

IKC UPDATE

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INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY, INC.

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



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

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*grottos with liaison agreements

Cover: Janie Neal rappelling into the trash-filled McIntosh Pit,
 Orange County. Photo by Aaron Atz (2002).



QUARTERLY MEETING REMINDER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4th, 10:00 AM

SOUTHPORT, INDIANA

Home of Nick & Carita Noe, 1291 Priority Place

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; Treasurer's report; Grotto Liaison Agreement status; Video Committee status report; Education/Outreach report; Wayne Cave Preserve topics; Sullivan Cave Preserve topics; and more!

Meeting directions: The Noe's condo complex is 1/2 block east and 1/2 block south of the intersection of Shelby Street and Stop 10 on the southside of Indianapolis. Call or e-mail Nick (see contact info on page 2) if you need more specific directions. After the meeting, we will probably patronize a nearby eatery.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

- 04 DEC = IKC QUARTERLY MEETING (see above)
- ?? FEB = IKC WINTER DIRECTOR'S MEETING (date and location TBD)
- ?? MAR = IKC ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING (date and location TBD)

Scouts from Troop 242 clearing the trail at the Wayne Cave Preserve (see page 6 for more details).



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

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

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RAMBLINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT...

"The wealth of a man is that he can drink fresh water and breathe clean air."

-- Abe Martin (Kin Hubbard)



Well, the elections have come and gone and some are elated and some are disappointed. For a year or more we've listened to each side telling us that the collapse of civilization is imminent and disaster will

surely befall us all if the other guy wins. I suppose it's too early to tell but so far the world has not ended, though there's nothing to make me think its problems will be solved anytime soon. I suspect this condition will continue for some time.

In a recent article by Ted Williams (author and fisherman, not the baseball player) in Audubon magazine I read that there is much to be optimistic about. Eagles are back, thanks to regulations placed on pesticides - primarily DDT, as are osprey and peregrine falcons. Rivers are no longer catching fire. Wolves have been returned to Yellowstone National Park. Not so long ago, America and the world were environmentally lawless. Now we have the Endangered Species Act, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, National Environmental Policy Act and National Forest Management Act.

There is, however, no disputing that conservation issues have a tough time of it in these days of homeland security and multi-trillion dollar debts. Politicians from both sides of the aisle and industry leaders alike consider concerns about impacts to the natural world to be pretty much insignificant and irrelevant if not outright hostile to their agendas and so dole out the funds accordingly. This seems to reflect the current views of a vocal segment of the general public. The environment was not a factor in the elections.

What does this mean to us? Hopefully, not much. Wildlife has broad, if not deep, bipartisan support owing to its appeal to

sportsmen, wildlife viewers and the general public. For example, Senators Richard Lugar (R) and Evan Bayh (D) have worked together for years to wrestle funding for the Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge in southern Indiana from an otherwise uncooperative Congress. We fit in here because we work to make our underground responsibilities friendly to bats, fishes, crayfish and innumerable tiny critters. Our surface holdings are also managed with a nod to more conventional wildlife.

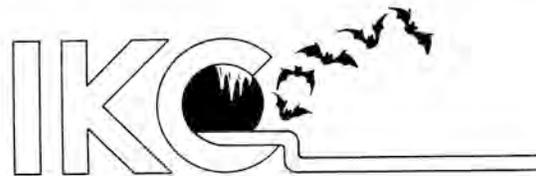
Other issues that affect us such as funding for and management of state and federal public lands, water quality and urban sprawl may be more problematic in a climate that looks to the private sector for solutions to everything from Social Security to the military. Still, we expect to see little change in our good relationships with the Forest Service and the Indiana DNR.

We are hopeful that the new Governor and state legislature will continue the support for the Indiana Heritage Trust program (funded by the environmental license plates) which has made it possible for us to purchase a portion of the land we now own. While we could afford to purchase the cave entrances, in most cases, without any outside help, we try to buy as much surface acreage as possible as we see this as critical to our ability to provide stewardship for the caves by keeping septic tanks and poor land practices away from at least some of the watershed.

Right now the legislative agenda's priority list seems to focus on such things as daylight savings time and a football stadium for Indianapolis. But with the state facing an 830 million dollar deficit one wonders whose hide they will try to take it out of. Will it come down to stadiums vs. nature? Time will tell.

For now we have to watch the situation and be prepared to speak up for ourselves.

Richard Vernier



BLOOMINGTON KARST CLEANUP PROJECT

by Dave Everton

It was a crisp, cool, sunny morning on Saturday, November 13 as Dave Everton left his house south of Bloomington around 8:30 or so. A thin layer of ice had formed on standing water along the side of the road at the SR 37 and Smithville Road junction; it seemed to him to be the first time of the season for that to happen. The area had gotten a bit of rain on the previous Thursday, and he was very curious to know how that was going to affect the day's planned activity, which was to clean up trash from a sinking stream swallowhole southwest of Bloomington, the water from which had been dye-traced to the City of Bloomington's Leonard Springs Nature Park more than a mile away.

Philip Moss, a private consultant from Missouri (and also currently serving as an NSS Director), had been hired to do some karst drainage studies in the area in relation to the recently-approved, but long proposed and debated new terrain I-69 highway extension project. He suggested the cleanup idea to Kriste Lindberg, who assisted him on some of his efforts. She then forwarded the information about this particular cleanup idea to the Bloomington Indiana Grotto e-mail list to solicit leadership and assistance. As a result, local cavers Tymme Laun and Dave responded to her and expressed willingness to help. They later agreed to work together to organize and execute the event.

The project was next brought up at the October BIG meeting and emphasis made that it didn't need to be an official BIG project. There was overall support among those present, and it was determined plans should proceed; Sunday was mentioned as a possible good day of the week to hold it on. After that meeting, a subsequent phone call from Dave to the landowner Sally Price resulted in discovering that Sunday was not a good day for her, so Saturday, November 13 was tentatively established, even though it was later determined to conflict with a special annual BIG women's event.

Dave and Tymme made further agreements from there. Dave sent out e-mail requests and reminders for assistance. Keith Dunlap forwarded the message to the IKC membership and Mark Kraus forwarded it to the SJVG. Tymme had communication with

and eventually secured the dumpster from Ron Howard of Hoosier Disposal in Bloomington, who agreed to donate it for the event, and then delivered it to the property the day prior to the cleanup. Although he had requested the smallest size available, the 20-cubic yard dumpster seemed to look huge sitting at the end of Sally's long driveway when Dave pulled in on the cleanup morning.

One by one, volunteers began to arrive at the property at 4030 W SR 45 in Bloomington. The property owner Sally Price and her roommate Nicki directed and even assisted the following volunteers: Keith Dunlap, Tymme Laun, Buddy Kraus (a neighboring landowner), Adam Trickle, Jamison Trinkle, Bill Baus, and Dave Everton.

Several 30-gallon bags of trash were collected. Much of the material consisted of bottles, other plastics, and lots of styrofoam. An old metal 55-gallon drum and a tire/rim were also removed. Much of the trash was covered by leaves and therefore required sifting through them to find and pick up. There was also much wood in the sinkhole; some was from downed trees and others were pieces hewn by machine and man; much of the former was re-scattered above the rim of the sinkhole, and the latter collected to be discarded or burned. After combing through leaves to find trash, the focus shifted to attempting to increase the amount of water flow through the swallowhole area. Several holes were dug into and expanded, with an immediate increase noted. This was important to the landowner and neighbor, because when the sinkhole backs up and water rises, it creates problems for their yards and property. However, realistically, there are so many years worth of sediment plugging the area that it would require major excavation at the very least to undo the clog, and certainly wouldn't guarantee increased flow if it was all removed on the surface anyway. The group dispersed by around noon, having done as much as possible to help.

Appreciation is extended to every person connected with the cleanup project, the names of whom were already mentioned previously in this article. Special appreciation goes to Hoosier Disposal of Bloomington



for donating the dumpster without charge. Although it may be considered a small accomplishment with small results in the

overall big picture of karst pollution and related problems in the area, it was certainly a job well done and appreciated!

NEWS BRIEFS...

- ❑ The IKC is a membership-voting organization, more the exception than the rule for non-profit land-protecting institutions. The founders of the IKC, as well as the current leaders, believe it's very important that the Executive Board is selected by the members, represent the members, and are always accountable to the members. In March, every member has the opportunity to vote for the Board's three officers and one-third of the Directors (Directors serve for staggered three-year terms). And obviously, members have the opportunity to run for any position on the Board. To run, you do not need any specific skills or expertise. You do, however, need a commitment to become involved and attend the five scheduled meetings each year. If you would like to learn more, please contact President Dick Vernier by early-February (the ballot is approved and mailed in advance of the March Annual Meeting).
- ❑ On the weekend of November 20th, BSA Troop 242 (Ft Branch) continued making improvements at the Wayne Cave Preserve. Nine Scouts and five adults worked to delineate, and then clear a trail (see photo on page 3) from the parking area to the cave's entrance. Also, two in-woods camp sites were designated to complement the available areas around the parking lot. Property Manager Robert Sollman planned and is overseeing this project to earn his Eagle Scout designation.
- ❑ The IKC is an organizational member of the Hoosier Environmental Council (HEC), the State's largest environmental organization for more than twenty years. HEC has recently announced an organizational change to be more responsive to the entire state by having regional representative (two from each of eight regions, plus five at-large members). HEC will also switch their primary organization to being a 501c4 non-profit to better facilitate their ability to influence issues through the legislative process. HEC will retain a 501c3 presence with a new organization called the Hoosier Environmental Fund for fund-raising, education, and environmental research activities.
- ❑ On a related subject, the Hoosier Environmental Council have recognized two environmental "heroes." Bloomington-based Heartwood was named the Environmental Organization of the Year. Heartwood is a regional group dedicated to protecting and restoring temperate hardwood forests. The second award, Excellence in Government, was presented to the Bloomington City Council for its formal opposition to the new terrain I-69 highway being planned through Bloomington.
- ❑ The Land Trust Alliance in November released results of their 2003 land protection census. The general press release is printed on page 10. Specifically for Indiana, there are now 25 active "land trusts" (IKC being one of them), protecting 15,498 acres (almost 9,000 acres owned, the remainder protected by easements or other means).
- ❑ The end of the year is about here and those considering charitable donations should remember the IKC is an IRS qualified 501c3 organization. Multiple-year dues can be paid in advance, general/un-restricted donations can be given, or donations targeted specifically for land acquisition activities. Send checks to the IKC PO box or make payment by credit card via our donation button on the IKC website.
- ❑ A highlight of the Fall meeting/cook-out is the annual dessert contest. This year's winners were Sheryl Nott (sugar-cream pie) and Keith Dunlap (brownie pie), tied for first; and Jaime Coffman (cookie bars), taking third.

VIDEO COMMITTEE REPORT

by Don Ingle

Here I am, one and all, with your very first Video Committee report. What, we have a Video Committee now, you ask? It's true. For those of you who didn't attend the September Quarterly meeting, I will sum up.

Earlier this summer we had been contacted by Dave McGowan, a documentary film maker from Chicago. He is with Ravenswood Media, and is also a caver (and IKC member). He had been thinking for some time about combining his two main interests together and then had contacted Kriste Lindberg to see if we had any interest in pursuing the notion of a documentary about Indiana caves. Kriste then passed the idea along to the rest of the IKC Board. Several of us on the Board had thought it was an idea with merit, and we then invited him down to meet with us at the August 19th Wayne Cave Preserve workday. At that meeting, we tossed the idea back and forth somewhat and took Dave and his girlfriend over to Sullivan Cave for the afternoon. That's how we like to show a visitor hospitality around here... Throw 'em down a hole. Hmmmm, doesn't everybody do it that way?

And so, at the September Board meeting we discussed it at length (also see the meeting minutes, starting on page 12), and brought everyone else up to steam on what had been discussed about the video, and whether or not we should be involved as an organization. It was eventually decided at this meeting that we would like to pursue the idea of doing specifically a video about Indiana cave biota and the fragile web of life that binds them all together. There was a lot of discussion about it, and it was finally decided that it was an idea worth pursuing. I'm afraid that I was probably the most vocal of those calling for our involvement, and so, when our esteemed President was looking for someone to head the newly formed committee to look into the possibilities, my name came up.

And so, after this beginning, we first set out to refine our focus for the project. Firstly, we wanted to do something that was fresh and new. For that reason, a conservation or geological approach to the subject of Indiana caves was decided against. Worthy subjects, both of them, but they have all been done before in other areas of the country, and we

had wanted to broaden the appeal of the video to include as many people as possible. Since Dave McGowan's style of film making is to provide a narrative voice over to help illustrate the film he would be shooting, we first set out to get participants for him to interview. We have since gotten three firm commitments for assistance in the project, two of whom whose names you would probably recognize in the field of biospeleology. Our next step was to obtain financial assistance from outside parties. In order to do the kind of film we would like to do, we must do this. We had wanted to do a film at least 10 to 15 minutes in length to do the subject matter justice, and this means obtaining outside money to supplement any IKC future investment in the project. This has proven to be somewhat of an arduous and time consuming process. Realistically, it probably will be spring until this will happen. This kind of works out nicely because many of the shots Dave would like to take would be best done next year, when the spring rains come. And so, we are refining our focus at this time. We are looking into coming up with particularly photogenic cave entrances (particularly in winter) for Dave to photograph as reference material for the project. We are also looking for ideas of caves with particularly well-developed eco-systems for potential sites for filming. Any ideas anyone might have about either of these areas would be quite welcome. If you have any ideas, please feel free to send them along to either Dave at dmcgowan3@earthlink.net, or myself at d.ingle@insightbb.com. In the meantime, if you would like to learn more about Dave McGowan and his work, visit the following sites: www.ravenswoodmedia.com, or www.midwestfrogs.com. I'll conclude my video committee report by including Dave's initial treatment on the proposed video. Though it does not necessarily indicate the direction we will ultimately head in or the people we will be interviewing for the project, it does show what storytelling skills and insights Dave brings to this project. After reading it, I am sure you will become excited about all the possibilities, as I have.

"... we shall not cease from exploration and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive



where we started and know the place for the first time through the unknown, remembered gate when the last of earth left to discover is that which was the beginning.” (T S Eliot)

Cave Life: Links In The Chain

12-15 minute documentary

The sun shines behind a thin veil of wafting water vapor. “All life on earth begins with the sun.” Biologist Dr Brown stands next to a cave entrance. “It’s the main nutrient source that all life ultimately depends on.” Wispy trails of vapor curl above the small entrance of a cave on a snowy ridge. A drip of water falls from the snow and rolls over the lush cover of moss and ferns clinging to the limestone entrance. “Caves are deprived of sun light.” Water drips in a narrow stream from the small dot of light high above the cave floor. “But this lack of light, doesn’t mean there’s a lack of life.”

A colorful salamander curls out of a small crack in the stone. “Caves have, more or less, three ecological zones. The first one is the entrance zone.” The salamander climbs between the cracks, stopping occasionally to search for food. Brown explains how the entrance zone impacts life deep in the cave.

Stalactites of ice hang near the large opening of a cave. A large stream flows toward the light of the opening as snows blows into the darkness. Frogs sit motionless on the rocky ledge above the water. Brown talks about the biodiversity found in caves. Troglonexes, like frogs, find refuge in caves only part of their lives. “Troglophiles, such as crayfish, can also be found outside of the cave ecosystem.” A pigmented crayfish darts into the mud of the stream.

The beam of a headlamp flashes from the stream surface to the narrow walls and ceiling of the cave. Dr Johnson talks about the threshold zone of the cave. He explains that the temperature here fluctuates with the seasons but not nearly as much as at the entrance. He stops at a pile of organic debris and shifts through it with his hand. Tiny shrimp dart into the deeper water. Their white eyeless bodies hover over the silty mud of the stream. Johnson talks about regressive evolution. The pale tiny creatures offer tremendous insight into the nature of genetic change. They are the troglobites; their adaptation to the lightless environment has forever limited their existence to the cave. The rotting debris provides them with a link to the surface and the energy of the sun.

A thin stream of water spills from a tiny entrance thirty feet above the cave floor. Dr Greene stands outside of a cave in early spring. She talks about the critical role water plays in the cave ecosystem. Rain pours down on the exposed karst in a forest. Tiny streams collect into a rivulet and pour down a sinkhole. Torrents of water violently gush out of a cave opening. Greene explains how water brings in organic matter to the cave. Piles of leaves are shoved into the high nooks of a cave corridor. Tiny isopods scurry over the decaying matter.

The small pool reflects ripples of light on the cave ceiling as Dr Johnson leans over to peer into the clear water. Small eyeless fish slowly drift over the clay. He marvels at their evolutionary success in this nutrient poor environment. A pigmented sculpin swims in the quiet eddies of the cave stream. Dr Johnson explains the genetic ties between the blind cave fish and fish on the surface.

The sky is a brilliant yellow orange. Bats flutter out of small hole on a forest ridge. Their silhouettes dart across the dimming summer sky. Dr Howe reveals that bats are one of the pillars of the cave food chain. He pushes apart the guano with a pencil. “Each night a single bat may consume up to 1,000 insects.” He stands in a large room of a cave. “And their feces can sometimes cover a cave floor.”

Small insects crawl over a deposit of bat guano. “This rich organic matter is the base of the food pyramid in many caves.” He points out fungus growing on the guano. “All life depends on energy from the sun. It’s just that in caves it takes a circuitous route.”

Dr Brown talks about the biodiversity of caves and how very fragile they are. He indicates the current assessment in cave flora and fauna taking place in karst country across the United States. A blind crayfish trundles across the muck of a cave stream. “Except the deep regions of the world’s oceans, nowhere is the biodiversity so little understood as in caves.” Water tumbles over a small rimstone dam. A blind fish slowly drifts across the pool. “These seldom seen life forms are extremely vulnerable to extinction. And new species are waiting to be discovered.” A cave salamander crawls along a crack of mossy limestone. “These relatively simple environments can serve as natural laboratories for scientist to unravel the mysteries of what forces create the tremendous variation of life on the planet.”

I-69: A ROAD TO KARST RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

by Kriste Lindberg

"They're heeeeeeeeeere..." The I-69 extension offices have been established!

What does that mean for us? Well, plenty of opportunity to get involved with karst education, outreach, research, and mitigation.

First, a bit of history. I and other cavers have been assisting the professional karst researchers with their endeavors (see photo) since spring, when the offices opened. These endeavors have included dye tracing studies, bat studies, water quality studies, drainage patterns pertaining to the City of Bloomington, and so on.

I have been asked by the Tier 2 Studies, Section 5 (Bloomington area, starting near Martinsville and ending just south of Bloomington) office to serve on their Community Advisory Committee (CAC) as the IKC representative. Other participants are from nearby neighborhood associations, planning, emergency services, and so on, basically those that would be immediately affected by any changes. This section runs roughly along existing SR 37. Tier 2 is responsible mainly for information gathering purposes concerning the proposed highway. This includes research on sensitive areas such as karst.

Much has been learned.

By working constructively with the office, using a "middle ground" and inter-agency approach, we have established a good working relationship between the local project office, which is staffed by Michael Baker, Jr Inc, other researchers, and those concerned with the environment. It's helping to bring folks together to work on related endeavors that need it.

We have already helped to protect sensitive city properties and those that live and visit them. For example, see Dave Everton's article on page 5 regarding a sinking stream that was polluted with "floatables" and cleaned up by the caving community. It drains to a city park, Leonard Springs Nature Park. As you will see, we were alerted to this condition by one of the researchers, Philip Moss of Ozark Underground Laboratory.

We are also working on non-invasive approaches to determine where voids lie underground.

Future karst-related challenges include

further protecting karst features such as caves and springs as well as water quality, their habitants, establishing drainage patterns, and so on.

Karst education is going to be a key player in helping understand the challenges before us, such as those involving mitigation and engineering. It will also have the added benefit of dispelling myths.

There will be more venues for this endeavor including public meetings and so on. We've even talked about establishing a section at the NSS Convention 2007, which will be hosted here in Indiana!

No matter which way the highway goes -- along a new terrain route, an established route, or not at all -- we will have much information to help along the way and hopefully continue to maintain good relations between all.

For more information on the I-69, Tier 2 Studies, Section 5, visit www.i69indyevn.org or Wendy Vachet, Project Manager, Michael Baker Jr Inc, Section5@i69indyevn.org, (812) 355-1390.



PRIVATE LAND CONSERVATION SOARS -- LAND TRUSTS DOUBLE THE ACRES UNDER PROTECTION

As communities across America each grapple with how to deal with development sprawl that is eating up two million acres a year, thousands of quiet success stories lie behind the 1,500 land trusts that are successfully conserving farmland, forests, coastal land, and scenic vistas. These non-profit groups have doubled the acreage protected just five years ago and are now protecting more than 800,000 new acres each year. Typically land trusts either buy land outright or work out private, voluntary land agreements that limit future development.

The Land Trust Alliance, a national association representing land trusts since 1982, today released its census of progress made over the last 5 years. The nation's local and regional land trusts have conserved over nine million acres as of December 31, 2003, doubling the acreage protected just five years ago and creating an "everlasting legacy on the land," according to the Land Trust Alliance's President Rand Wentworth. Indicating their growing popularity at the local level, new land trusts are being formed at the rate of two per week, with the fastest-growing region being the West.

Said Wentworth, "The mission of land trusts is not just to save land, but to protect the traditional lifestyles of a community, a way of life that remains connected to that land. This can mean saving the family farm, setting up a community garden or urban park, ensuring the sustainability of a South-eastern forest, or conserving ranch land in the American West."

He attributes the success of land trusts to their grassroots nature and their entrepreneurial spirit. "These groups -- many of them all volunteer -- represent the best of community spirit in America, bringing people together to protect some unique piece of land that, for them, helps define what makes their community unique." Wentworth stressed that land trusts work solely through voluntary private transactions, often fulfilling a landowner's wish to keep their land as it is for their children and future generations.

Despite this progress, Wentworth and his land trust colleagues cite cause for alarm. "The current rate of development essentially means that we have at most twenty years to protect our most cherished landscapes before they are lost forever," said Wentworth. "Pri-

vate land trusts are our last best hope, particularly now that deficits will severely limit the ability of the federal government to conserve new lands. Land trusts are vitally needed to do this work."

National Land Trust Census, the nation's only tabulation of the achievements of the private, voluntary land conservation movement, describes how people in their own communities are helping to safeguard water quality, preserve working farms and ranches, and protect wildlife habitat and other natural areas. The Land Trust Alliance's Census identified several milestones:

- Local and regional land trusts have now protected 9,361,600 acres of natural areas, an area four times the size of Yellowstone National Park. This is double the 4.7 million acres protected as of 1998. Although this Census tallies data only from local and regional land trusts, national land trusts have protected an additional 25 million acres.
- A record 5 million acres were protected through voluntary land conservation agreements, more than triple the amount (1.4 million acres) protected just five years ago.
- Local and regional land trusts have now protected 9,361,600 acres of natural areas, an area four times the size of Yellowstone National Park. This is double the 4.7 million acres protected as of 1998. Although this Census tallies data only from local and regional land trusts, national land trusts have protected an additional 25 million acres.
- A record 1,526 local and regional land trusts were in operation in 2003, a 26 percent increase over the number (1213) that existed in 1998.
- Land trusts protect different land types, with the most common ranked as: 1) habitat for plants or wildlife, 2) open space, 3) working farms or ranch lands, and 4) working forests. "The dramatic growth of land trusts and acres protected show that private conservation initiatives are successful at the local level. We are doubling the pace of conservation and we are doing it in a nonregulatory way that respects private property and is supported by local communities," said the Land Trust Alliance's Wentworth. "Land trusts are the vanguard of land conservation in the 21st Century."

November 18th press release from LTA.

INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY TREASURY REPORT

Income/Expense Statement From July 1, 2004 to September 30, 2004

INCOME:

Dues Apportionment and Residuals	701.25	
Donations - General	248.00	
Donations - Wayne Cave / Land Acquisition Fund	1037.22	
SpeLogger Sales (3 units)	360.00	
Interest	60.86	
	60.86	\$2,407.33

EXPENSES:

IKC Update (printing, production, mailing)	194.03	
Stewardship/Conservation (Wayne Property)	1616.71	
Membership	61.42	
HEC membership	100.00	
Business (insurance)	671.00	
Transfers to/from restricted funds/other adjustments	1057.45	
	1057.45	(\$3,700.61)

NET OPERATING EXCESS (DEFICIT) THIS PERIOD: (\$1,293.28)

Balance Sheet September 30, 2004

ASSETS:

Cash in Checking / Saving Accounts / CDs	47299.67	
Wayne Cave Preserve (20.00 acres)	75000.00	
Sullivan Cave Preserve (28.00 acres)	72000.00	
Buddha Karst Nature Preserve (36.84 acres)	29000.00	
Orangeville Rise Nature Preserve (3.01 acres)	7000.00	
Indian Creek Conservation Easement (valued at \$1/acre)	13.16	
	13.16	<u><u>\$230,312.83</u></u>

LIABILITIES & OPERATING EXCESS:

Land Acquisition Fund	8316.55	
Deferred Dues Fund (180 members)	2475.00	
Stewardship Endowment Fund	13505.19	

Previous Operating Excess	24309.37	
Net Excess (Deficit) This Period	<u>(1293.28)</u>	
Current Operating Excess	23016.09	
Real estate liquidity	<u>183000.00</u>	

Total Liabilities & Operating Excess \$230,312.83

IKC AUTUMN BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, September 25, 2004
Cloverdale, Indiana

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Richard Vernier, President
Bob Sergesketter, Secretary
Keith Dunlap, Treasurer
Bruce Bowman
Bruce Devore (proxy by Kathy Welling)
Dave Haun
Kriste Lindberg
Nick Noe
Don Ingle
Tom Sollman
Bill Tozer
Bob Vandeventer (proxy by Bambi Dunlap)
Sue Vernier
Jamie Winner

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Steve Lockwood

The meeting was called to order at 1:18 PM at the property of Tom Rea, President Richard Vernier presiding. Kathy Welling was accepted as proxy for Bruce Devore and Bambi Dunlap was accepted as proxy for Bob Vandeventer. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published in the September 2004 *IKC Update*.

Treasurer Dunlap reported a cash balance of \$47,440.49. Land holdings amount to \$183,013.16. Total IKC assets stand at \$230,453.65. A total of \$1,617 has been spent on the Wayne Cave Property road and gate project so far. \$2,500 was allotted for this project. IKC membership now stands at 198. About 20 people are about to be dropped. Most of these are first year members or people who have moved out of state.

Grotto Liaison Agreement Status

Vernier reported that the Grotto Liaison Agreement has been approved by the Board. The vote was taken by E-mail and telephone over several weeks following the June 19 meeting. All members of the board voted. Vernier reported that there were 12 in favor, 1 opposed, and 2 abstaining. The first Grotto Liaison Agreement was sent to the Saint Joseph Valley Grotto for their signature and Vernier reported that we just received the signed copy. He will now send the new agreements to the rest of the grottos for signatures.

Documentary Video

Vernier reported that a couple of months ago, he was contacted by David McGowan, an IKC member and a documentary videographer, who has a desire to do a documentary on the impact of I-69 on karst. In their discussions, the idea changed to doing something on the impact of roads in general on caves and karst. He made some proposals and we are now left to decide if we want to get involved with this. McGowan told Vernier that he would donate

his equipment and his time but there would be some incidental expenses. On a similar project on a different subject, the incidental expenses came to about \$2,500 for a program of about five minutes. He has a website where examples of his work can be seen.

Vernier started the discussion by offering several observations and questions. Is something like this worth the expense? It is unlikely to stop I-69 but it may open some eyes and prompt people to ask why it is being built through a karst area. It may encourage officials to see that mitigation activities are taken more seriously. How much information can be put in a five minute video and how effective can it be if it can only be seen on a website? We would have to be able to distribute the video on a large scale. Can we find other interested groups to help fund this? The NSS may kick in some money. Should something be included about other development in karst areas such as housing subdivisions and industrial parks? If such a video was unbiased enough, maybe even the DNR or InDOT might help out with expenses.

Vernier then asked for ideas and opinions from the floor. Bowman started by saying that this isn't the first time that we've discussed doing an educational cave video. A few years ago we almost got involved in a project at Spring Mill State Park in which we learned how expensive an "Industry Standard" video can be. He thought that \$2,500 would be relatively cheap if this is what we want to do and if appropriate credit is given to the IKC for our contributions to the production. Ingle thought that there could be different formats for a program like this. There could be a five minute version for a website, a ten minute version with more details for distribution to TV stations or public access cable channels, and maybe even a thirty minute version if we really want to get into the I-69 debate although the cost would be much higher. He thought that this is a great opportunity and that we should pursue it although we probably shouldn't specifically go after I-69 but keep the focus on roads in general. Tozer returned the discussion back to the question of what does the IKC get in return. He didn't think that a five minute film on a website was much of a return and there has to be a better way of getting it out in front of people. Lindberg said that she would like to see a fifteen to twenty minute piece and a five minute clip that could be used in conjunction with the "ant farm" (the groundwater flow display). Ingle commented that McGowan said that the IKC would have proprietary rights to the video and that we could use and distribute it in any way that we wanted to. Lindberg said that this would be a good thing to show to developers and road construction companies. Welling said that we need to have it in a format that would be usable to anyone, not just on a website, it needs to be longer than five minutes, and



we need to have a contract so that we can reproduce it and use it as we want to. Sue Vernier said that she would like to see a fifteen to twenty minute video, on VHS, that we can supply to developers, builders, and contractors. She also said that we need a committee of two or three people to work on this and get some firmer ideas and we need partners to help fund this project if we decide to do it. Dunlap said that he is trying to keep an open mind but he thinks that the cost to benefit ratio is questionable. If we do it, it's going to have to focus on much more than I-69, it's going to have to be longer than five minutes, with a corresponding increase in price, and it's going to take more than money. It will take several people willing to dedicate a lot of time to help carry this out. Tozer said that if we're looking for something to show in a display at an event, fifteen or twenty minutes might be too long, maybe five minutes is about right if we want to keep people's attention, but a fifteen to twenty minute segment would be useful too if we can get funding. We would also have to have control of the content. He asked if the DNR would use something like this. Sue Vernier said maybe, if it was free. Tozer said that even if it was free, the DNR or other state agencies might not use it if they thought it was biased in any way. Sollman said that this sounds like a great idea but \$2,500 is crazy. He thought \$500 with four other partners putting up \$500 each would be as much as he wanted to go. If we do it, he said that it must be as broad and general as possible so as to be usable for many years, not confined to current issues that will not be so relevant years from now. The video must be made available on VHS and DVD that can be given out free and we must have control over editorial content. He said that a lot of cavers give a lot of money to the IKC and he is concerned that cavers will think that if we have this kind of money to spend on a video that we must not need donations anymore. Tozer said that we need to appoint a committee of two or three people who are really interested in this and that can try to define the goals for the video and how we will implement those goals and how will we fund it. Dunlap asked if we could take a straw vote to see if we are really interested in moving forward with this. Vernier said that Noe wants to make some comments and he would like to hear what Noe has to say before we take a straw vote.

Noe, who is Treasurer of the Hoosier Environmental Council, (HEC), said that for years the HEC has been struggling financially but this year they have been "hit by lightning twice." with substantial donations. Noe said that "the main objective of the HEC is to stop I-69", in fact, that was one of the stipulations of one of the recent donations. He said that there may be some money to be had for this video project but the HEC is not interested in producing another cave video. They want to produce something that the public can see that will solidify their resistance to the I-69 project. If I-69 dies, then the money can be used any way that the HEC sees fit to use it. After his report, Noe put his IKC directors hat back on and said that he thinks a video with a strong conservation message would be a good idea. He thought that with the cash reserves that we have now that

we should spend some on education. There is nothing that says we have to use all of our money to buy caves. Commenting on Noe's statement about education, Dunlap said that we need to keep in mind that the IKC is a 501c3 classified educational non-profit and as such we should occasionally do something educational. He said that the videographer had another idea besides the karst impact video and that was to do a documentary on the IKC itself. Dunlap also suggested a video on cave biology in Indiana caves. That would be a non-controversial and educational topic that could be used in schools and would be useful in the five minute format. We don't have to do an I-69 thing, in fact it's probably better if the IKC doesn't get too close to it as an organization. Vernier also stated that we should lean away from going after I-69. Tozer said we need to go ahead and establish a committee to decide what we want to do, get some prices, set goals, and report back. Taking that statement as a motion, Haun seconded. Bowman said that we don't need the motion, that the President can appoint an ad-hoc committee. Vernier said that he wants to take a straw vote to see if there is interest among the Board to pursue this. Bowman requested that the results of the straw vote not be recorded in the minutes. Vernier stated that what we want to know, informally, is how many Board members support forming a committee to investigate producing a video on some cave related subject. The committee would have to come up with one or more proposals for topics along with quotations of prices. Members of the committee will probably be asked to see the project through to completion if we decide to do it.

The vote was taken and the committee was appointed. The committee consists of Don Ingle and Wayne Tucker. Vernier said that he thinks that Jim Adams might be interested in being on the committee but someone needs to ask him first.

Education and Outreach

Lindberg thanked the board for the long and thoughtful discussion of the video project. She thinks that this will be something that will really help our educational efforts.

She noted that the Bloomington City Council has recently come out against the I-69 project.

Noe said that on Friday, October 22, there will be an anti I-69 demonstration on the steps of the statehouse in Indianapolis.

Lindberg reported that at the Project Underground Board meeting held at the NSS Convention in July, they voted to give her \$200 per quarter for the coming year.

The Environmental Education Association of Indiana is holding it's annual conference at Spring Mill State Park at the beginning of November.

The Indiana Geological Survey is holding a groundwater conference on October 26, 27, and 28. Lindberg is coordinating one of their field trips.



Lindberg reported that she is working on an inflatable cave for WonderLab in Bloomington and hopes to have it done by Halloween. She is hoping to get some materials donated from local home improvement centers but she will still need some money so after a short discussion, Lindberg moved to donate up to \$300 to buy materials for the construction of an inflatable cave, seconded by Welling. Dunlap said that he could support \$100 and moved to amend Lindberg's motion, changing \$300 to \$100, seconded by Sue Vernier. The vote on the amendment was 10 for, 3 opposed, and 1 abstaining. The vote on Lindberg's original motion, as amended by Dunlap, was 13 for, 0 opposed, and 1 abstaining.

Lindberg reported another "breakthrough," this time in Jefferson County and this time into a real cave. Dunlap will speak about it later in the meeting.

On November 18, there will be a Hoosier National Forest trip to the Lost River region for HNF personnel only.

Nature Conservancy

Vernier reported that he and Dunlap have been receiving communications from Alan Purcell, the Blue River Project Director with The Nature Conservancy, about a cave near Charlestown, Indiana. The owner's family has inquired about gating the cave and there are some other complicating issues related to the caretaker. Dunlap said that he and Bowman had some discussions about the cave years ago and at the time he thought that The Nature Conservancy was interested in acquiring it and the question was would the IKC be interested in managing or owning the cave. Nothing happened and interest died away until this recent turn of events.

Winner said that he has been to the cave recently and reported that there is carpet in areas of the cave as well as deteriorating electric wire. The cave is rather well known and so there is a lot of graffiti and the caretaker's solution to the graffiti problem was to paint over it with brown paint. The entrance used to be a climb down but the caretaker has excavated it with a backhoe so now it is a walk in entrance. The cave is about 2250 feet long of which about 1400 feet is a continuous narrow walking canyon passage. He said that it is a neat cave especially for that area. It is the longest mapped cave in that county but there aren't that many caves. He thought that the property is about 20 acres and it is completely surrounded by development. Dunlap asked what the likelihood was that if a gate was installed that it would stay in place. Winner said that assuming that the caretaker concerns are taken care of, there probably wouldn't be a problem. The cave is well off the beaten path, through two road gates that are sometimes open and sometimes closed. The entrance is about 7 feet tall and 4 feet wide.

Sue Vernier said that the caretaker problem must be resolved before we can get involved.

Tozer agreed that we don't want to get in the middle

of this but if they can get it worked out, we might be interested in providing labor or materials for a gate.

Dunlap asked if the IKC would be interested in this property if we could acquire it reasonably. Tozer pointed out that it is far removed from our center of operations and that unless we can have someone keeping an eye on the property, we can't manage it properly. Winner said that he lives about two minutes from the place so that problem is solved.

Dunlap said that he will set up a meeting with Alan Purcell and see if they want to set up a meeting with the property owner's family and he will report to the Board at the next meeting.

Hancock Property Status

Dunlap reported that now the State is going to do another timber cruise and that the whole thing related to the appraisal is screwed up. He is very frustrated with the whole situation.

Wayne Cave

Sollman reported that the workdays are over for this year. The rock that is on the driveway will settle over the winter and then in the spring some smaller rock will be put on. There is still some brush on the south side of the clearing that will be cleared out next year. The Boy Scout troop from Fort Branch will probably come up in November of this year to delineate some campsites and fire rings. Noe asked about the expenditures so far. Sollman said that up to \$2,500 was set aside and so far he has spent about \$1,700. The only thing left to buy is the small rock. He expects to finish up well under \$2,500. Tozer asked if the trail to the cave is done yet. Sollman said no/ but the Scouts will be working on that in November also.

Dunlap said that we are still \$10,000 down from where the Cave Acquisition Fund was before we bought the property.

Sullivan Cave Management Plan Update

Tabled

Buckner, Management, Ownership Transfer

No report

Isom Property / Bull's-Eye Entrance

No report

Items From The Floor

Dunlap moved that we renew our membership in the Hoosier Environmental Council for \$100. Sue Vernier seconded. The vote was 13 for, 0 opposed, and 1 abstaining.

Dunlap said that the "breakthrough" that Lindberg mentioned in her report occurred at Lemaster Cave, on State Highway 3 near the Jefferson / Jennings County line. They are widening a bridge. Earth Tech did the study, they saw and documented the cave and told the contractors to leave it alone. When construction started they changed plans or something but whatever it was they ended up acci-



dentally breaking into the cave. First INDOT wanted to fill it in, then they wanted to put a manhole cover on it. U.S. Fish and Wildlife told INDOT not to do anything to it so now INDOT wants to have an on-site meeting. They are concerned with drainage because it's in the bottom of a sinkhole and if there was a spill it would get into the cave which is only 30 feet long but it is an active sinkhole. USFWS would like a "karst expert" there to help with making a decision on what to do. Dunlap asked Winner if he felt qualified to be a karst expert since this was close to his home. Winner said that he did not think that he was qualified. Vernier said that probably none of us would truly qualify as karst experts and that they would probably want someone with at least a degree in geology. There was much discussion and Dave Black's name was mentioned and it was finally decided to ask Dave if he would attend the meeting which is scheduled for some day next week. Tom Rea will also be asked if he wants to attend and speak with authority.

Lindberg said that she wanted to bring to our attention a program administered by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management called the Supplemental Environmental Project. This is when a developer, for example, gets in trouble for not following state standards such as not using proper ero-

sion control practices. If a fine is levied by IDEM, the contractor may reduce the fine by entering the Supplemental Environmental Project where they would help a non profit organization, such as the IKC, with a project/ such as a cleanup. We may be able to use this program in the future.

Vernier received an e-mail about the Indian Creek Watershed in Harrison County. They are looking at all the development in the county and the impact that it is having on the watershed and groundwater quality. They have sent a nine-page proposal and he is not sure what our involvement should be. Bowman said that they are looking for partners to help them in this in order to enhance their grant chances with IDEM so he suggested that Vernier write them a letter of support.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be in Indianapolis at the home of Nick and Carita Noe. The meeting will start at 10:00 AM.

Bowman moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 3:34PM.

Respectfully submitted
Bob Sergesketter, 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.

