



IKC UPDATE

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INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY, INC.

PO Box 2401, Indianapolis, IN 46206-2401

<http://www.caves.org/conservancy/ikc>*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

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QUARTERLY MEETING/COOK-OUT REMINDER

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23rd, 1:00 PM

CLOVERDALE, INDIANA

Property of Tom Rea, 8677 South State Road 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; Treasurer's report; Upcoming activities (Robinson Ladder fall workday, Buckner project, Shaft Pit fence repairs); HNF biota video progress; Education/Outreach report; Other IKC preserves updates; and more!

Following the business meeting will be the annual pitch-in cookout (starting around 5 PM). This year it will be a joint activity with the Central Indiana Grotto. The IKC/CIG 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 (15th annual). Bring an entry or enjoy sampling and selecting the winners. **Please bring lawn chairs, and the family, too.** 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. Turn into the first driveway (8677) north of the small stream crossing. Proceed up the driveway to the open field on the right. The meeting will be in Tom's "kennel" building. See map on page 17.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

23SEP = IKC QUARTERLY MEETING/COOK-OUT (see above)

23SEP = LOST RIVER TOUR, Orleans

30SEP = HNF/IKC COMMITTEE MEETING, Bedford

30 SEP/1 OCT = BUCKNER WORK WEEKEND, Bloomington (see page 5)

14OCT = ROBINSON LADDER PROPERTY WORKDAY, Milltown (see page 7)

21/22 OCT = BUCKNER CAVE WORK WEEKEND, Bloomington (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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RAMBLINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT...

*A society grows great when old men
plant trees whose shade they know they
shall never sit in...*

-- Greek Proverb



For really the first time, I was able to sit back and just enjoy the Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve. No climbing through underbrush to cut out old fence, no tree, brush, or grapevine trimming, not even a meeting

with a biologist -- just a grotto cave trip. I felt a little guilty, John Benton, Keith Dunlap, Dave Haun, Jay Kress, Glenn Lemasters, Mark Sparks, and Bob Vandeventer, had just spent the previous week cutting sight lines through dense brush in the heat and humidity to save the IKC some money on the property survey. Here I was, nursing a Sam's cola with my feet propped up in the shade next to Sue in our lawn chairs and waiting for the members of the Evansville Metropolitan Grotto (EMG) to arrive. I thought of it as grotto outreach, even if it was my own grotto.

The fields looked pretty good with a variety of wildflowers for Sue to identify. The fescue in the upper field was no longer so obnoxious thanks to a couple of mowings and there were even flowers there. IKC director Jamie Winner had recently mowed an area next to the old barn and it looked to be a great place to camp. Before long, Greg Dunwoody of the EMG arrived with a long aluminum ladder and was soon followed by Ernie and Jackie Payne (also EMG) and Jackie's son Rollie. Each of us had our own encounter with the rather unobvious run-off diversion trench recently dug across the top of the lane. Later, we were joined by Mark Sparks and Jay Kress of the CIG who wanted to visit the cave that evening. It made sense to go ahead and place the ladders for the next day's EMG trip and this we did. Mark and Jay planned to drop the pits so the ladders expedited their trip.

When we returned from rigging (laddering?) the cave, Carla Striegel and Jamie Winner of the Harrison-Crawford Grotto as well as the EMG's own Brandon Stephens and James Fussner arrived. Brandon's en-

counter with the new trench received the highest marks, owing mostly to the four or five kayaks strapped on top of his SUV, all of which added to the illusion of the vehicle nearly ending up on its side.

I know that the management plan calls for keeping a "low profile" and all, but we did have a pretty good time. I tried to be presidential but was bribed by Jackie with flaming marshmallows into allowing things to continue past my usual bedtime. Jamie had to amaze us with stories of his exploits fighting fires in the west and Brandon had to tell kayak stories. The weather couldn't be beat: no rain and comfortable temperatures. I remember getting totally soaked on past workdays.

Next morning brought the arrival of EMG member Jim Hall and his son Eric. With the cave already rigged, the trip went without a hitch. At one point, Brandon was overheard saying that he was impressed, that he had expected some little mud hole crawlway and instead found pits and climbs and good sized, dry walking passage with gypsum formations. The majority of us made it all the way to the S.W. Miller 1882 signature at the end and exited without incident - although Brandon didn't like the granny knot that I tied to haul Greg's ladder out.

Everyone thanked the IKC for a great weekend and felt that their contributions had gone to a good cause.

With care and attention the Robinson Ladder Preserve, along with the IKC's other preserves, should provide enjoyment far into the future for generations to come. Oh, and of course protect the caves and their inhabitants such as the Indiana bat too. It all seems to make all the effort worthwhile.

Richard Vernier



Please peruse our website,
comment, and consider
adding us as a link to
your website.

Thank you!

cavebiota.com

... an evolving cave life webumentary and much more!

NEWS BRIEFS...

- ❑ The Buckner Cave Graffiti Removal project is now in full swing (see article on page 6) and volunteers are still being solicited. Participants have found the project very rewarding as progress is made deeper into the cave. The next two work weekends are September 30/October 1 and October 21/22. The IKC would like to encourage our members to support this effort. Start time each day is 9 AM with Saturday being the primary work day (work on Sunday generally winds down by early afternoon). Camping is available, but please notify Dave Everton of your intentions. Dave would also appreciate it if you would notify him that you will be coming so he can plan manpower and food requirements. Dave can be contacted at DEverton@indiana.edu or 812-824-4380.

- ❑ Bob Armstrong and Dee Slater of the Lost River Conservation Association will hold their final guided auto/hiking tours of the Lost River area on September 23rd. Starting from the east at its head waters in Washington County, through Orange County to its disappearance near Orleans, and on to its rise near Orangeville, the tour is something not to be missed. The orientation lecture starts at 7:40 AM at the southeast corner of the square in Orleans and will depart promptly at 8 AM. Reservations are not required. Tours will go, *especially* if it rains. There will be some moderate hiking so sturdy footwear and long pants/sleeves are strongly recommended. The tour is free, but a small donation is suggested for the optional printed handouts. This is a must-do tour, if you are interested in Indiana karst. For more information, contact Dee at (317) 253-6951.

- ❑ One of the last tasks to be accomplished related to the acquisition of the Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve was a boundary survey. This was completed in July by Jess Gwinn. The corners were all within a few feet of where we expected them to be with the total acreage turning out to be 40.40 acres. In order to save money on the survey, IKC volunteers spent three days (a total of 40 man-hours) cutting sight lines to reduce the field time of the surveyor. Workers included Keith Dunlap, John Benton, Dave Haun, Bob Vandeventer, Jay Kress, Glenn Lemasters, and Mark Sparks.

❑ Over the past sixteen years, the Indiana DNR and the IKC have been monitoring Coon, Grotto, and Jim Ray's caves for winter disturbances in these critical *Myotis sodalis* hibernacula. This monitoring is done passively with electronic "speloggers" which are installed near the entrances of the caves and record the date and time of each human disturbance (triggered by light). The information collected is providing a means to determine the effectiveness (or ineffectiveness) of our closure methods in discouraging unauthorized entry. In the fall of 1996 we installed new signage and other deterrents. As you can see, since that time there have been *no* unauthorized visits into Grotto Cave and only one in Coon Cave. Ray's Cave has had a few more disturbances, but few have been during the core winter months when the greatest impact would occur. This was the eighth year the DNR used the new speloggers designed/constructed by IKC member Dick Vernier. The DNR is also monitoring several other caves using these speloggers.

Winter	Number of Disturbances		
	Jim Ray's	Coon	Grotto
05 / 06	1 ⁽²⁾	0	0
04 / 05	0 ⁽¹⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾
03 / 04	2	0	0
02 / 03	5 ⁽¹⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾
01 / 02	0	0	0
00 / 01	0 ⁽¹⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾
99 / 00	2	0	0
98 / 99	3 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾
97 / 98	1	1	0
96 / 97	0 ⁽¹⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾
95 / 96	3	9	4
94 / 95	8 ⁽¹⁾	8 ⁽¹⁾	5 ⁽¹⁾⁽³⁾
93 / 94	-- ⁽⁴⁾	-- ⁽⁴⁾	-- ⁽⁴⁾
92 / 93	7 ⁽¹⁾	3 ⁽¹⁾	8 ⁽¹⁾
91 / 92	6	1	5
90 / 91	4 ⁽¹⁾	8 ⁽¹⁾	n/a

1) Excludes one visit for biennial bat census
 2) Excludes one visit approved by USFWS
 3) Spelogger failed on day 182 of 227 days
 4) Data loss due to improper batteries

❑ Three new members have joined the IKC in the past quarter. Please welcome Andrew Mehlhap (455), Jay Kress (456), and Barry Nichols (457). The IKC membership now stands at 193.

BUCKNER CAVE GRAFFITI REMOVAL PROJECT UPDATE

by Dave Everton

Since April 2006, Indiana cavers have been participating in monthly graffiti removal weekends at Buckner Cave in Monroe County, using special sandblasting equipment owned by the Peppersauce Cave Conservation Project in Arizona. So far, there have been a total of four weekends devoted to the effort; the following represents a summary of each weekend. Most of the removal is accomplished on Saturday, with the main focus on cleanup and gear storage on Sundays. Patti Cummings has been faithfully providing food for the workers during each weekend.

April 15: Arizona caver and PCCP member (and instigator of the equipment and process) Ray Keeler gave a training session in the entrance room of the cave. Some graffiti was removed, although the primary purpose was familiarization with the gear and process.

May 20-21: Effort was concentrated in the entrance passage and room. Eighteen different persons helped; seventeen on Saturday, with six of them returning on Sunday, joined by one new person on that day. Much graffiti was removed, although a fair amount remained on the wall above the entrance to the crawlway. Also during the weekend, on a mission from Dave McGowan of Ravenswood Media, Jacek Lupina and Suzie Crombie did some filming both inside the entrance area of the cave, as well as hauling their gear back to the Signature Room and filming there. In addition to all those efforts, an alcove in the entrance room was fenced off to provide a gear storage area inside the cave, in order to eliminate the need to haul everything back and forth from Dick Blenz's basement, where most of it had been stored. The establishment of that gear cache has saved an incredible amount of time and effort on each project weekend.

June 17-18: Although the entrance room still required more work, a decision was made to start into the crawlway with the graffiti removal effort. Rather than trying to remove any and all graffiti along the way, an area of high concentration was chosen, located about one-third of the way through the crawlway. Two crews were set up in that area, and some smaller diameter hose was run on into the Signature Room area, where

one crew set up and started work there. At the end of the weekend, enough work had gotten completed in the crawlway room, that it was decided to run the large-diameter main hose and the 3-way regulator all the way to the Tee, and small diameter hose was placed so that one crew would continue in the high-concentration areas of the crawlway, while two crews would commence work in the Tee and Signature Room areas on the next project weekend. A major decision to allow all of the air, power, and phone lines to remain in place was also made during the weekend, which would greatly increase the productivity of the project by avoiding the huge effort of setting up and tearing down all of them every project weekend. Lastly, cavers present for the evening meal on Saturday night helped Sam Frushour celebrate his 63rd birthday.

July 22-23: Approximately twenty persons helped out over the course of the weekend. The first high-concentration area in the crawlway was considered complete enough as far as graffiti removal, although blast material would still need to be picked up. The one crew working in that area continued to advance toward the Tee, stopping along the way in some additional areas of high concentration. Work also continued in the area adjacent to the Signature Room, and was started at the Tee area. Due to the large amounts of graffiti present in those locales, it is expected that work will go on there for several project weekends.

☞



Dave Everton vacuuming up sand blasting media.

August 26-27: The areas covered were pretty much the same ones as the previous cleanup, although some effort was spent on removing blast material in the first crawlway room location. One crew continued working in the crawlway 'rooms,' advancing toward the Tee, while one crew worked at the Tee, and one crew worked in the actual Signature Room, which now has one particular area that shows quite a contrast between cleaned and dirty, and indicates a hint of what that room could eventually look like as removal continues.

Coming Up: Plans are to haul lumber inside the cave to the Signature Room during the next project weekend, in order to build ladders and scaffolding to reach the many high places in that area. It is quite amazing to wonder how vandals even reached some of the areas they did in order to leave their mark.

There are exploratory efforts underway to consider opening a small-diameter hole (less than human-sized) through the former Domicile Pit entrance to the cave in order to run the air, power, and phone lines to the Volcano passage. There isn't quite enough large-diameter hose to reach those areas from the historic entrance. If the lines could be run in the pit entrance, then certainly those heavily-damaged areas could be reached. There is a possibility of using the Bullseye entrance to the cave near the Monument Room, but it is hoped to avoid that if possible.

Additional Comments: Before the project began, it was a desire of mine to reach the

Signature Room at the very least, and remove all the graffiti possible there, especially on the 'wall of shame'. I believed that if the graffiti could be removed from that room alone, then the entire project will have been worthwhile, at least to me. We are on our way to achieving that goal, although we certainly have a lot of effort remaining in order to do so. However, bit by bit, we are making headway. The cave will never be completely restored to a pre-graffiti state, but the areas that have been worked on look much better than before. In addition to removing the actual paint, blending those areas with the surrounding rock requires spraying a wider area, which takes more time than just removing the writing itself. There is a possibility of applying a light mud spray on certain areas later on, but that would be confined to limited areas, such as parts of the Signature Room, and would only be done if time permits. After all, we are only supposed to have the equipment for one year, and therefore the project is centered on that time line. If it is later approved for us to have it longer, we will certainly be able to utilize it for as long as we have use of it.

Thanks to each and every one of you for support of this project! I look forward to your continued support and involvement as you are able. New volunteers are always welcome.

For more information

Dave Everton

812-855-7361 days

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ROBINSON LADDER CAVE PRESERVE WORKDAY - OCT 14th

Summer temperatures have cooled and fall is upon us, so it's time to have another workday at the Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve. The primary task to be completed is the installation of steel fence posts to better mark the property boundary corners (set with rebar pins) and to delineate side boundaries that have temporarily been marked with wood stakes (about two dozen locations). A secondary task will be to continue with the grapevine eradication started last spring.

Work on October 14th will start at 10 AM and will probably wrap up by mid-afternoon. Camping is available on the property for those wanting to stay Friday or Saturday nights. A reminder that the cave is closed for the winter in consideration of the bats. For more information or directions, contact John Benton (see contact info on page 2).

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

by Kriste Lindberg

As you might imagine, the summer sure was a busy one for education and outreach!

The season started out with a bang, or should I say, “whoosh!” Continuing with an idea we had last year, we actually created a “cave”. Now, before you get too excited and think of backhoes and shot rock, the blueprints for “Barefoot Cave” are found in the Project Underground Activity Guide (the “cave” is actually based on Project WET’s whale, sans fins) and is made of black landscape plastic and packaging tape donated by Bender Lumber of Bloomington. It’s kept inflated and well-ventilated with a powerful box fan.

The “cave” has become a big success and is being used by WonderLab in partnership with Bloomington Parks and Recreation and the IKC. It made its debut at Binford Elementary School (see separate article on page 9). Kids love it! It was the hit of the event and has the effect of gently easing people into what it’s like to be in a real cave.

Even I wanted to stay in it for awhile and hibernate -- it’s rather cozy and tends to bring out the denning instinct. The idea is catching on as the Hoosier National Forest has constructed a “cave” of their own for educational presentations.

Also based on a Project Underground activity, “Cave Critter Creations” incorporates the cavebiota.com video clips into the existing “Cave Creations” format. It had its first run at Bloomington Parks and Recreation’s Twin Lakes Lodge. Basically, one starts out with an introduction to caves and cave critters, discusses adaptations to life underground, shows a few of the clips which back-up the findings, has kids (of all ages!) draw their *own* cave critters and discuss them with the group.

It’s great fun... and a good learning experience. One of the benefits is that it instills ownership in those that create their own critters and, hence, helps with conservation efforts.

Speaking of the cavebiota.com video project, it was a big hit at the 2006 NSS Convention! I showed it at both the Conservation Session and Biology Session, where it was well-received by viewers. We were also able to sneak it in under “Coming Attractions” during the salon awards presentation,

just after the 2007 Convention preview. Indiana has some great karst features and critters! We’re currently working on filling out an EPA environmental education grant so we can do more with the endeavor.

Also at convention this year, I went “national” and was named Chair of the NSS Environmental Education Committee, which, incidentally, comes with the title of Chair of Project Underground. We’re moving right along on making progress. Already, we’ve met with others to formulate a plan to work with the development community. In order to incorporate more of the above into the existing mix for greater benefit, I’m continuing on both the Bloomington Environmental Commission’s Planning Committee and Education and Outreach Committee and have met with a development engineer to pick his brain on how to proceed. These new liaisons should help create win/wins for all as we disseminate and share information around the country and perhaps beyond.

To cap off the season, Spring Mill State Park hosted the first-ever “Gone Caving” event during the last weekend of August. It consisted of two, action-packed days of real and virtual cave education and exploration, cave rescue demos and discussions, and a walk of the surface area above a cave. Although it was a busy back-to-school weekend for many people, the event was incredibly well-attended, with over 60 people attending the cavebiota.com video clip showing at the campground amphitheater Saturday evening. Also, over 20 attended the second Cave Critter Creations activity the following day. We are already making plans for the second annual event next year, including improvements, and McCormick’s Creek State Park is also interested in hosting one. We have dreams that someday it will include other state parks and perhaps those around the country.

Upcoming Fall highlights include an Adventure Day with children in the Indianapolis area, a cavebiota.com video project showing at both the National Cave and Karst Conservancy Forum in West Virginia and Environmental Education Association of Indiana, a presentation on karst areas to plant enthusiasts at the Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society conference, and more

progress on the national level, including with the development community.

Special thanks this summer go to Katharina Dittmar de la Cruz, Tim Hanson, Meredith Hildreth, Anmar Mirza, Barbara Moss, Jill Vance, and Bob Vandeventer.



Kriste Lindberg leading a group of students through the "cave" at Binford Elementary School.

When you can't go to the cave, bring the cave to you Binford students delve into geology without leaving school grounds

by Kacie Foster

Instead of taking the kids to a cave, the cave came to the kids Friday at Binford Elementary School.

Students from five third-grade classes explored a 37-foot-long inflatable cave as part of a program on geology.

The cave was one of six stations created for students by WonderLab, the IU Geological Survey and the Indiana Karst Conservancy.

"We wanted to show kids all the things you can do with geology," said Staci Radford-Vincent, a WonderLab program coordinator.

"It's not just about rocks." Some students needed a bit of persuading.

"Boring," whispered one student at the fossil station manned by Robin Rupp of the IU Geological Survey. "There's nothing boring about this rock," Rupp countered, as she held up a hand-sized piece of limestone.

She explained that the sedimentary rock predated dinosaurs. The seven students in her group used spoons, shovels and brushes to dig for fossils in bins of sand and rocks.

Jacob Night, 8 years old, discovered a coral fossil he could keep. "I didn't know that

sometimes fossils are valuable," he said.

Kayla Gott, 9, selected a fossil of a crinoid, a primitive marine invertebrate. "I was trying to find something to bring home," she said.

George Cesnik, who works with the conservancy, spent more than six hours building the inflatable cave with help of other volunteers. Made with landscaping plastic and tape donated by Bender Lumber, a box fan inflates the 37-foot-long structure. The cave made its public debut Friday. "This helps when you can't go to the real thing," Cesnik said.

Children sat quietly as Kriste Lindberg, also with the conservancy, explained cave safety rules. The kids formed a single-file line and crawled into the darkened space. Armed with a few flashlights, their excitement grew audibly as they discovered facsimiles of stalactites, bats and a small pool of water.

After briefly exploring the cave, Lindberg sat the children down and read through the book, "Caves and Caverns."

Sari Kamen, 9, said the cave was dark and cold. "You might be kind of scared, but it's cool to look at," she said.

Lindberg thinks the portable

cave idea will catch on at other schools and programs.

Kayla certainly approved of the concept. "Instead of class, it's fun that the WonderLab came to us," she said after crawling out of the cave.

WonderLab spent about a month planning the geology exploration day for Binford. Fourteen WonderLab volunteers and staff taught students at the geology stations, with the students learning about fossils, erosion, gold, topography, caves and how geologists' work impacts students' daily lives.

Teacher Janet Schell said she was excited to have the program visit. She said the PTO funded the \$325 needed for the program. "Without that, it couldn't have been done," she said.

Radford-Vincent said the program was custom designed to supplement the third-grade curriculum. That included working with statewide science standards and seeking input from teachers while developing the program.

"With schools getting field trip budgets cut, having us come out is a good alternative," Radford-Vincent said.

Reprinted with permission from the June 3, 2006 Herald-Times.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY: CAVING WITH SCOUTS

by Don Ingle

On Wednesday, June 21, I once again had the pleasure of participating in one of the Camp Gallahue Girl Scout cave trips, this time to Sullivan Cave, followed by another educational/outreach opportunity back at their camp.


Accompanying me on my day with the Girl Scouts were Dave Everton, Landon Parks, and Tymme Laun. Though the educational component was fun as usual, the most interesting part for me comes during the cave trip. I always enjoy getting underground, but for me a lot of the enjoyment I get out of caving comes when I go caving with people who have never caved before. Even though it may be a cave I have been to many times, I can re-experience it through their eyes and kind of bring myself back to my beginnings as a new caver once again through their experience, and take new enjoyment out of their sense of awe and wonder as they explore their subterranean world for the first time.

However, being as how we were going to Sullivan Cave this year, with the ultimate destination being only to the Mountain Room and back, perhaps that last description, though well meant, may have been just a little bit florid. The Backbreaker may be a lot of things, but beautiful and awe-inspiring are not adjectives that immediately leap to mind at its mention. But for some, there is some pleasure to be had at slogging yourself onward through a seemingly endless masochistic experience such as this. Whether or not the scouts felt that way as they made their way through the Backbreaker, I cannot say. In retrospect, for at least most of them, probably, they did not. But then, they didn't complain either (with perhaps one exception). But as caving is not for everyone, perhaps a trip to even Sullivan Cave may be the best way to make someone fall in love with this activity we all know and love. At least then you know if they come back, you are in the presence of a caver.

There were seven girls, all told, with two leaders and the four escorts. We met up at the gate to the property at 10:30 AM with Dave and Landon leading the entourage. I met them there at the gate, and let them in, and closed up behind them, then followed them down to the parking area.

As indicated above, the original plan was to go to the Mountain Room through the Backbreaker. But this group was reasonably intrepid, and most of them wanted to push it a little further, those that didn't stayed behind with one of their adult leaders, then headed back with Tymme at a leisurely pace while the rest of us went down to Sullivan River. The next batch bailed out on us when it became apparent that getting wet above the waist was going to be required after the South "Y". These two and I waited atop the mudbank adjacent to the "Y" until they realized they could amuse themselves by sliding down the mudbank and into the water over and over again -- so much for staying dry above the waist. And in time, Dave and Landon returned with the remainder of the troop who didn't say whether or not they had found The Last Great Lost Cave Passage while chasing after Floyd Collins' ghost on their sojourn. I think they made it down river as far as Armstrong's Folly at least. From there, we left the cave without any problems, and I believe everyone had a great time.

Back at Camp Gallahue, the girls had

...continued on page 16 



INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY TREASURY REPORT

Income/Expense Statement From April 1, 2006 to June 30, 2006

INCOME:

Dues Apportionment and Residuals	600.00	
Donations - General	60.00	
Donations - RLCP / Land Acquisition Fund	800.00	
Spellogger sales (20)	2880.00	
Interest	612.55	
	612.55	\$4,952.55

EXPENSES:

IKC Update (printing, production, mailing)	292.27	
Stewardship/Conservation	99.99	
Education / Outreach	82.32	
Membership services	15.96	
Business (security box rental)	56.00	
Property taxes (Sullivan, Wayne, Robinson Ladder)	102.84	
SpeLoggers (24)	2075.15	
Transfers to/from restricted funds/other adjustments	1069.84	
	1069.84	(\$3,794.37)

NET OPERATING EXCESS (DEFICIT) THIS PERIOD: \$1,158.18

Balance Sheet June 30, 2006

ASSETS:

Cash in Checking / Saving Accounts / CDs	77509.61	
Accounts receivables ¹	2880.00	
Wayne Cave Preserve (20.00 acres)	75000.00	
Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve (40.40 acres)	74000.00	
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>\$337,402.77</u></u>

LIABILITIES & OPERATING EXCESS:

Land Acquisition Restricted Fund	29201.80
Deferred Dues Restricted Fund (190 members)	3255.00
Stewardship Endowment Restricted Fund	24399.14

Previous Operating Excess	22388.65
Net Excess (Deficit) This Period	<u>1158.18</u>
Current Operating Excess (unrestricted funds)	23546.83
Real estate liquidity	<u>257000.00</u>

Total Liabilities & Operating Excess \$337,402.77

NOTES:

1) KY Fish & Wildlife SpeLoggers

IKC SUMMER BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, June 17, 2006 -- Bloomington, Indiana

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Richard Vernier, President
 Bob Sergesketter, Secretary
 Keith Dunlap, Treasurer
 Dave Haun
 Don Ingle
 Jerry Lewis
 Kriste Lindberg
 Nick Noe
 Tom Sollman
 Bill Tozer (proxy by George Cesnik)
 Bob Vandeventer
 Sue Vernier
 Jamie Winner

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Steve LockwoodØ
 Bruce Silvers

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM in Room 143 of the Geology Building on the IU campus, President Richard Vernier presiding. George Cesnik was accepted as proxy for Bill Tozer. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as published in the June 2006 *IKC Update*.

Recording of E-mail Motions and Results

On April 28, 2006, Dunlap moved to approve a bio-inventory of Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve by Dr Jerry Lewis and an examination of bat roost stains by Bat Conservation International. They want to begin soon after the end of the bat hibernation closure which is May 1. The motion was seconded by Sue Vernier. On May 5, 2006, Richard Vernier declared the motion to have been passed with 12 in favor and 3 absent.

On May 11, 2006, Dunlap moved that \$40,000 be transferred from the IKC savings account to 30 day certificates of deposit with staggered maturity dates. This would allow the money to earn higher interest while still providing reasonable liquidity. With the staggered maturity dates we would never be more than a few days from a CD maturing and almost all of the money would be available within 30 days. The motion was seconded by Sue Vernier. On May 19, 2006, Richard Vernier declared the motion to have been passed with 13 in favor and 2 absent.

On June 8, 2006, Dunlap moved to purchase a tri-axle load of topsoil and have it dumped at the Sullivan property to be used to level some camping sites. This will be done in conjunction with the driveway and parking area improvements that will be taking place the weekend of June 17-18. Dunlap was quoted a price of \$200 for a load of topsoil delivered to the Sullivan property. He has offered to donate the \$200, but altering the camping area requires Board approval, thus the motion. Sue Vernier seconded the motion and it passed with 11 in favor and 4 absent.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Dunlap reported total assets of \$336,-

881.89. Our land holdings are valued at \$257,-013.16 and we have cash in the various funds totaling \$79,868.73. A detailed Treasury Report may be found in the *IKC Update*.

Dunlap reported that membership stands at 189 of which 160 are paid up. The members who have not renewed received reminders in their *IKC Update* and Dunlap will follow up on those reminders in a few weeks.

Dunlap said that the rollover of funds into several 30 day Certificates of Deposit did not occur because we would have had to accept a lower interest rate than what we are currently earning. However, after Dunlap started discussing moving the money to a different bank, the bank offered a different savings account that would pay 3.8% if the account was \$50,000 or more. Right now we would have over \$50,000 to put in the account but even if it dips lower we'll still earn 3.0%. In comparison, our current savings account is paying 1.0%. Vandeventer asked how liquid the new account is. Dunlap said that it is completely liquid although there may be a fee if we close the whole account out at once.

Robinson Ladder Cave Acquisition

Dunlap reported that we have received the grants from the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust and from the Efroymsen Fund. Fund raising for the Robinson Ladder property is complete and all members have been notified that excess donations have been placed in the Land Acquisition Fund. No one reported hearing any negative comments about this action. The only outstanding expense for the Robinson Ladder property will be the boundary survey. At some time in the future we may need to harden the road with some rock but there are no plans at this time.

Vernier said that he has not received any report from John Benton, Robinson Ladder Property Manager, about the status of surface restoration activities at the property. He said that Allen Pursell of The Nature Conservancy has indicated that TNC might be able to assist this year with the vegetation management aspect of the project but he hasn't heard anything in the past few weeks.

Vernier asked if there was any news concerning the property survey. Dunlap said that Jess Gwinn, the surveyor who will be doing the work, plans to start in the next week or two and the job will probably take a week to complete. He may need some volunteer help. Dunlap said that it would be good if the survey was done before we turn in our closeout report to the Efroymsen Fund. The report is due July 30, 2006.

Ingle reported that Dave McGowan was doing some video work at Robinson Ladder Cave today and Jerry and Salisa Lewis were also doing some work at the cave today.

Education and Outreach

Lindberg reported that State Senator Vi Simpson of Bloomington will introduce a bill designating the Indiana Bat as the official State Bat of Indiana. Noe said that if the bat bill is introduced, the Hoosier Environmental Council will support it. He noted that this is a tough year to get bills through, but bills that don't involve money have a better chance.

Lindberg said that just this morning she incorporated the Cave Biota video into the Project Underground program for the first time.

Ingle reported on upcoming activities with the Girl Scout caving program which will be starting on June 21.

Lewis announced that he has received funding for a biology study in Robinson Ladder Cave from the Division of Nature Preserves. He will be setting some pitfall traps in the cave and will also be placing some buckets to collect drip water. He asked that cave visitors please be careful and don't disturb the buckets or traps. Vernier suggested putting notes on the buckets so that people know why they are there. Lewis said that work on the study began today.

A complete Education and Outreach Committee report can be found in the *IKC Update*.

I-69/Indiana Bat

Vernier said that he has been contacted by Shannon Fisk of the Environmental Law and Policy Center in Chicago in regards to a lawsuit that is being brought regarding the impact that the new terrain I-69 extension project may have to the endangered Indiana Bat. The ELPC is looking for someone to advocate on behalf of the bat. Vernier said that he is not a lawyer and he doesn't understand the exact nature of how this is to be done. Would we be a plaintiff or would we be signing an affidavit as individuals or as an organization saying that we're concerned about the impact of the highway on the bat population? The Hoosier Environmental Council and Citizens for Appropriate Rural Roads are listed as plaintiffs.

Vernier said that he doesn't know what our responsibility would be and what our potential liabilities would be if we were to sign on as either a plaintiff or as an interested party. The lawsuit is a rather voluminous document and Vernier requested that Mr Fisk transmit a copy to Nick Noe. Vernier said that he told Mr Fisk that we would study the lawsuit and consider it but promised nothing. Mr Fisk will be contacting Vernier next week. Vernier requested Noe to summarize the document and give us some background as far as the HEC is involved with this.

Noe said that this has been a long time coming. He said that ever since plans were announced for the new terrain route, the HEC intended to file suit and the HEC began working with the ELPC, an organization known to have some very good environmental attorneys. Noe said that the suit attacks the project

on two fronts. First, it says that the plan is in violation of the National Environmental Policy Act. By choosing the route they have selected, they have ignored other less impacting routes. The suit challenges the decision making process in coming to the route they have picked. The second attack is based on the Endangered Species Act. Not only is the Indiana bat being impacted but other species are too.

Noe said that they are looking to the IKC for expertise. We have the people who can say with certainty where the bats are and what the potential impact will be on the bats and their habitat and what mitigation efforts will be required to avoid impacting the bats. He said that it is up to us to determine the level of involvement that the IKC wants. We can jump in with both feet and be a plaintiff, provide funding, send knowledgeable people to testify when the time comes, or we can assume a lesser role in the background, providing information and possibly recruiting experts to testify. We have information that would be difficult if not impossible to get anywhere else and that is why we are being asked to join in the suit.

Vernier said that he talked to John Moore, a senior attorney at the ELPC, and asked him what the down side of joining in a suit could be, specifically the possibility of a countersuit which we would then have to defend and risk losing our assets. Mr Moore said that this suit is against a government entity and the likelihood of a countersuit is nil, in his opinion. He said, however, that we would probably want to get our attorney, which we don't have, involved.

Vernier said that he is concerned that our being a party to this suit may impact our good relationship with the state in other areas. Another concern is that the highway people have done considerable amounts of work identifying and studying karst areas and bat habitats and some re-routing of the corridor, based on those studies, has been done. We can say that we don't like the route and give our reasons why we don't like it, but we can't really say that they haven't examined the situation. That puts us in a spot where we need people with credentials to refute their claims. We have such individuals. Virgil Brack, John Whitaker, and our own Keith Dunlap could all be considered expert witnesses, but to Vernier's knowledge, they have not been asked to testify.

Noe asked what our involvement was with the State Road 37 work that was done south of Bedford a few years ago? Dunlap said that problems occurred after the project was well underway because karst issues were largely ignored in the planning stages. What came out of that situation was an understanding that the highway people would work more closely with the Department of Natural Resources, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management on future projects. The role of the IKC on the SR 37 project was to assist the HEC and Protect Our Woods in their complaint. The case was handled before an Administrative Law Judge and was more of a cooperative discussion than lawyers arguing in a courtroom. The outcome was

positive and both sides claimed victory.

Dunlap said that with I-69, there was a lot of anticipation that there would be lawsuits so the company in charge has gone way beyond what they were required to do as far as the impact to bats. They have hired contractors who are experts in bat study, one of whom is Virgil Brack. Dunlap said that there are lots of opinions as to the amount of damage that could be caused to both summer and winter bat habitat, but he thinks that they will do whatever mitigation is needed because they want to build this road.

Someone asked if Bat Conservation International could be involved. Vernier said that BCI didn't come up during his conversation with the ELPC lawyer. Dunlap said that if BCI were involved it would probably be in the role of expert witness. Vernier said that anyway one looks at this, it's going to have a major negative impact on karst, but if we as an organization have nothing to contribute other than to say that we think it's a bad idea, we probably wouldn't be of much benefit to the HEC. Dunlap said that we have a responsibility to be involved, but we don't have the expertise to fill the role that they expect us to fill. We can offer opinions, but we don't have the credentials to back up our opinions.

Lewis offered the observation that the Endangered Species Act doesn't seem to carry much weight these days. Haun said that as an organization, we really don't have much to offer other than our opinions. Winner agreed saying that we are more of a grass-roots organization. He doesn't think we can sign on as a plaintiff because we don't have enough to offer. Vernier said that we can be an interested party, possibly signing a statement saying that we are interested in the Indiana bat and that we believe that the highway will be detrimental to the Indiana bat. Sollman said that he doesn't know enough to have an opinion. As an organization, we have not taken a position. We need to find out a lot more information, but where do we get it?

Vernier said we can talk to the ELPC attorney but that will be one sided. About all we can do is offer our opinion that the new terrain I-69 will have an impact on the bats. Noe said that the IKC has never been known as an advocacy organization. We're more like TNC. We buy property. We would rather spend money on land than lawsuits but we can't buy the I-69 route so the next best thing we can do is let them know what we think.

Vernier said that we know that the route through the karst areas is not the best route and that karst and bats will be impacted, but for now we can give our opinion, but that's about all we can do. We don't understand the ramifications of signing on to this lawsuit. Being an "interested party" could be perceived by some to be the same as being a plaintiff. Haun moved that the IKC, as an organization, have nothing to do with this lawsuit. The motion died for lack of a second.

Dunlap said that we've been discussing this issue for a while with no motion on the floor and when we

got a motion, it died. It appears that we are not ready to take a stand either for or against the lawsuit. He said that as an individual, he is willing to speak to anyone concerning bat hibernacula because he has knowledge and opinions in that area. Vernier said that he wasn't looking for a motion because we really don't know enough about this to say yea or nay on it. We can say that we are still evaluating the matter and at that point, the ball is in their court. They need to convince us to sign on. If we decide to join in, he thinks that we would need an attorney because this is a serious matter and we have no idea of what the downside could be. We should probably be thinking more about what sort of mitigation would be best for the bats if the road is built as planned. Vernier said that at this point, with no motion on the floor, the action will be that he will talk to lawyer Fisk of the ELPC when he calls and will tell him that we are not ready to sign on as a plaintiff or anything else. He will give him BCI contact information and Dunlap's contact information. Anyone else who has anything to say is welcome to contribute their knowledge and opinions.

Wayne Cave Preserve

Sollman reported on today's activities. The driveway gravel that was delivered earlier in the week was spread out and graded. The stump and dirt piles around the perimeter of the clearing at the top of the hill were graded down and spread out. A lot of the logs and sticks were thrown on the big pile in the center of the clearing to dry out and hopefully get burned up by campers. Trash was picked up along the county road and weeds were mowed down. The driveway is in great shape now. Vernier said that we should probably inspect the property for invasive plants sometime.

Buddha Cave Preserve

Cesnik reported that on April 29, 500 trees were planted on a cloudy and cool day by a good crew of 12-15 volunteers. Some mowing was also done. He has plans to do some more multiflora rose eradication and also wants to work on the kiosk.

Sullivan Cave Preserve

Dunlap reported that replacement trees were planted and weed treatment was done. Mowing was done once so far this year. There has been no progress on the outhouse, but there may be some action on that very soon. Gravel for the driveway and parking area was delivered. The truckload of topsoil for the camping area was not delivered. Heavy rain in the area made it impossible for the truck to dump the dirt where it was needed so the order was canceled. The gravel will be graded tomorrow and also a large tree that fell down will be cut up for firewood.

Vandeventer reported that cave trips continue to be popular. Starting tomorrow, there will be two locks on the road gate. The chain will have a key lock and a combination lock in series so that either one can be unlocked to open the gate. The cave will continue to be secured by a key lock only.

Orangeville Rise

Noe reported that the plate on the stone marker is



no longer loose. Carita Noe said that the car across the street from the rise with the tree growing through it is gone. She didn't know if the tree was still there.

Indian Creek Conservation Easement

No report.

Bat Conservation International Project

Vernier reported that he and Sue went to the training session and they now know what a roost stain looks like. Salisa Lewis was more involved with the training and she reported that they checked out thirteen caves and she too has a better understanding of bat roost stains. BCI has tentative plans to do more work in Indiana but no dates are set. Vernier said that he has had no further conversation with anyone from BCI. We don't know what the outcome of all this is or if any recommendations about closing caves or modifying entrances will be forthcoming. After a brief discussion, Vernier said we'll just wait and see if we get any feedback from BCI and if we don't hear from them in a year or so, we'll ask them what's going on.

Dunlap said that they will have to give a report to the foundation that sponsored the research and we should be able to get a copy of that report.

Beck's Mill

Ingle reported that he did not make it to the latest meeting. He said that the group is somewhat disorganized. They are in the process of trying to set up an e-mail data base so that they can get regular meeting notices out. He said that he provided an e-mail address but still didn't get a meeting notice. They are trying some small scale fund raising. They are in contact with TNC about trying to increase their acreage. Plans include putting in interpretive hiking trails. They have done a lot of work in the immediate vicinity of the mill such as brush clearing and the site looks a lot better. Ingle said that he has made some suggestions such as applying for grants. They are just getting started and he will continue to keep in contact with them to see what develops. Vernier asked if they were doing anything as far as the caves. Ingle said that they are working strictly on the mill right now. They need to raise about \$50,000 for emergency maintenance to the mill just to keep the building together until they raise the funds to properly rebuild and restore it.

RBNC/Buckner Cave

Vernier said that Dave Everton is requesting that we provide the Richard Blenz Nature Conservancy with an IKC membership list in order to notify members of upcoming RBNC workdays. Dunlap said that he has concerns about control of our membership list. He said that about 75% of IKC members have provided e-mail addresses and he has been very conservative about sending out e-mails to the whole membership, usually limiting it to quarterly meeting announcements. He has indicated to Everton that when he sends e-mails about IKC business, he would include information concerning Buckner Cave workdays but he doesn't want to send out special e-mails just for RBNC projects. Dunlap

said that he doesn't think that Everton has a problem with that. He just wants the IKC to help promote the activities of the RBNC because our membership covers a large area with members in every grotto in Indiana and many in other states as well.

Winner said that interested people can contact the RBNC and ask to be included on their e-mail list. Sollman said that he sees no problem with listing workday dates in the IKC Update or running articles about the Buckner project. Dunlap said that Everton asked if the IKC would want to sponsor a workday at the RBNC, thinking perhaps that we could get more people to show up. An IKC workday at the Buckner project is a possibility although Dunlap acknowledged that some on the IKC Board have mixed feelings about sand blasting.

Vernier said that he's not sure that they have totally addressed the safety issues surrounding the sand blasting techniques being used to clean graffiti in the cave. He's been told that it's just sand but the bags are covered with hazard warning labels. He said that when he was there, the operators of the equipment were wearing respirators, but there were many people who were not. Another concern is that the blasting media remains in the cave.

Dunlap said that he also has mixed feelings about the methods used, but on the other hand, they're doing something positive and we should support them, but he doesn't think we can do much beyond promoting the workdays and helping out as individual volunteers. Vernier wondered if a Shop Vac could be used in the cave to get rid of most of the blasting media. Carita Noe said that silica inhalation can result in very serious illness and she thought that anyone working around the work site needed a respirator.

Dunlap said that at the last meeting we had a motion passed to have the IKC join the RBNC as an institutional member. They do not have such a membership category but they gratefully accepted our \$25.00 check anyway.

Vandeventer reported that Anmar Mirza recently attended a Central Indiana Grotto meeting and talked about the work going on at Buckner. Dunlap said that it was an excellent presentation and covered other aspects of the work of the RBNC in addition to the sand blasting. Anmar may be willing to present the program to other grottoes to drum up interest.

Vernier said that the work going on at Buckner Cave is definitely positive and while we may have questions about some of the methods being used, the interest and involvement that is being generated is good. Buckner Cave has acquired a terrible reputation over the years and yet it is a very nice cave. It's never going to be what it once was, but it is still a great recreational cave.

Spelloggers

Vernier reported that we have an order from the Kentucky Department of Natural Resources for



twenty speloggers. He said that they are being assembled in his basement and hopefully we'll make a little money on them.

Items From the Floor

Haun asked if the Evansville Grotto is still planning to hold a spaghetti supper at the 2007 NSS Convention and if not, is the IKC interested in doing it? Sue Vernier said that it looks as though the Evansville Grotto will not be putting on the supper. Dunlap said that another possibility would be to have a local organization put on a dinner of some kind with the IKC promoting the event and selling tickets and keeping a dollar per ticket for our work. No action was taken.

Next Meeting

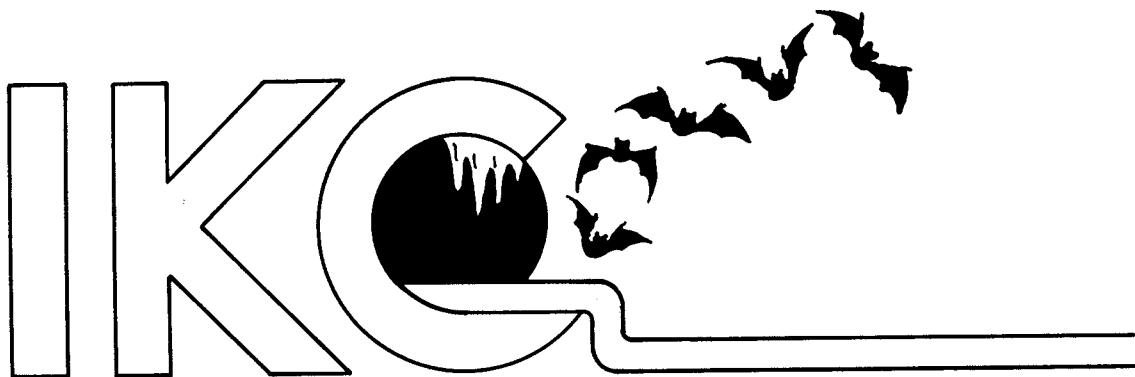
Vernier said that the next meeting is usually held in conjunction with the CIG annual camping and cookout weekend at Rea's quarry and that date is September 23. Ingle suggested having the fall meeting

and traditional cookout at the RBNC in conjunction with one of their workdays. Vernier thought that was a good idea but he would rather not try to have a business meeting and cookout after a day of sand blasting cave walls or other speleo-drudgery. We could, however, host a cookout or pot luck at some other time, possibly in conjunction with a planned work day. This was discussed briefly, but no action was taken.

The next meeting will be Saturday, September 23, 2007 at Tom Rea's place near Cloverdale. The meeting will start at 1:00 PM EDT. Following the meeting, the annual pot luck supper, cookout, and dessert contest will be held. This is being held in conjunction with the annual CIG picnic and camp out.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Sergesketter, Secretary



Continued from page 10...

their dinner, and then came the educational component of the day. I showed a video, "Living on Karst" and explained in my own charming, but halting way, about Indiana karst and why we have it where we have it, and don't where we do not. Also what causes cave formation and all that fun and edifying stuff. Dave and I had taken our digital cameras into the cave, so we then showed the pictures taken earlier in the afternoon. It went over big. Dave then got up and dusted off the old "ant farm" and demonstrated the karst ground water model. Watching the ground water model being demonstrated almost always amuses me, for some reason. I make little silent bets with myself beforehand as to what scenario the presenter will employ to explain point and/or non-point source pollution to the audience, whether it will be a chemical spill, road accident, leaking underground fuel tank, or cattle farm;

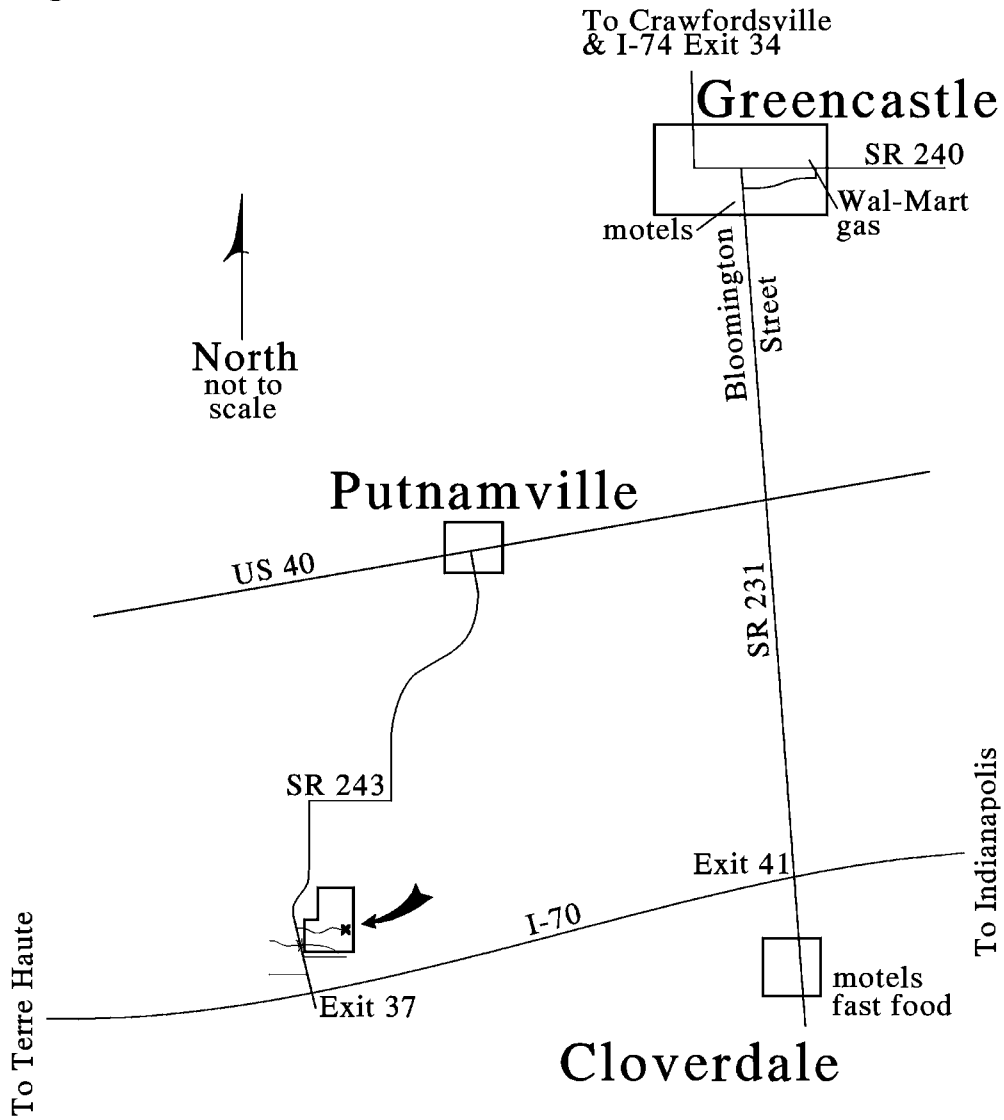
whatever it happens to be, depending on how fertile the imagination is and descriptive the phrasing of the presenter happens to be. Sometimes it can be rather funny. Dave took a safe route and acquitted himself admirably by saying the culprit was excess fertilizer from an adjacent field. We wrapped up the presentation and hit the road long before dark.

I will conclude this article by stating that if you can find the time, and enjoy sharing your cave knowledge with others, that if you see an opportunity for education/outreach, wherever you happen to be, that you take it. You don't have to be good at it, necessarily. God knows, I'm not always brilliant at presentation myself. All you really have to be is willing to take the time. They nearly always appreciate the effort. And once you sit down afterwards, you are always glad that you did.

IKC MEETING AND IKC/CIG COOK-OUT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23rd

Meeting at 1 PM, Cook-out at 5 PM



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.

