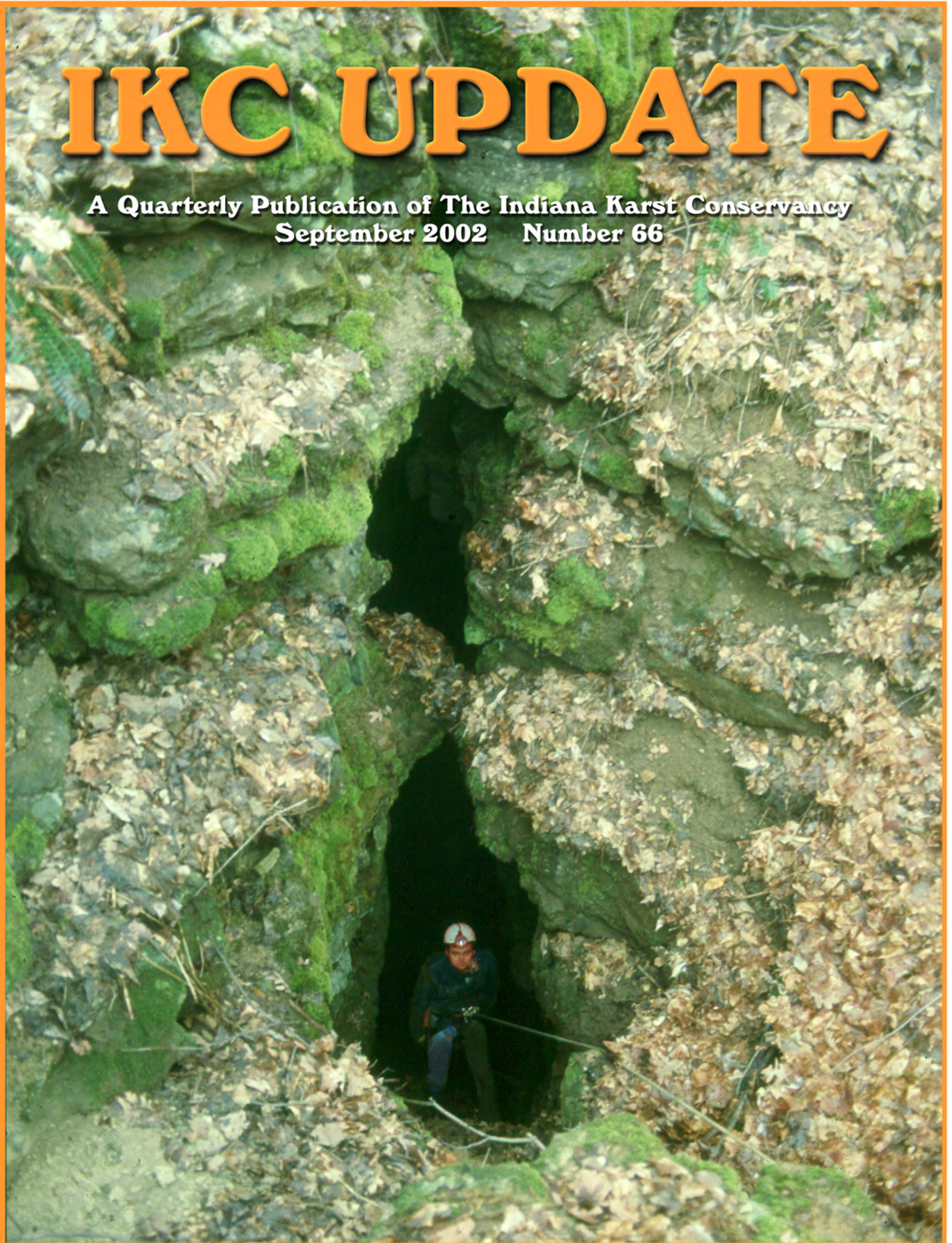


IKC UPDATE

**A Quarterly Publication of The Indiana Karst Conservancy
September 2002 Number 66**



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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

QUARTERLY MEETING/COOK-OUT REMINDER

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21th, 5:00 PM

CLOVERDALE, INDIANA

Property of Tom Rea, 8677 S South SR 243

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; Discussion of upcoming projects, Land Acquisition Committee activities, Stewardship Endowment Fund *ad hoc* report, and more....

Following the business meeting (approximately 7 PM) will be the annual pitch-in cookout. The IKC will provide the grilled burgers, hot dogs, and brats; condiments; and soft drinks. Please bring a salad or covered-dish to share. Finishing off the evening's activities will be the highly competitive dessert contest (11th annual). Bring an entry or enjoy sampling and selecting the winners. **Please bring lawn chairs, and the family, too.** Contact Kathy Welling for further details. NOTE: Those not wanting to drive home Saturday night are welcome to stay and camp.

Meeting directions: From I-70, exit onto SR 243 (exit 37). Turn north and go approximately 1/4 mile. Tom's driveway is the first one on the right after crossing a small stream. Follow the long driveway to the field on the right. You are there!

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

- 21 SEP = HNF FIELD WORK DAY, contact Steve Lockwood
- 21 SEP = IKC QUARTERLY MEETING/ANNUAL COOK-OUT, Cloverdale (see above)
- 05 OCT = LOST RIVER TOUR, Orleans (see page 5)
- 19 OCT = HNF COMMITTEE MEETING/FIELD DAY, contact Steve Lockwood
- 20 OCT = SULLIVAN PROPERTY DRIVEWAY WORK DAY, Bedford (see page 5)
- 02 NOV = BUDDHA PROPERTY FENCE WORK DAY, Bedford (see page 5)
- 16 NOV = HNF FIELD WORK DAY, contact Steve Lockwood
- 23 NOV = SHAFT PIT FENCE WORK DAY, Bloomington (see page 5)
- 21 DEC = HNF COMMITTEE MEETING/FIELD DAY, contact Steve Lockwood
- ?? DEC = BLANTON PROPERTY CLEAN-UP, Orleans (see page 5)
- ?? DEC = IKC QUARTERLY MEETING (date and location 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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LARRY REECE: 1943 - 2002

The caving community lost another great friend and supporter. Larry Reece, 59, passed away on July 23rd after a short bout with pancreatic cancer.

Larry started his caving interests in the mid-1960s, joining the Central Indiana Grotto. He was an early vertical caver, a surveyor, and continual contributor to the CIG Newsletter. His *RBS Labs* spanned decades of "advancing" scientific observations on caves and cavers. He was a Life Member and Fellow of the NSS (member number 8851), attending many national conventions, but otherwise remaining focused at the local/regional level.

In his later years, Larry "adopted" Mammoth Cave and was a regular participant in the week-long restoration camps and week-end mini-cleanups.

Larry was also an early contributor and supporter of the IKC when we came into existence. He saw the benefits of cavers organizing to manage and own caves, as well as educate the general public about caves and karst. We was active in the Sullivan acquisition and helped to plant trees despite his declining health.

Caving is an adventure with lots of little trips along the way. Larry enjoyed the long adventure and we are fortunate to share many of those trips. Larry was born in Mount Vernon, Illinois, on June 27, 1943. He is survived by his wife, Gladys, son Matt, and many caving friends. His memory and contributions will remain with us forever.

Per Larry's wishes, there were no funeral services. Memorial gifts can be made in his honor to the NSS, CIG, or IKC.



NEWS BRIEFS...

- ❑ Summer is about over, but that doesn't mean we are out of work projects. We have at least three stewardship projects coming up in the next few months which will need volunteers. On October 20th, we will be working at the Sullivan property to spread 150 tons of crushed stone on the driveway and parking area. Fortunately we will be using power equipment to be doing most of the work, but there will still be some manual grooming needed to finish the job. On November 2nd, we will spend the day at the Buddha property working to install the fence along the south boundary. Again we will be using power equipment, but it will still take a lot of manual labor. We are also looking for someone with fence-building experience to be the project leader for this activity. Finally on November 23rd, we plan to finish up the fence erection project around Shaft Pit and will be needing a few people to help. So pick a project or two and volunteer! Contact Keith Dunlap for more details on any of the above projects.
- ❑ On August 17th, The Nature Conservancy closed on the acquisition of 213 acres immediately to the west of Wesley Chapel Gulf overlaying the majority of the Lost River Cave System, currently the third longest known cave in Indiana. The negotiations for the acquisition was a long and complicated one and much thanks should go to Steve Grubbs for his persistence and dedication in getting the deal put together. Thanks should also go to Mark Deebel and Tony Cunningham of the St Joseph Valley Grotto for their efforts in communicating the importance of the cave and the property. Eventually, the property will be transferred to the Hoosier National Forest as an expansion of their Wesley Chapel Gulf Special Area and managed to protect the multiple cave resources. In the near-term, the IKC and SJVG will work with TNC to manage the property. This will likely include a surface clean-up project and other activities to environmentally enhance the project. For more details, see the article starting on page 9.
- ❑ The last Lost River Field Trip for the year is October 5th. Hosted by Bob Armstrong and other Lost River Conservation Association regulars, the trip provides a unique perspective of many features of the Lost River, from its head waters in western Washington County, to its re-surfacing at the True Rise south of Orangeville. In between are a dozen stops of interest including Wesley Chapel Gulf. The car tours are free and open to anyone wanting to learn more about the Lost River. There will be some moderate hiking, so sturdy footwear is suggested. The tour depart from the southeast corner of the square in Orleans at 8 AM sharp, with an orientation presentation starting at 7:40. The tour will end at approximately 4 PM at the Orangeville Rise. For more information, contact Bob Armstrong or Dee Slater at (317) 253-6951.

- ❑ One June 1st, on the afternoon before the IKC meeting, we had our annual workday on the Hancock property west of Bloomington. We did the usual trash detail along Spicer Lane, picking up several bags of litter and bottles, and checked on Coon and Grotto cave entrances. We also started the process of replacing the fence around the entrance to Shaft Pit. The old t-post and barb-wire fence, installed about twelve years ago, is not in the best of shape. Rather than try to repair it, the IKC Board decided to replace the whole thing, using sturdy wooden posts and a larger perimeter. The initial step was to see if new post holes could be dug without hitting limestone. Thus ten holes were located and dug, using shovels, post hole diggers, and pry-bars.



With the exception of two holes, all were as deep as they needed to be, so materials can be procured to complete the project. Participants for the workday included Jeff Cody, Bruce Devore, Bambi & Keith Dunlap, Don Ingle, Nick Noe, and Bruce Silvers.

- ❑ Part of the annual NSS Convention is to recognize those within the Society who contribute to the NSS and caving in general. At this year's convention in Camden, Maine, a number of IKC members received national awards. First and foremost, Kriste Lindberg received this year's Conservation Award for her contributions in cave/karst conservation education. Dave Black received the much coveted Lew Bicking Award for his many years of exploration and surveying. Members Terry Clark, Kriste Lindberg, and Richard Newton became Fellows. Finally, the March 2001 cover of the *IKC Update* (photo by James Adams) received an honorable Mention in the Graphic Arts Salon. Congratulations to all!
- ❑ The IKC receives funding from many different sources. One is corporate donations made through "volunteer recognition programs" where the corporation will make a donation on behalf of their employee for contributing a certain number of volunteer hours. Both Lilly (the employer of Bruce Bowman), and General Motors (the employer of Keith Dunlap) make annual donations of \$250 each to the IKC. Investigate if your employer has a similar plan and of course volunteer your hours.
- ❑ Four new members have joined the IKC in the past quarter. Welcome Brandon Stephens (402), Brian Hoogeveen (403), Craig Luehr (404), and Greg Inman (405). The IKC membership now stands at 175.

Land buy will protect vast cave system

by Mike Lewis

PAOLI - The Nature Conservancy's Indiana Chapter has closed a deal to protect a vast underground cave system in Orange County.

The 213-acre tract sits atop part of the underground section of the Lost River. The river flows along the surface, disappears in eastern Orange County, then re-surfaces near Orangeville.

The cave system harbors at least 24 cave species -- three of which are new to science. One of those species is a fish that might live to be 100 years old; another is a crustacean that could live as long as 75 years.

Sitting under open grassland, the complex covers miles of twisting and overlapping underground passages.

"We're protecting what is documented as the third-largest subterranean system in the state," said Steve Grubbs, land protection specialist for the Nature Conservancy. When the complete system is mapped, it might well be the state's largest, he added.

Grubbs described the system as a three-dimensional river delta.

"Depending upon how much water is moving, you could have water in all of the levels" he said.

Grubbs said the fragile system might have global significance. Cave researchers who have worked on the site say only one other location, an underground river system in Vietnam, is similar to the Lost River complex.

"There's nothing that matches this in terms of the weird hydrology (water flow)," Grubbs added.

Julian Lewis of the University of Louisville has been researching southern Indiana's cave systems for the past several years, finding and documenting rare and previously unknown species.

"This latest acquisition is a biological hot spot," Lewis said.

"With relatively so little know about subterranean systems, it's important that places like this are formally protected in order to study them in their pristine state."

The Nature Conservancy purchased the property from Orange Circuit Court Judge Larry Blanton and his sister Paula Blanton-Foster. The Blanton family farm has protected the property for years.

Working with the U.S. Forest Service and an organization called the Indiana Karst Conservancy, the Nature Conservancy was able to secure the property.

"Once (the Blanton family)

became aware of the cave science, they were very much in favor of this disposition of their property," Grubbs said.

Members of the St. Joseph Valley Grotto, a caving organization, discovered the system four years ago. They have documented many of the extensive, multi-level passages.


The Blanton tract is adjacent to the US Forest Service's Wesley Chapel Gulf, which was designated as a National Natural Landmark in 1972 because of its rare geological features. The gulf -- a 12-acre depression in the ground - provides a rare glimpse of the Lost River on its path through Orange County.

Grubbs said the Nature Conservancy's purchase of the Blanton property is important to preserving the underground system.

The complex is dangerous, he said, because of its twisting channels and vertical shafts.

The system also is evolving -- water coursing through the shafts causes some to collapse, then the stream winds its way along other paths, carving new channels.

The channels and their inhabitants also are fragile. New homes

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INDOT TAKES THE NEXT STEP FOR I-69

by Keith Dunlap

In early August, the Indiana Department of Transportation released its long anticipated Draft Environmental Impact Statement further defining the potential route that I-69 from Indianapolis to Evansville will take. As part of the NEPA process, the DEIS looks at various alternatives, balancing various economic, transportation, and environmental factors. It is also the point in the process where public comments have the greatest impact in determining which of the proposed routes become the final choice *or*, if the “no action” alternative is selected which kills the process.

While the NEPA process is supposed to take an objective and unbiased approach in determining the best outcome, it is inherently subjective by the “core goals” chosen and used to define the judgment criteria. Furthermore, the political implications at the local, county, state, and federal levels exert great influence over the process, especially considering that the construction industry is an established and powerful lobbying contingent which understands money talks.

But enough of the general background... Why is this project a concern of IKC members and the caving community? The bottom line is, depending upon the route selected, that this *single* project could cause more environmental impact to the karst region of southwestern Indiana than any other project in the history of Indiana. While the direct impact from the construction of the highway could be significant, the real impact will be the secondary impact from the development and sprawl that will result long after construction is complete. A second reason each of you (at least those of you who live in Indiana) should care is that this will be one of the most expensive road construction projects ever undertaken and funded by the state. Potentially two *billion* tax dollars could be allocated to this project, requiring either future increases in tax obligations or reduced maintenance and upgrades to our existing roads (many in poor shape already).

So what do you do? It would be great if each of you could study the entire DEIS and draw your own conclusions and comment accordingly. However, the document is over 1000 pages in length and is not even available to the general public other than at se-

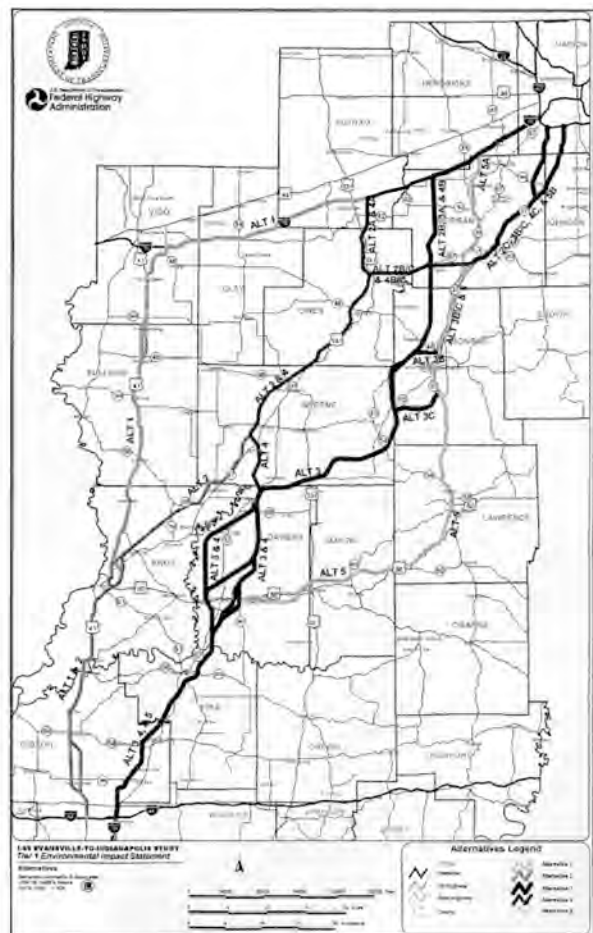
lected libraries and government offices. Thus you are dependent upon articles like this one to summarize the information and assist you with your comments. *And it is vital that you comment!*

The DEIS in a nutshell

There are five primary routes, with several sub-variations of each, yielding twelve alternatives discussed in the DEIS (see the attached map). There is also the “no action” alternative which means to not build the highway.

Of the twelve proposed routes, five are designated as “preferred” (2C, 3B, 3C, 4B, and 4C), while the rest are designated as “non-preferred”. The distinction between the two categories is that those “preferred” scored better on the “core goals” and supposedly have fewer environmental impacts.

Alternative 1 basically follows US-41



north from Evansville to Terre Haute, then uses I-70 to connect with Indianapolis. It clearly is the least expensive alternative (\$800 million to \$1.04 billion), requires the least amount of right-of-way to be acquired (including farmlands, forests, and wetlands), and has significantly less impact on the environment. It is the only route that does not impact karst. This would seem to be the logical (“common sense”) route to select and seems to have the popular support, especially from Terre Haute residents, but is classified as “non-preferred” because it is slightly longer in drive time (7-17 minutes compared to the “preferred” alternatives) and would do little to “promote economic growth”.

Alternative 2 follows US 41 north from Evansville to Vincennes, then cuts a new-terrain route roughly following SR 67/US 231 to Spencer. From there, three variations continue -- 2A runs due north to I-70 at Cloverdale; 2B follows SR 67 to Paragon, then north to I-70; and 2C follows SR 67 to Martinsville, then north following SR 37. Only alternative 2C is “preferred” despite the fact that is the most expensive of the three variations and has essentially the same performance characteristics (length and travel time). Alternative 2 will directly impact the karst areas in eastern Owen County.

Alternative 3 starts as a new-terrain route from Evansville roughly following SR 57 to Newberry (southern Green Co), then east north of Crane and within about 4 miles of Sullivan Cave. Continuing northeast into Monroe County, it splits into three variations -- 3C cuts east and connects into SR 37 south of Bloomington with SR 37 being upgraded to interstate status from there to Indianapolis; 3B by-passes Bloomington on the west (a couple miles west of Buckner, Wayne’s, Coon, etc) and connects into SR 37 north of town near Ellettsville and continues to Indianapolis along SR 37; and 3A remain new-terrain west of Bloomington heading north to Paragon, then following the same route as 2B. Routes 3B and 3C are by far the worse of the “preferred” alternatives for karst impact. Farmland, forest, and wetland impact are also high, and these routes are the most expensive. It’s little wonder that 3B or 3C is likely the route which will be selected in the final EIS (the proximity to Indiana University appears to positively influence several of the “core goals”).

Alternative 4 basically follows route 3 up to Newberry, then continues north and


follows route 2. Thus the impact to karst is the same as route 2. The three variations of route 4 contain the most new terrain mileage and thus have high impacts to farmlands, forests, and wetlands. The two “preferred” routes, 4B and 4C, are not surprisingly some of the higher cost alternatives.

Alternatives 5 follow the new terrain routes of alternatives 3 and 4 from Evansville to Washington, then roughly follows US 50 to Bedford were it connects to SR 37 which would be upgraded to Indianapolis (the difference between routes 5A and 5B is where it goes north of Martinsville). Both variations are expensive and are just a few miles shorter than Alternative 1. The greatest problem with Alternative 5 is number of miles running through karst. InDOT estimated this route would impact 5 to 10 times more karst compared to the “preferred” routes. Examples of impact would include plowing through the middle of the Tincher Special Area of the Hoosier National Forest, coming within a quarter mile of Gory Hole, and paving over the Bolton sink of the Blue-spring Cave system.

What comments to make?

While we would like for you to make your own constructive comments, it’s not practical for everyone (or for that matter anyone) to study the complete DEIS. Thus we would like to suggest obvious comments:

- Alternatives 5A and 5B (both non-preferred routes) should absolutely be dropped from consideration due to their documented environmental impacts, especially related to karst.
- Alternatives 2A/B/C and 4A/B/C should be dropped from consideration for the impact of the karst in Owen County, much still undocumented.
- Alternatives 3A/B/C should be dropped from consideration for the impact of the karst in Greene and Monroe counties, especially the secondary development impact from urban sprawl around the Bloomington area.
- Alternative 1 is the only alternative acceptable from an environmental standpoint.
- Alternative 1 is the only alternative acceptable from a cost standpoint.
- If alternative 1 is unacceptable because of the poor score of “core goals” than the “no

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IKC/DNR SECURE ABANDON MINES FOR BATS - YEAR 4

by Keith Dunlap

In 1999 the IKC, in cooperation with the Indiana DNR, initiated a bat habitat conservation project which continued in 2000 and 2001. The IKC also did several mine gates for the Hoosier National Forest. The result has been over twenty bat gates placed on abandoned coal mine entrances which would otherwise have been permanently closed by other means. Securing these entrances with steel gates rather than rock and concrete allow bats to continue to use the mines for hibernation, while at the same time significantly reduces the human liabilities the open mines presented.

For 2002, the Indiana DNR contracted with the IKC to construct three more gates at two mine sites. The first site was in northern Pike County and consisted of a single angle-iron gate (8-foot wide by 3-foot high). The task was pretty straight forward, so only a small work crew was solicited for the June 8th installation. The only complicating factor was that the entrance was a quarter mile from the nearest road and inaccessible by regular vehicles. However, we were able to shuttle the equipment and materials to the site by ATV. Tom Sollman and Mark Stacy did most of the grunt work of digging the sill plate trench and draining the pooled water behind the work area. Others assisting were Bob Sergesketter, Bob Vandeventer, Keith and Bambi Dunlap, Robert and Elisa Sollman (ATV drivers), and the land owner, Bill Young.

The second workday was on August 24th in Parke County, north of Rockville. The



An abandoned mine entrance in Parke County having the angle-iron installed. photos by Bob Vandeventer

tasks were to install one traditional angle-iron gate (10-foot wide by 4-foot high) and one culvert with grate. Again, the work site was a significant distance from the road, but we were able to clear an old lane to allow access to the entrances with a six-wheel Gator. This allowed the equipment and materials to be shuttled, significantly reducing



After an angle-iron gate is constructed, it must be cleaned with mineral spirits, primed, and then painted. This task generally falls upon Bambi Dunlap (in addition to her role as resident caterer).

the manual hauling which otherwise would have been required.

The angle-iron gate went in very easily due to ample working space and straight walls and a flat ceiling. It took less than four hours from start-to-finish with an all veteran crew performing the work.

The other entrance was more of a challenge. It was basically a lower drain from the mine system and the "rock" walls were unsuitable to attach a traditional gate. Thus, a 20-foot long, 36-inch diameter double-walled HDPE plastic culvert was inserted into the entrance. This sounds easy, but took a large, dedicated crew to man-handle the awkward culvert to the entrance, then considerable excavating and shoving to get it positioned properly. Once installed, large rocks were then packed around the culvert to lock it in place and a pre-fabricated grate was slid inside the culvert to secure the opening.

Finally, while working on these two entrances, Tom Sollman found what was

thought to be a third entrance to the system. It was just a body-size hole, and since we had extra steel, we fabricated a small "gate" to prevent entry, but retain air-flow.

Participants for the second weekend included Terry Clark, Bambi and Keith Dunlap, Hal Hempe, Don Ingle, Kriste Lindberg, Gene Pelter, Tom Rea, Ray Sheldon, Tom Sollman, Mark Stacy, Bruce Trotter, Bob Vandeventer, Dick and Sue Vernier, Jamie Winner, and Bob Zatarski.

Both site owners this year were very hospitable and interested in our activities. Both seemed genuinely supportive of providing bat habitat in addition to their primary concern of eliminating a potential danger.

I would like to thank everyone who helped out this year. There were 20 different volunteers, many who helped both work-days. All total, we expended approximately 200 man-hours in constructing the three gates. For the last four years, we have contributed over 1500 man-hours to install 19 gates for the DNR.

In summary, the DNR (Mark Stacy specifically) has been very impressed with our volunteerism, professionalism, skills, and cost-effectiveness in constructing bat gates. Likewise, I have been impressed that so many IKC members have demonstrated true teamwork and skills to build these gates which not only provide permanent and se-

cure winter habitat for several bat species, but also has been an invaluable revenue source for the IKC.



The "culvert crew" with the 36-inch diameter plastic culvert partially inserted into the second mine entrance at the Parke County work site.

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action" alternative is the only feasible conclusion to the DEIS.

- Remind InDOT that this money would be better spent on maintaining the current roads we already have, selectively upgrading existing highways as needed.
- Remind InDOT that an interstate highway through under-developed areas like Davis County does not assure economic development. One only has to drive I-64 between Corydon and Evansville to see that an interstate highway does not equate to jobs (not even minimum-wage jobs at Burger King).

How do I make my comments?

The primary method to communicate your comments is by a letter addressed to InDOT's consultant on the project: Michael Grovak, project manager, Bernardin, Lochmueller, and Associates, 6200 Vogel Road,

Evansville, IN 47715.

Alternatively, you can enter your comments by going to www.i69indyevn.org on the internet.

Finally, you can verbally give your comments by calling InDOT's toll-free 24-hour hotline at 1-877-INDY-EVN.

When to comment

The deadline to submit comments on the alternatives is November 7th, 2002.

Conclusion

There are few opportunities to voice your comments and concerns on how the government spends your money or impacts the environment that we live in. The NEPA process was developed to allow the citizens an opportunity to counter the organized lobbying groups and political gamesmanship. Take the opportunity to comment!

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

by Kriste Lindberg

Well, it appears that our approach is working. We're getting some good exposure and recognition around the country as we are being seen as one of the leaders in the field of cave and karst education. At this year's NSS Convention in Maine, I presented a PowerPoint show, "Agencies as Partners in Karst Conservation and Education". I also set up the IKC display, complete with our IKC brochures, business cards, and information and photos on various partners and programs we have been working on. Thanks to everyone who has supported us in our efforts, especially fellow committee members Bob Vandeventer and Don Ingle, and the government agencies which we are making conscious efforts to partner with us such as the City of Bloomington, Hoosier National Forest, IDNR, etc. We could not have done it without you!

Another partner we are now working more closely with is the Hoosier Heartland Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D). It encompasses ten counties in the center of Indiana -- Boone, Brown, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, and Shelby. As I live and work in Monroe County, it is the one I am most active with, however, I have worked and will continue to work with others, as well. According to the Hoosier Heartland RC&D website -- www.hhrcd.org -- "*The Hoosier Heartland Resource Conservation and Development Council, is a unique organization that helps people care for, conserve and protect natural resources in a way that will improve the area's economy, environment, and living standards... We accomplish our work through an extensive network of volunteers and partnerships... Our Mission: We believe our finite and valuable natural resources must be managed and conserved for everyone's long-term benefit. The Hoosier Heartland RC&D provides opportunities for citizens, businesses, organizations, and governments, individually or in partnership, to profitably develop and use our natural resources, while protecting, conserving, and improving them for future generations.*" Basically, people are going to develop land so we as conservationists should take the responsibility to be there along with them to help

encourage them to utilize sound environmental practices. Therefore, there are many opportunities to get involved. As they comprise a strong partnership of various individuals, groups, and governments, they do not need to rely on the limited resources of a few and can, therefore, accomplish their mission through a wide variety of channels. Education-wise, a few of the programs we are working on together include strengthening cave and karst conservation education, the new Master Naturalist program, and Camp Gallahue in Brown County which offers many varied environmental education classes.

There is also a new RC & D that has just formed in a number of counties below Monroe, including Lawrence and Orange counties. It is the White River RC&D. I will be working with them, as well, to strengthen cave and karst education representation.

In the June issue of the *IKC Update*, I introduced and discussed a new rule governing water quality in Indiana and beyond: Phase II, Rule 13. Monroe County has been working together with the City of Bloomington and Indiana University to host stormwater quality meetings to brainstorm about how to best approach the new regulations. Thanks to Monroe County Drainage Engineer, Todd Stevenson, for hosting these valuable meetings. There are six components to the rule, two of which directly concern us: Public education and outreach and public involvement. Hence, there are lots of



The IKC portable display was set up at the 2002 NSS Convention to highlight our various activities.

opportunities for us to get involved (storm-water enters cave and karst areas through a number of channels, including storm drains and the like!). Actually, we have a good start with them, already, including the Storm Drain Marking Program, Hoosier Riverwatch, various school programs such as Project Underground, displays at fairs, conferences, and so on. We plan to increase our involvement, too. I'm sure you will be hearing more about the rule as time goes on. In the meantime, to learn more about it, visit: <http://www.in.gov/idem/water/planbr/rules/050802wpcbpacket/0196drafrulehlted2nd-notice.pdf>.

Speaking of the Storm Drain Marking Program, as a result of the above meetings, Indiana University has now joined our list of partners! Welcome, IU! They are a valuable addition to our list of conservation partners. We are also working with two new potential neighborhood associations. The program is moving right along... As a matter of fact, City of Bloomington Utilities may take on a stronger role in supporting and administering the program as it grows.

Progress is being made with Hoosier Riverwatch as well. The program is starting to be used to monitor water quality in all Bloomington Parks and Recreation properties that contain flowing water. Among those which will be monitored include Leonard Springs Nature Park. It fits in directly with the above Phase II, Rule 13 requirements. We are wasting no time. The City of Bloomington paired up with the Monroe County SWCD to host Hoosier Riverwatch Levels I and II in Bloomington in early August to help train folks in water quality monitoring. I am being trained not only in these two levels but also the third level, which qualifies one as an instructor and local contact. More on this important program as time goes on. To learn more about Hoosier Riverwatch, visit their website: www.state.in.us/dnr/soilcons/riverwatch.

The Soil and Water Conservation Society 2002 Annual Conference was held in Indianapolis this summer. It is an international organization and brought in folks from all around the world to learn more about conservation practices and the like... This year's theme was: *Setting the Pace for Conservation*. It played upon the area's well-known reputation for auto racing, however, as participants soon found out, there's more to Indiana than just that! Besides a number of

sessions, there were sixteen field trips offered. I was one of the hosts for the one that involved caves and karst. According to the brochure for the conference, "Caves, Carbon, and Wine: Tour the Morgan-Monroe State Forest and see the Carbon Study/Global Warming Station (1 of 8 in the world) and forestry best management practices. Stop at Oliver Winery to learn more about conservation practices on the farm. Afterward, we'll visit Leonard Spring Nature Park in Bloomington to see karst limestone topography and caves for discussion about unique water quality problems in southern Indiana." It was the most popular tour, we actually filled two motor coaches! Thanks to IDNR Division of Soil Conservation's Jim Farr for coordinating the entire tour, IU Interns Laura Guest and Tyson Long, and Beth Chasteen of the Monroe County SWCD for helping with the event.

And speaking of Leonard Springs Nature Park, the Bloomington Indiana Grotto has been busy helping to maintain the trails there through a new program at Bloomington Parks and Recreation, the Adopt-A-Trail program. A number of folks have been helping out with this, including Patti Cummings, Sam Frushour, Sandy Packman, Kate Siebert, Bill Baus, Bud Dillon, and others. The park is befitting thanks to their efforts. It is good to have local caver involvement.

In August, Bob Vandeventer, BIG Chair Patti Cummings, Indiana Geological Survey soil scientist Sam Frushour, and I represented Monroe County by attending the Clean Water Indiana (administered by the IDNR's Division of Soil Conservation) benefit at Oliver Winery in Bloomington. The winery promotes environmentally responsible farming practices. It was one of the most professional and serene functions of its sort I have ever attended. We helped to support this fine program and were treated to an outdoor catered dinner, live music, wine tasting, tour of the winery, great company, and a silent auction for all sorts of neat things. Rain at the beginning of the event just before we arrived made for a rather beautiful, ethereal atmosphere throughout the evening. Clean water makes fine wine!

In October, the National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA - no, there is not an "R" at the end of the acronym) will be held in Indianapolis. I've been working with IDNR Division of Soil Conservation personnel to put together a presenta-



tion on Indiana caves and karst as well as follow it up with a tour of Leonard Springs Nature Park and surrounding karst areas to reinforce the information. Bob Vandeventer and I are working on a PowerPoint presentation set to video on Indiana caves and karst to accompany this event. It will be shown on the motor coach on the drive from Indianapolis to Bloomington. It will also be able to be used for more general purposes. Thanks to IDNR Division of Soil Conservation's Sharon Hall, Deb Messenger, and Mark Goldsmith for helping with the arrangements.

Progress is being made with the Hoosier National Forest Karst Inventory Project, as well. I'm happy to report that the HNF just received a \$50,000 grant to put towards their cave and karst conservation efforts! Congratulations, HNF! During the last meeting, a variety of options were discussed - education and outreach, dye tracing, cleanups, etc. If decided to be used in part on cleanups, some of the funds may go to efforts in the Lost River area. The HNF was a major player recently in the acquisition of a large tract of land overlaying passages of the Lost River Cave system (see newspaper article also this issue). Thanks to The Nature Conservancy, Indiana Karst Conservancy, cave biologist Dr. Jerry Lewis, St Joseph Valley Grotto members, and others for assisting in this valuable land preservation. In anticipation of the acquisition, a number of HNF staff joined a tour of the Lost River led by Bob Armstrong and Val Frazee. Those who attended included the Kelle Reynolds, Steve Harriss, and Teena Ligman, TNC's Steve Grubbs, myself, and about 20 others. Much was learned about the system by the entire group. It is now on its way to reaping the benefits of lasting protection.

Additionally, the HNF is also involved in a partnership with several other agencies, including cave administrators with the IDNR, IKC, and so on -- The Indiana Bat Outreach Committee. The US Fish and Wildlife Service recently received a sizable grant to put towards protecting Indiana Bats! During a brainstorming meeting which I attended this summer, the majority of participants believed it most beneficial to put the funds towards education and outreach efforts. Much talk of a videotape and other materials and efforts ensued. Bob Vandeventer and I are sure to play a role in these efforts. Thanks to biologist Dr. Lori Pruitt for securing the grant and helping this valuable endangered species.

Other outreach opportunities we have

participated in include a behind-the-scenes tour of the Indiana State Museum with state paleontologist Dr Ron Richards. Bob Vandeventer and I enjoyed a nice tour with Ron after showing him some bones I had found in a local cave. The bones didn't turn out to be anything exciting but the tour sure was! Along the way, we were shown a cave replica modeled after an entrance in Harrodsburg and discussed educational opportunities (incidentally, I produced a pen and watercolor illustration of ancient peccary "tusks" that I discovered in the Lost River system, and that Ron identified, will appear in the next edition of *Illuminations*, an NSS-sponsored cave arts publication).

At the Monroe County Fair, we set up a display presenting various partnerships we are involved with around the area, including Leonard Springs Nature Park, Clean Water Indiana funded programs such as sinkhole conservation demonstration sites and the Storm Drain Marking Program, etc. And at the Indiana State Fair's Pathway to Water Quality (a partnership of various agencies), I was introduced to a Purdue University employee and we discussed the possibility of adding a sinkhole conservation demonstration to the site. A number of IKC brochures were set out at both events as were my business cards.

The good word is spreading that the IKC and it's education committee exist and that there is much conservation/education work to be done with caves and karst in general! Please contact me if you would like to join our efforts, there are many opportunities! Also, please keep me posted of any that you know of and/or are involved with. Thanks!



Bob Armstrong discussing Wesley Chapel Gulf during a May field trip attended by various federal and state agency employees.

Bats to silently slumber as Wyandotte Cave closes for season

It has been a year of changes at Wyandotte and Siberts caves in Southern Indiana. And the changes have all been for the better.

In May, state government budget considerations resulted in turning the operation of the caves over to a private cave-management corporation. And now the protection of an endangered species of bat has led to a change in the operation dates of the caves.

DNR Director John Goss commended Gordon Smith, head of Wyandotte Caves LLC, the cave management-company, for the work he has done. "Gordon has done an excellent job for the caves this year. And his participation in making the caves a suitable habitat for the bats is very important indeed."

"The DNR has no more important responsibility than to protect endangered wildlife," said DNR Director John Goss. "We want to make sure that Wyandotte Cave remains a suitable habitat for this species since most caves in Indiana are unsuitable for the Indiana bat."

Working with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and DNR, Wyandotte Caves LLC has announced a few operational changes effective this week and will close the cave for the season on September 2 to allow the bats to hibernate undisturbed.

Specifically, beginning immediately through the cave's September 2 closing:

- no lights shined on the bats (including by tour guides);
- tour participants and tour guides will remain silent and move quickly though the Washington Avenue section of the cave; and
- fixed ceiling lighting in the Washington Avenue section will not be used.

Big Wyandotte Cave tours will begin again in early May 2003.

Siberts Cave (traditionally referred to as Little Wyandotte Cave) which is not a place where bats hibernate, (called a hibernacula) will close to the public in October and also reopen in the spring.

"We applaud the actions of the DNR and Wyandotte Caves, LLC to safeguard this important wintering colony of endangered Indiana bats," said US Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Director Bill Hartwig. "These measures will help ensure that the Indiana bat will always have a home in the Hoosier state, and we welcome working in partnership with the DNR and people of Indiana to help this species toward recovery."

Smith's company was awarded a contract by DNR and began operation of the caves when it became clear that state budget cuts would negatively impact the operation of the caves. While the contract called for Wyandotte Caves LLC to assume operations of the cave tours and gift shop, the DNR retained control of the property and cave resources. The contract, which DNR oversees, also contains provisions for continued management and protection of the cave formations and cave wildlife by the DNR.

"We've had a great year at Wyandotte and Siberts caves," said Gordon Smith, president of Wyandotte Caves, LLC, the company managing the caves. "I know we'll be pleased at the beginning we've made when we add up all the numbers for the season."

Smith has promised additional improvements for next year. "We have already started with expansion of the gift shop with a wider selection of gifts that will be available," Smith said. "When we re-open in the Spring I'm sure people will find visiting and exploring the caves to be an even better experience than before."

The Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) is particularly sensitive to temperature fluctuations and disturbances that cause it to needlessly become active and burn fuel it has stored in its body for a long hibernation. Approximately 30,000 Indiana bats hibernate in Big Wyandotte Cave along with six other bat species.

Indiana bats were among the first animals identified as endangered under a law that preceded the current Endangered Species Act. Indiana bats numbering in the millions were once found throughout the eastern United States, hibernating in caves and spending summer months in forested areas.

Indiana bats still occur in areas of their former range, but their numbers have declined significantly and are still dropping. The total Indiana bat population is now estimated at 380,000 -- a 60 percent decline since the 1960s. Wildlife experts believe that changes in and disturbances of their hibernation caves and loss of summer habitat have contributed to their decline, although other factors such as pesticide use, are also under investigation.

Wyandotte Cave is located 10 miles west of Corydon on Highway 62 (traveling westbound on I-64, take exit 105 for State Road 135, continue on 135 south to State Road 62 west 10 miles). For information on tours, please call (812) 738-2782.

For more information on the Indiana Bat, please visit the US Fish and Wildlife Service web site: http://midwest.fws.gov/endangered/mammals/ind_bat.html

DNR press release dated August 22, 2002. For more information, contact Todd Webb, Assistant Property Manager at Wyandotte Cave (812-738-3498), or Gordon Smith (812-738-2782).

Continued from page 6...

-- and the septic systems that go with them -- are the greatest threat to the underground system. "Our interest is in getting the

property protected." Grubbs said. "We anticipate that the forest service would reimburse us and take possession of the site" at

some future time.

Reprinted from the August 17, 2002 Times-Mail (Bedford) news.

INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY TREASURY REPORT

Income/Expense Statement From April 1, 2002 to June 30, 2002

INCOME:		
Dues Apportionment and Residuals	606.25	
Donations	370.00	
Buddha / Acquisition Fund	167.00	
DNR & HNF gates	2800.00	
Interest	80.38	
	80.38	\$4,023.63
EXPENSES:		
IKC Update (printing, production, mailing)	180.49	
Membership (postage, meeting notices, etc)	10.50	
Stewardship/Conservation	439.89	
Education/Outreach	59.98	
Donations (William Wilson Scholarship Fund)	250.00	
DNR & HNF gates	522.90	
Business (Bank service charges, security box, etc)	65.00	
Transfer to Stewardship Endowment Fund	10800.00	
Transfers to/from other restricted funds	153.42	
	153.42	(\$12,482.18)
NET OPERATING EXCESS (DEFICIT) THIS PERIOD:		(\$8,458.55)

Balance Sheet June 30, 2002

ASSETS:		
Cash in Checking Account	3825.97	
Cash in Savings Account	43637.57	
Accounts Receivable ¹	2800.00	
Sullivan Karst Preserve	72000.00	
Buddha Karst Preserve	29000.00	
Orangeville Rise Nature Preserve	7000.00	
Indian Creek Conservation Easement (valued at \$1/acre)	13.16	
	13.16	\$158,276.70
LIABILITIES & OPERATING EXCESS:		
Hancock Property Maintenance Fund	85.64	
Land Acquisition Restricted Fund	18609.16	
Deferred Dues Restricted Fund (163 members)	2463.75	
Stewardship Endowment Fund ²	10800.00	
Previous Operating Excess	26763.54	
Net Excess (Deficit) This Period	(8458.55)	
Current Operating Excess	18304.99	
Real estate liquidity	108013.16	
Total Liabilities & Operating Excess		\$158,276.70

NOTES:

- 1) Receivables for DNR and HNF gates completed this reporting period.
- 2) Stewardship Endowment Fund established per Board action (June 1, 2002)

IKC ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Saturday, June 1, 2002
Bloomington, IN

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bruce Bowman, President
James Adams, Secretary
Keith Dunlap, Treasurer
Bruce DeVore
Dave Haun
Don Ingle
Kriste Lindberg
Steve Lockwood
Nick Noe
Bob Sergesketter
Tom Sollman
Bill Tozer
Bob Vandeventer
Dick Vernier
Kathy Welling

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

none

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM at the IU Geology Building in Bloomington, Indiana. President Bowman presiding. All Board members were present and there were no proxies.

Dunlap spoke about our latest efforts at mine gating. The HNF gate was completed two weeks ago. The next DNR project is next Saturday, June 8, in Pike County. Another gating is tentatively scheduled for September in Parke County. Dunlap expects to net about \$4,500 for three 2002 projects for the IKC.

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

Treasurer Dunlap reported a balance of \$49,330.08. Of that, \$21,055.30 is restricted, mostly for land acquisition. \$28,274.78 is in the general unrestricted fund. The IKC currently has 192 members but 34 of those have not yet renewed their dues.

At the last meeting we had discussed the possibility and desirability of escrowing money for a stewardship endowment fund. Dunlap suggested that ten percent of the value of each property be set aside to perpetually pay taxes, insurance, maintenance, etc. The fund would earn interest.

Dunlap moved to create a fund of \$10,800 from the general fund for the three properties that the IKC already owns that are valued at \$108,000 and place that money into a stewardship endowment fund. Don Ingle seconded. Motion passed, 15-0-0.

Dunlap suggested that an *ad hoc* committee be formed to explore the rules, use, and future options

for the new stewardship endowment fund. Bowman established the committee and appointed Welling, Dunlap, and Tozer to serve in this capacity.

Seven people showed up for the Hancock workday. Work was begun on the Shaft fence with nine post holes dug. The fenced-in area is roughly 440 square feet. Work will continue after July 8, but before Cave Capers in August. The project should be complete by the end of the year.

Patty Cummings reported that not many constructive suggestions have been received for the Buckner Management Plan. The IKC board was encouraged to comment. There have been several cleanups scheduled. Vandeventer reported that everyone seems to be working well together and "feelings are good." Cummings thought that the word has gotten out that the situation at the property has changed and there are fewer people showing up to party. The road gate is being kept closed to discourage unauthorized visitation.

Vandeventer reported that he has some information on some property in that area with a cave entrance that might be for sale. He will follow-up on this new lead.

Discussion turned to the Buddha Karst Nature Preserve property. Bowman reported that the Natural Resources Commission has approved the Buddha property as a nature preserve. The Indiana Heritage Trust money has been received.

Tom Rea reported that all the trees were planted and mulched on Under-Earth Day. Some of the trails have been flagged. The wire in Chase Pit was removed. The June issue of the *IKC Update* has more details.

Bowman noted that we need to install a fence between the Buddha property and the neighbor to the south. Rea has received one bid for \$3.50 a foot. There are over 1,100 feet to be fenced. Currently, \$1,000 has been approved by the Board for this project. Dunlap expressed that we should install the fence ourselves. After much discussion it was decided to move ahead with installation using IKC volunteers. Lockwood will pursue getting the materials locally. Work was tentatively scheduled for the fall with completion before the ground freezes.

Rea is also working on a Classified Wildlife Habitat Designation for the Buddha property.

There has been some discussion about pre-treating an area with an herbicide before planting trees in 2003.



Dunlap moved to prepare to plant 800 new trees at the Buddha property with expenses not to exceed \$600. Welling seconded. Motion passed, 12-0-3.

There has been talk of having a recognition event to toast our new nature preserve. Welling noted that this would be a good opportunity to get some favorable publicity. No motion. Bowman encouraged those interested in this idea to discuss the issue offline and come to the Fall meeting with a proposal.

Blanton Property: Dunlap reported that this property of 213 acres west of Wesley Chapel Gulf has been purchased by The Nature Conservancy to hold for a period of time until the Hoosier National Forest can fund the acquisition. Eighteen additional acres will be put into a conservation easement. Additionally, there is a house and 1.5 acres that needs to be purchased. The TNC would like the IKC to buy either the conservation easement or the house.

Sullivan Driveway Improvements: Dunlap has obtained a \$900 bid for stone. Rea has the equipment to spread the rock. Other spreading options may exist.

William Wilson Scholarship Fund: Bill Wilson, the first President of the IKC, recently died and a scholarship fund has been set up at the Karst Waters Institute. Haun moved to donate \$1,000. Ingle seconded. Dunlap move to amend the motion to \$250. Welling seconded. Amendment passed, 10-2-3. Amended motion passed, 12-1-1.

IKC Hats: Bowman noted that our inventory of IKC hats is low. Dunlap moved to buy three-dozen hats for sale at Cave Capers. Bruce DeVore seconded. Motion passed, 15-0-0.

Charles Cave: Bowman noted that a housing development was proposed next to the Charles Cave Nature Preserve. There has been vocal local opposition to this development. It's been suggested that the property that overlies the cave be put into a conservation easement or sold to an appropriate entity.

Orangeville Rise: Dunlap reported that he has filed the tax exemption for the property. Lockwood updated the fence project. The original fencing plans will need modification because of seasonal flooding. Our neighbor is willing to split the cost of the fence. Sergesketter moved to fund the fence up to \$500. Seconded by Vernier. Motion passed, 15-0-0.

Conservation Easement Opportunity: Bowman reported that the Department of Natural Resources has asked the IKC to potentially hold a conservation easement on a sinkhole related to a cave in Spring Mill State Park. Dunlap and others spoke in favor of accepting the easement. Bowman and Dunlap will pursue working with the State.

Kent Wilson has accepted a position as Treasurer of the Hoosier Hikers Council (HHC). The organization supports the building of trails and supplied labor to build trails at Leonard Springs Nature Park. Kent is looking to leverage IKC knowledge on such things as fund-raising and land acquisition.

The next meeting will be held in Cloverdale at Rea's Quarry. Welling will coordinate the annual picnic on September 21 with the meeting at 5:00 PM and food at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 9:23 PM.
Submitted by James Adams, IKC Secretary

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

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.

