



# IKC UPDATE

A Quarterly Publication of the Indiana Karst Conservancy  
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# INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY, INC

PO Box 2401, Indianapolis, IN 46206-2401

[ikc.caves.org](http://ikc.caves.org)

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.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

President  
Jerry Lewis (2012)  
(812) 967-7592  
[LewisBioConsult@aol.com](mailto:LewisBioConsult@aol.com)

Secretary  
James Adams (2012)  
(317) 518-8410  
[JKAdams@aol.com](mailto:JKAdams@aol.com)

Treasurer  
Keith Dunlap (2012)  
(317) 882-5420  
[Keith.Dunlap@juno.com](mailto:Keith.Dunlap@juno.com)

Directors  
Bruce Bowman (2014)  
(317) 539-2753  
[Bruce.Bowman@tds.net](mailto:Bruce.Bowman@tds.net)

Dave Haun (2012)  
(317) 517-0795  
[DEHcave@onet.net](mailto:DEHcave@onet.net)

Don Ingle (2013)  
(812) 249-6985  
[D.Ingle5705@comcast.net](mailto:D.Ingle5705@comcast.net)

Everett Pulliam (2013)  
(317) 745-7816  
[SpeleoRat@aol.com](mailto:SpeleoRat@aol.com)

Bob Sergesketter (2014)  
(812) 482-5517

Bruce Silvers (2012)  
(260) 416-4197  
[BruceSilvers@frontier.com](mailto:BruceSilvers@frontier.com)

Karen Silvers (2012)  
(260) 249-0924  
[BentBat@hotmail.com](mailto:BentBat@hotmail.com)

Tom Sollman (2012)  
(812) 753-4953  
[Sollman@juno.com](mailto:Sollman@juno.com)

Carla Striegel-Winner (2013)  
(812) 367-1602  
[CarlaStriegel@gmail.com](mailto:CarlaStriegel@gmail.com)

Bob Vandeventer (2014)  
(317) 888-4501  
[VandeventerBob@netzero.net](mailto:VandeventerBob@netzero.net)

Richard Vernier (2014)  
(812) 385-5058  
[rsav1@juno.com](mailto:rsav1@juno.com)

Jamie Winner (2013)  
(812) 367-1602  
[JAWinner@gmail.com](mailto:JAWinner@gmail.com)

## COMMITTEES / CHAIRPERSON

Education/Outreach  
Don Ingle  
(see E-Board list)

Web Technologies  
Bruce Bowman  
(see E-Board list)

IKC Update Editor/Publisher  
Keith Dunlap  
(see E-Board list)

Hoosier National Forest  
Jerry Lewis  
(see E-board list)

Buddha Property Manager  
George Cesnik  
(812) 339-2143  
[GeoCesnik@yahoo.com](mailto:GeoCesnik@yahoo.com)

Orangeville Rise Property Manager  
Steve Lockwood  
(see E-board list)

Robinson Ladder Property Manager  
John Benton  
(812) 389-2248  
[JMBenton1952@gmail.com](mailto:JMBenton1952@gmail.com)

Sullivan Property Manager  
Keith Dunlap  
(see E-Board list)

Wayne Property Manager  
Robert Sollman  
(812) 753-4953  
[BobSollman@gmail.com](mailto:BobSollman@gmail.com)

Indian Creek CE Monitor  
Jerry Lewis  
(see E-board list)

## GROTTOES & LIAISONS

Bloomington Indiana Grotto\*  
Dave Everton  
(812) 824-4380

Central Indiana Grotto\*  
Keith Dunlap  
(317) 882-5420

Dayton Underground Grotto  
Mike Hood  
(937) 252-2978

Eastern Indiana Grotto  
Brian Leavell  
(765) 552-7619

Evansville Metro Grotto\*  
Ernie Payne  
(812) 477-7043

Harrison-Crawford Grotto  
Dave Black  
(812) 951-3886

Near Normal Grotto\*  
Ralph Sawyer  
(309) 822-0109

Northern Indiana Grotto\*  
Jennifer Pelter  
(260) 456-3374

St Joseph Valley Grotto\*  
Mark Kraus  
(574) 295-6673

Sub-Urban Chicago Grotto  
Gary Gibula  
(630) 393-6746

Western Indiana Grotto\*  
Doug Hanna  
(812) 208-4609

Windy City Grotto  
Jack Wood  
(773) 728-9773

\*grottos with liaison agreements

## MANAGED CAVES / PATRONS

Buddha Cave  
Jeff Cody  
(317) 888-9898  
[codyjpme@att.net](mailto:codyjpme@att.net)

Lost River Cave  
Dave Tibbets  
(574) 875-8498  
[DaveTibbets@gmail.com](mailto:DaveTibbets@gmail.com)

Robinson Ladder Cave  
John Benton  
(812) 389-2248  
[JMBenton1952@gmail.com](mailto:JMBenton1952@gmail.com)

Shiloh Cave  
James Adams  
(317) 518-8410  
[JKAdams@aol.com](mailto:JKAdams@aol.com)

Suicide Cave  
Ronnie Burns  
(812) 883-7400  
[RonLiz1998@gmail.com](mailto:RonLiz1998@gmail.com)

Sullivan Cave  
Bob Vandeventer  
(see E-Board list)

Wayne Cave  
Dave Everton  
(812) 824-4380  
[DEverton@indiana.edu](mailto:DEverton@indiana.edu)

Cover: Rand Heazlitt admires flowstone deposits at the bottom of the second climbdown in Guy Stover Pit Cave. Photo by Dave Everton (April 2011).



**IKC QUARTERLY MEETING REMINDER**  
**SATURDAY, June 11th, 6:00 PM EDT**  
**BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA**  
**WAYNE CAVE PRESERVE**

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 caves 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: Upcoming workdays at our preserves; Indiana Cave Symposium review; White-nose Syndrome and Indiana bat census update; Financial reports; Land acquisition activities; I-69 Conservation Easement forest mitigation status; and more....

Meeting directions: See page 21 (inside back cover) for directions.

**ACTIVITIES CALENDAR**

**Jun 11 – IKC Quarterly meeting (see above)**

**Jun 3 – Weed Control Buddha Karst Preserve (see page 11)**

**Jun 4 – A Day Spend Inside Sullivan (see page 10)**

**Jun 11 – Weed Control Buddha Karst Preserve (see page 11)**

**Jun 15 – Lost River Tour (see page 6)**

**July 18-22 – NSS Convention, Greenwood Springs, CO**

**Aug 12-14 – Cave Capers, Camp Rivervale**

**Sep ?? – IKC Quarterly Board meeting (date & location to be determined)**

For more information on the Indiana Karst Conservancy, visit our website at [ikc.caves.org](http://ikc.caves.org) or write to our PO box. Membership to the IKC is open to anyone or any organization interested in supporting cave and karst conservation. Annual dues are \$15. Please see inside the back cover for a membership application form or to make a much-appreciated donation. Donations can also be made by credit card using the donation button located on our website's home page.

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...

Rather than a ramble, this is going to be more of a reminiscence about a person who was a colleague, mentor, and dear friend, not necessarily in that order: Dr Thomas C Barr, Jr. There have been a number of obituaries about Tom already and one for the *NSS News* is currently being written. So there are lots of opportunities to read about his many lifetime accomplishments that I won't repeat here. Suffice it to say, he was president of the NSS back in the 1960's, author of the book *Caves of Tennessee*, and a professor of biology for most of his career at the University of Kentucky. In Indiana, Tom was caving to gather data for his landmark paper on the cave beetles of the Mitchell Plain before I started the first grade (the paper was published in 1960). Since then he has been putting together a follow-up article with more new species of cave beetles from Indiana caves, but at this point the prospects of seeing that one in print are not good.

Tom is one of those people whom I knew so long that I can't remember when I met him. However, I do remember a specific day back in 1981 when I met his wife. It was a warm summer day in the midst of the International Congress of Speleology that was being held at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green. Tom was leading a biology field trip into White's Cave in Mammoth Cave National Park and he had asked his former doctoral student John Holsinger and myself (a doctoral student at the University of Louisville at the time), to help lead the trip. There were a lot of people in attendance and we divided into groups of about 10 to go into the cave. I was in the cave pointing out various bugs and worms and noticed I was getting some blank looks using terms like "troglobite". There were apparently a number of non-biologists in the group, so I paused and explained the "ecological classification of cavernicoles"... i.e., the differences between troglonexes, troglaphiles, and trogllobites.

After we left the cave some nice lady came up and thanked me for leading the trip and remarked "He's tried to explain that to me, but I never understood it until you explained it. Thank you!"

"He?" I queried.

"Oh... Tom. I'm Judy Barr".

I was astonished. Tom Barr had basically re-coined the concept of trogllobites in one of his landmark treatises on the evolution of cave faunas. I thought it was incredibly funny to be explaining

it to his wife. And so began a long friendship not only with Tom, but Judy as well.

Tom was one of those people who would do almost anything to encourage and help a student. I exchanged so much mail with him (remember mail, with stamps?), that he's the only person in my file cabinet who got multiple file folders just to hold all the correspondence. I picked Tom's brain constantly and I would get back multiple page letters with long explanations of anything and everything.

When I was a graduate student at the University of Louisville I was able to get Tom to come up from the University of Kentucky where he taught to give a seminar on cave biology for the Biology Department. After that we of course went caving, looking for more specimens of a new species of beetle that I had found in nearby caves in Clark County, Indiana. We crawled along the stream and collected beetles as we found them, eventually deciding that we had enough. Tom stopped to light a cigar, and I watched with amusement as the legend of American cave biology blew smoke rings around a bat hanging from the ceiling.

In the 1990s Tom's back started giving him enough problems that it was difficult for him to go caving. Ironically, this became a great opportunity for me to spend lots of time with him wandering the countryside. He was working on a project that entailed the potential listing of a dozen or so very rare cave beetles as endangered species. A status check of the beetles had to be conducted to see if they could still be found, and I did a lot of the field work. Tom took me to a number of caves to look for beetles... I'd duck inside and sample for a while, and then we'd head for the next spot. At one cave Tom drove out into a pasture and parked right in front of a low crawlway-sized cave entrance.

While I was grabbing my helmet and light he asked me "Would you like some flea powder?" I didn't understand what that was about, but don't customarily use flea powder when I go in caves, so declined the offer. As soon as I crawled into the cave I understood what the flea powder was about. The low, wide passage was a coyote den. I'd never seen anything like it... it was like a scene from a "Predator" movie, with entire animal vertebral columns and skulls with red meat hanging off of them scattered around the floor. Among all the carnage I found many of the beetles we were



searching for. Needless to say I tried to make the visit as short as possible.

As I rode around the countryside with Tom during that project he talked about his search for caves for his 1961 book *Caves of Tennessee*. Back then there were no state cave survey computer databases. Tom told me that he searched topographic maps for any clue of the presence of a cave, like sinkholes or sinking streams. He spent many days knocking on doors asking if there were any caves in the area, and visiting with “old-timers” sitting around small town barber shops or out in front of the town general store. Getting the information

for that book was probably more of a grass roots effort than most would appreciate.

Usually in “Rambling” I chat more to the point about something concerning the IKC, but this is what’s on my mind currently, and the loss of my friend is weighing heavily upon my thoughts. I attended Tom’s funeral last week – he was buried in Simpson County, Kentucky at a family plot. I couldn’t help thinking as the red soil was being pushed back into his grave that it was a fitting place for Tom’s mortal remains to be... in the epikarst of one of his beloved cave areas.

**Jerry Lewis**

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## TOM C. BARR (NSS 892) REMEMBERED

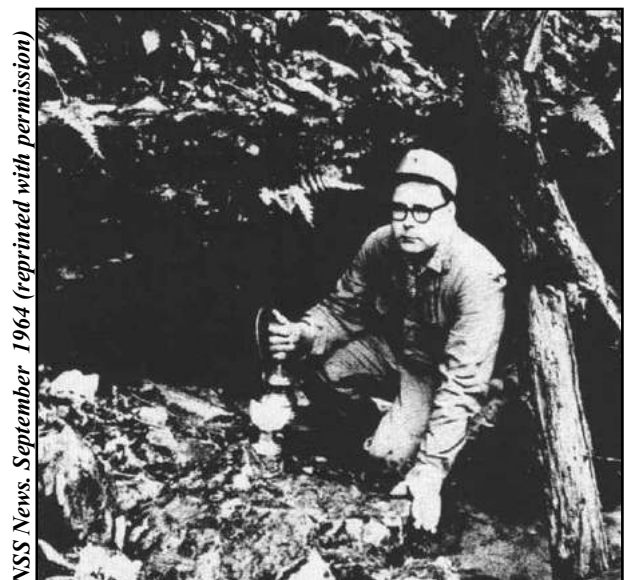
*by Bill Tozer*

The tour was moving slowly through the large Mammoth Cave Passage. We were in the middle of the line of tourists taking in the historic tour. Standing along the trail was the legendary Tom Barr with his lantern. We knew of him from his *Caves of Tennessee* book. Actually, I had met Tom before at Cumberland Caverns. Roy Davis, manager and part owner, of Cumberland Caverns was an avid caver. Roy let cavers camp on the grounds while caving in the area. Tom was part of the exploration team in Higgenbotham Cave in the 1950s, making the connection between Higgenbotham Cave and Henshaw Cave which covers the commercialized, re-naming it Cumberland Caverns.

That night we met with Tom in the campground and arranged a caving trip. We were just young cavers from Indiana and were not going to miss a Kentucky cave trip with a famous caver. Tom was a cave beetle scientist at the University of Kentucky. After walking down a stream passage for several hundred feet, he announced that this would be a good place to look for beetles. In the glow of his lantern, beetles were all over the mud bank. He demonstrated how to transfer them to his collecting bottle. A little spit on the finger and then touch their back. Presto, they were captured. Now trained in beetle field work, he recruited me to collect specimens in Indiana. It was an excuse to visit Indiana caves again. I would collect the beetles and send them to him for evaluation. Beetles were not so numerous in Indiana, but there were usually specimens present. Many different species were found due to isolated drainage patterns. For all my work, he suggested

a new species of beetle found in Wayne Cave as *Pseudanphthamos tozeri*. It made me feel good, even if it was a little red beetle in an isolated area. Tom wrote a column as NSS President expounding the mutual value of cavers and scientists, a theme valid especially today.

Tom was a caver and scientist involved in caves and caving throughout his life. He was a caver from the start, a pioneering cave biologist by vocation, and a National Speleological Society leader as a director (1953-1956, 1960-1963), executive vice president (1963-1965), and president (1965-1967). One’s legacy is measured by the influence on others. Tom throughout his life influenced cavers and scientists alike. While he has passed from this world, Tom Barr lives on through the memories of a great number of people.



NSS News, September 1964 (reprinted with permission)

## NEWS BRIEFS...

- ❑ The IKC annual elections on March 12th was uneventful with all the incumbents being re-elected to the Executive Board. Dr Jerry Lewis was re-elected President, James Adams was re-elected Secretary, and Keith Dunlap was re-elected Treasurer. Directors re-elected were Bruce Bowman, Bob Sergesketter, Bob Vandeventer, and Richard Vernier.
- ❑ The IKC would like to welcome and recognize the reformation of the Indiana Speleological Survey (ISS), a group of cavers dedicated to the exploration and survey of the sink hole plain area south of Corydon, especially in Binkley and Blowing Hole caves. The original ISS was active in the late 1970s, publishing several significant newsletters, and otherwise advancing the knowledge of caves in southern Indiana. The new entity, with many of the same members, hope to continue that dedication to exploration and survey, and perhaps expand into management and even acquisition of entrances in their narrow geographical area. For more information, contact Dave Everton ([deverton@indiana.edu](mailto:deverton@indiana.edu)).
- ❑ Bob Armstrong of the Lost River Conservation Association will be conducting a special Lost River guided auto/hiking tour on June 15th. The tour is part of Limestone Month, sponsored by the Bedford Chamber of Commerce. The tour will commence at the Grissom Memorial parking area at the entrance to Spring Mill State Park, departing at 8:30 EST and conclude at the Orangeville Rise around 4 PM. Reservations are not required. The tour will go, *especially if it rains*. There will be some moderate hiking so sturdy footwear and long pants/sleeves are strongly recommended. The tours are 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, you can leave a message for Bob at 317-926-4266. Bob is also planning one or two additional tours later in the year (dates to be announced).
- ❑ Most of the IKC's basic operating expenses and obligations (newsletter, insurance, property taxes, routine stewardship activities) are paid with membership dues. However, we are greatly dependent upon additional donations to supplement and support the many other projects the IKC initiates. Since June 2010, 40 individuals/families and 3 organizations have made general donations totally more than \$3,300. Donors include James Arbuckle, John Benton, Ted Bice, Don Bohling, Bruce Bowman, Larry Bundy, George Cesnik, Martin Church, Jeff Cody, John Demit, Andrew Dubois, Keith Dunlap, Jeff Farr, Jaime Fee, Rick Gikas, Barbara Hanka, Martin Heinlein, Tim Heppner, Tem Hornaday, Rob Jarboe, Glenn Kotnik, David Lasser, Jerry & Salisa Lewis, Jon Miller, William Morrow, Carl & Louise Nelson, Nick Noe, Ernie & Jacqueline Payne, Russ Pusilo, Kevin Rasmus, Kelle Reynolds, Tom & Linda Reynolds, Ralph Sawyer, Matt Selig, Bob Sergesketter, Gordon Smith, Susan Strickland, Aaron Valandra, Dick & Sue Vernier, Scott Worpell, Bob Zatarski, the Greater Cincinnati Grotto, the Northern Indiana Grotto, and the St Joseph Valley Grotto.
- ❑ And while all of our current preserve projects are fully funded, we want to be preparing for the next project and a number of members have made donations into our restricted Land Acquisition Fund. Since June 2010, over \$1,900 in donations have been received. Donors include Dave Anderson, Chris Carpenter, Keith Dunlap, Dave Everton, Scott Fee, Scott Hammon, Barbara Hanka, Tim Heppner, Rob Jarboe, Andrew Mehlhop, Nick Noe, Nate Pate, Ernie & Jacqueline Payne, Don Peters, Tom Rea, Kelle Reynolds, Gary Roberson, Russ Romme, Patty Ruback, Ty Spatta, Rich Whisler, Scott Worpell, and Bob Zatarski. Also the Central Indiana Grotto and the Evansville Metro Grotto.
- ❑ The IKC has gained five new member in the last quarter. Welcome Elza Marvin (505), Matthew Helmuth (506), David Whorrall (507), Chris Wadsworth (508), and Tom Ostler (509). The IKC membership currently stands at 201.

## GUY STOVER PIT CAVE CLEAN UP PROJECT - PART ONE

*by Benda Shultheis (Cleanup Project Coordinator)*

The newly re-formed ISS (Indiana Speleological Survey) has already taken on their first conservation project. I gladly accepted the job of coordinating the project, since I had experience in the recent Central Indiana Grotto cleanup project of the now re-named Houghton Hole (formerly Big Trash Can). We have already laid out some of the plans and determined what will be involved in getting the job done, and have taken two trips there and even started the process of bagging trash and making the pit entrance area safer. I think the amount of trash is much less than that of Houghton Hole, but the cleanup has different challenges. There is a lot of glass and metal that will have to be removed from the bottom of the pit, with quite a bit of trash at the surface. The time frame of the cave clean up will be over this summer, with monthly trips planned. I have not yet set specific dates, but will post them a few weeks in advance. Our hopes are to get help from all the Indiana caving organizations and make it a statewide project.

Landowner relations are going well, but the owner Mr Daniel C Boone does have certain rules, including that each person who visits the site has a waiver signed and notarized before entering the property. There are also only a certain number of

people and vehicles allowed there at a time. He's a very nice guy and will work with us on those rules, but we must respect those wishes and be mindful of ourselves while we are there. Safety is his biggest concern.

Following is a little excerpt from my first trip to the cave on March 12, which gives you a general ideal of what kind of cave it is:

*"We walked to the cave entrance, which was in a sinkhole that was filled with trash, but it was neat trash. Old bottles, oil cans, even an old display rack for watches. Earlier in the winter, Dave Everton and his team had dug out some of the trash and re-opened the pit. Rand Heazlitt got on rope first and then Tim McLain, followed by me (Brenda), Brad Barcom, Kyle Hoyt, and then John (my husband)."*

*"The 27-foot pit was fairly easy; you just had to be careful of the trash and loose rock on the way down. DON'T LOOK UP! There is a large old farmer's kitchen sink that is plugging part of the pit entrance, which was kind of unnerving. At the bottom there is a pile of old-timey trash and lots and lots of bones. Not real bad, and a lot less than at the Houghton Hole cleanup. I think it would only take a few weekends to get it all cleaned up with a lot of help."*

I think this will be a pretty easy cleanup and with many hands, we can make short work of it. I will soon be asking for donations from the caving community. As soon as I get the details on the cost worked out, I will be sending out more information. The caving club of Hoosier Cavers has already donated \$25 to get us started, with the amount increasing in the next few weeks as soon as I get the word out more.

I'm looking forward to working with each and every one of you on this, and thank you in advance for the help. For more information, feel free to email ([flowersbybrenda@sbcglobal.net](mailto:flowersbybrenda@sbcglobal.net)) or call me (317-354-6661).



Rand Heazlitt at the bottom of the trash-filled 27-foot entrance pit in Guy Stover Pit Cave. Also see an entrance photo on page 17, as well as the cover photo, showing some of the "prettier" parts of the cave.

## SODALIS NATURE PARK: THE GRAND OPENING

by Bruce Bowman

Sodalis Nature Park is the newest park located [barely] in Hendricks County, Indiana. You'll find it about two miles northeast of Mooresville. And yes, it is named after the Indiana bat, *Myotis sodalis*. The grand opening of this park occurred on Friday, May 13. I took the opportunity to attend the event and to assess the park for its suitability as Indiana bat habitat.

But first, some background: The park is primarily a mitigation effort to compensate for the much-expanded Indianapolis airport. "As chance would have it," associated construction in the Ameriplex/Six Points Road area (subsequently renamed Ronald Reagan Parkway) impacted Indiana bat habitat. As part of a larger Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) related to the airport, and some



The entrance sign to Sodalis Nature Park

pressure from environmental groups, the Indiana Airport Authority (IAA) bought this 210-acre parcel and managed it in conjunction with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, but the land remained closed to the public. Over the past five years, the Hendricks County Parks department has collaborated and negotiated with IAA and USFWS to bring the park to fruition.

As a nearby resident I was certainly interested in the hiking/recreational opportunities. But I also wanted to get an idea of how much progress was being made in restoring bat habitat. Yes, protecting existing habitat is nice; but too often, actually *replacing* the habitat that was destroyed doesn't get enough attention. We're seeing the same thing with the conservation easements currently being offered as "mitigation" for the new I-69 corridor. So I guess I arrived at the event with what some people might call "a bad attitude."

It didn't help that I was unable to engage the

hosts in any meaningful management conversations. I didn't really expect it, most of them being distracted with large groups of school children and the like. The one lady who did talk to me at length – a volunteer for the parks department – told me that the property was originally bought for *noise abatement*, not for the bats (it *is* on the flight path, but is a good five miles from the runway). I was also told that the property is still owned by the IAA and the parks department is only managing it. I soon realized that they were all at this event to brag up their collaboration and no one was going to tell me anything that might disparage one of their partners.

And so the nice lady encouraged me to visit the kiosk for a copy of their informational flyer. It said the park was named after the Indiana bat and mentioned that it was endangered, but that's about all. The brochure contained just as much information about birds as bats. So I hit the trails to assess the situation myself, resolving to later ask USFWS to provide me with a copy of the HCP.

The longest trail, "Oak Trace," went through the heart of the woodlands restoration area and this seemed like the best place to start. If you wish, visit the park's web site (<http://www.hendrickscountyparks.org/aboutSodalis.html>) for a downloadable map and follow along.

The first thing I noticed is that the "trail" varied between 8-12 feet wide, and was more akin to a logging road or tractor path than a trail. Virtually all the trails in the park are extra-extra-wide. I'm sure that helps with maintenance activities but it didn't make for a satisfying hiking experience. The second thing I noticed is that much of the understory is infested with bush honeysuckle,



Typical trail in Sodalis Nature Park





to the near-exclusion of all other plant life. And as usual, watch out for poison ivy along the edges of any wooded area.

Despite having 3.5 miles of trails, there were no other hikers in evidence. It seemed that everyone was drawn to the picnic area or was fishing around the 5.5-acre pond. Then about a mile into my walk, I came upon a sign that said “trail closed, under repair.” I ran into several more signs like this. The trails were not actually undergoing repairs; they simply were not done yet. Only “Oak Trace” and “Beaver Ridge” trails were substantially open, for a total of about 1.5 miles. Despite all the visitors, I only crossed paths with one other hiker the whole afternoon – a man walking his dogs.

The park naturalist that I mentioned earlier boasted that over 100 species of animals resided here. I saw some raccoon and deer tracks, saw a blue heron near the spillway, a few field birds, and heard bullfrogs drumming in the vicinity of the pond. Excluding insects, that was the extent of my wildlife encounters.

As for reforestation, the brochure states that thousands of trees have been planted. I have no argument with that. I saw lots of walnut, maple, elm, oak and sycamore saplings. I saw a few shagbark and pignut hickories in the restoration area, but not much. Hickories, along with white oak, would be best to encourage summer maternity colonies of Indiana bats. There was also no evidence that spot-treatment of herbicides were being applied. It seemed that the trees were planted and the planters hoped for the best. To be fair, hickories are not particularly drought-tolerant; and there were plenty of small dead trees, probably due to the lack of rain last fall.

Examining the map once again, one particular trail name caught my eye: “Bat Haven.” I hiked to



“Bat Haven” trail head

the trail head only to encounter another “Trail Under Repair” sign. The property beyond appeared to be second-growth forest with an actual canopy. So I ignored the sign and did some exploring.

This trail was narrower, about a half-mile long, and much more gratifying; both from a hiking and a habitat perspective. There’s a lot of hickory in this area. I estimated that between a third



Shagbark hickory

and half the trees were mature shagbark hickories that would be very suitable for bat roosts. A small stream also flowed through the area – the feeder stream for the pond. This provides water and there was no shortage of mosquitoes, either. With both sustenance and shelter I’m sure a bat-mom and pup would be very happy spending a summer anywhere along this path.

It was also a fairly nice hike. The ground foliage here consisted of wild onion, may-apples, some nettle, wood poppy, some ferns – normal stuff you’d find on a deciduous forest floor. There were intermittent streams to cross. Nowhere was it very steep, but water bars and some small bridges will probably need to be installed at a later date. It was certainly no Turkey Run but was nice for Hendricks County. Let’s hope they don’t widen this path to match the others in the park.

I was a little disconcerted to find three large, man-made bat roosts in this area. I’m not an expert on this, but the bat boxes that I’ve bought from Bat Conservation International always came



with instructions to erect them in full sun and high. These were neither solar heated nor were they more than seven feet off the ground. They were also top-heavy and were supported only by a pair of 4x4 posts. One of them had blown down and another required a cross-brace retrofit to keep it erect. I examined the underside of the one in



Bat roost

the photo and there was no evidence that anything other than wasps had taken up residence here.

This section was the highlight of the trip, but the walk back to the parking area alongside the pond was also rather pleasant. The pond has a floating pier for fishing, and I witnessed someone

reeling in a nice bass. The parks department has done a lot of work to restore the dam and spillway, thereby raising the water level. There is an adjacent birdwatching area with feeders for the birds and a windowed shelter-house for observers. The picnic area on the other side of the pond has a short, paved trail through it; several of the picnic tables are also on concrete pads and are wheelchair-accessible.

All told, this park has a lot of potential that is not yet being realized. More work needs to be done. My assessment of the management remediation for this property would be as follows:

- Plant more shagbark hickory and white oak in the forest restoration areas
- Complete the unfinished trails...and keep them *narrow*
- Elaborate on the interpretive (i.e.: pro-bat) possibilities of the park
- Eradicate the bush honeysuckle, and
- Move the bat roosts to a sunnier, higher location.

Perhaps the IKC can contribute to one or more of these goals in a future workday.

## A DAY SPENT INSIDE SULLIVAN CAVE - JUNE 4th

*by Anthony Owens*

My wife Carrie and I are currently working with other IKC members to host three or four scheduled trips a year into Sullivan for interested visitors typically not associated with the caving community. Destinations within the cave will likely rotate, but will always be appropriate for novices. This would be a great opportunity for us to responsibly expand access to the cave and cater to smaller groups or individuals who have not been able to visit the cave because of minimum group requirements or lack of trip leaders. We also encourage IKC members to participate and invite people who would be interested in visiting a “wild” cave.

Prior to the trip, we plan on having a basic/introductory “class” on caving responsibly, the proper way to decon your gear before and after a trip, and a little information about WNS.

If you would like to participate, assist in leading one of these trips, teach a class, or if you have suggestions, please e-mail me ([SullivanCave@gmail.com](mailto:SullivanCave@gmail.com)). The first trip will be Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup> 2011. We plan to have the instructional part of the trip at the Community Center in Springville, then car pool to the cave.

## BUDDHA KARST NATURE PRESERVE RESTORATION

*by Keith Dunlap*

I suspect some of our members and many of our non-members often wonder why the IKC seems to spend a lot of money and effort on the above-ground resources at our preserves. Actually they are several good explanations: First, in most situations, we are trying to restore the surface to what it was in pre-settlement times to better protect the cave environment underneath, returning the ecosystem to what it has been for millennia, rather than the “recent” landscape alterations of the past two centuries. Second, converting/restoring the properties so that they qualify for the Classified Forest and Wildlands Program is a property tax strategy that is very beneficial for the IKC in the long run. By spending some up front capital and effort, we can avoid paying thousands of dollars per year in property taxes, greatly reducing our future obligations and improving our sustainability as we acquire properties. Third, demonstrating that we can be good stewards to our properties beyond just the caves can be leveraged into attracting a broader range of funding and conservation partners, such as The Nature Conservancy and the Indiana Heritage Trust, as we attempt to do larger projects that would otherwise be significantly beyond our means. Fourth, on a property like the Buddha Karst Nature Preserve, we are obligated under the DNR’s Master Plan to control invasives which would quickly get out of hand if we just practiced “benign neglect”. The faster we can get the property re-forested, the sooner we can reduce future management headaches related to olive autumn, multiflora rose, and other plants that thrive in open landscapes.

And by being resourceful, for the most part, the IKC funds required to perform restoration work has been minimal since there are many opportunities to pursue assistance, grants, and donations. For the tree plantings at Buddha, for several years we applied for and received support from the Dogwood City Grotto that covered a significant portion of the tree purchases (which were acquired from the DNR nursery at a substantial savings compared to commercial tree nurseries). Last year we applied for and received a significant grant from the US Fish & Wildlife Service that funded 95% of the costs to plant and weed treat the remaining 12 acres at the Buddha preserve. This year, because we enrolled the property in the Classified Forest Program, we

also qualified for an EQIP grant that will cover weed control for 2011 and 2012 around the trees we planted in 2009 and 2010. While the grant will not completely cover the cost to treat the prescribed 15 acres using a professional contractor, we will break even if we contract about ten acres and perform the remaining weed control using IKC volunteers.

Of Course we wouldn’t be doing a lot of this restoration work if we didn’t have dedicated members who volunteered to do it. Generally the activities are not directly “fun”, especially in the heat of summer, but one can get a lot of self-satisfaction in the long term, seeing the six-inch seedling you planted turn into a 30-foot tree in just a decade... and knowing future generations will eventually enjoy a true “forest” where a cow pasture once existed.

So if you are interested in helping with weed “treatment” at the Buddha Karst preserve this summer (or the Sullivan preserve after that), or doing some of the other stewardship activities at any of our five preserves, contact me at 317-882-5420 or [keith.dunlap@juno.com](mailto:keith.dunlap@juno.com). Tentative dates at Buddha include June 3rd and June 11th.



Everett Pulliam “treating” weeds around an oak tree

## INDIANA CAVE SYMPOSIUM 2011 OVERVIEW

*by Keith Dunlap*

The Lawrence County Fairgrounds' Community Building was selected for the 19th annual event, which was held this year on April 30. Many cavers were out and about earlier that day; some of them working at the nearby Sullivan Cave Preserve, while others were off caving or just enjoying the wonderful spring weather. The Symposium was again co-hosted by the Indiana Karst Conservancy and Indiana Cave Survey, with each organization sharing the facilities rental and food costs, which included burgers, brats, pork country ribs, buns, condiments and soft drinks. Approximately 70 attendees helped out by bringing side dishes, desserts, chips, and the like to complete the cookout for the first part of the event.

This year the technology end of the symposium was handed by Bob Vandeventer providing a laptop and video projector. The show began right on time at 7:30. The following summarizes the presentations.

- **IKC 25-year Anniversary:** Jerry Lewis gave a retrospective slide show of the IKC from 1986 to present. While the early years were focused on education and managing caves owned by others, the second half of the IKC's existence has concentrated on cave acquisition and stewardship of the acquired properties. A common theme seemed to be that each property came with a trailer or other structure needing to be demolished and/or open fields needing to be reforested.
- **Permit Caving in a WNS World:** Todd Webb gave a presentation on his experience of being able to continue ridgewalking and cave exploring/surveying on public land despite blanket cave closures due to White-nose Syndrome. With very little planning and paperwork, and a commitment to follow appropriate WNS decontamination procedures, obtaining a research permit from the Hoosier National Forest was fairly easy. The remainder of his presentation highlighted the caves his group discovered and mapped in the Patoka Lake area.
- **Get Down – Connecting with our Underground Resources:** Kriste Lindberg and Bob Vandeventer explained some of their recent activities using art and other media to encourage the general public to connect to caves and the resources found within. This initiative is not only being done at a local level, but at a regional and national level through the NSS.
- **Happy Birthday, ICS:** Coincidentally, the Indiana Cave Survey is also celebrating its 25th year of existence. Randy Jackson detailed much of the early history of the ICS and more importantly why it was formed to be the custodian of cave location "database" which preceded the ICS by many years with many stewards. Even after the ICS was formed, the "database" has existed in many forms, with the current evolution being a slick web-based program. Increased quality, timely data entry, and expanding data types and research tools are the current goals of the ICS.
- **Indiana Bat Census 2011:** Keith Dunlap gave his biennial report on the results of the Indiana bat census. However, this year because of the concerns over White-nose Syndrome, the census was scaled back to visit only the larger hibernacula and the procedures are significantly different. As a result, most of the population numbers are still in process and unavailable. Furthermore, WNS was confirmed and observed at five caves of the nine caves visited.
- **Cave Connect newsletter:** Dave Haun gave a brief presentation on a newsletter the Central Indiana Grotto sponsored and distributed to private cave owners. The purpose was to inform and educate the owners about White-nose Syndrome, and more importantly to correct some of the biased information released by various agencies, specifically related to their actions of closing caves to protect the bats. The newsletter also highlighted some recent cave cleanups and other activities that private cave owners might be interested in learning about.
- **Gas Monitoring in Caves:** Anmar Mirza gave an update to the project he is involved with. He and others are collecting oxygen, carbon dioxide, and other gas concentrations to determine what is "normal" for cave environments. This includes monthly trips into Buckner, and quarterly trips into other caves such as Sullivan to determine seasonal varia-

*Continued on page 21 ►►*

## ANNUAL CAVE PATRON / PROPERTY MANAGER REPORTS

Each year at the Annual Business Meeting, the Cave Patrons and Property Managers are asked to give a verbal summary and submit a written report describing the prior year’s activities and incidents, and to make any future recommendations needing implementing. The following is a compilation of the reports for calendar year 2010:

### Buddha Cave Patron Report (Jeff Cody)

This past year there were twelve trips into Buddha Cave. All were arranged through me. It is possible some of these trips have not gone after access was arranged. A total of 62 people filled out waivers for these trips. No accidents or anything out of the ordinary were reported to me other than a minor incident with someone’s climbing system.

We had an increase of five more trips than the previous year. The total amount of waivers filled out was only six more than last year. Late in 2010 the IKC board voted to allow grotto liaisons to arrange trips, although all trips were arranged by me.

### Buddha Property Report (George Cesnik)

We had a number of on-property activities/workdays last year:

- Late May – A contractor mechanically planted 7200 trees on 12 acres to “plant out” the remaining open areas on the Preserve.
- June 5 – Jerry Lewis, Keith Dunlap, Everett Pulliam, and George Cesnik did weed control spraying around the older trees. Keith mowed the parking area. Keith and George mowed the trail.
- Late June – The contractor did weed control around the trees he planted in May.
- July 13 – Meeting with Jerry Lewis, Keith Dunlap, George Cesnik (IKC), Jason Larson and Janet Eger (DNR). Discussed enrolling property into Classified Forest program and walked property trail. Keith mowed the parking lot and Trail and Keith and George did some pruning on some of the older trees.
- August 26 – Dave Everton and Keith Dunlap sprayed the two large patches of Johnson grass with RoundUp and a few lone plants they found. Also sprayed the one Autumn Olive plant spotted in July. They finished limbing the larger trees in the NW corner of the property.

- October 29 – Keith Dunlap and George Cesnik sprayed about 6 backpack tankfuls of roundup on vine honeysuckle.

George visited the campsite owned by Rick Nichols about one half mile from the Buddha-Tunnelton Road intersection. Rick has invited IKC member to camp on the property with prior notice.

### Sullivan Cave Patron Report (Anthony Owens)

This report is on Sullivan Cave’s activity and visitation for 2010. Sullivan Cave is still the most visited cave the IKC owns. This was another great year for us with a few minor things to report. First of all, Anthony Owens was appointed the new Cave Patron. We had a caver who broke a rib while visiting the cave. Also, the mechanical arm that used to lock the gate in the open position has been removed for repair.

I would like to thank the Grotto Liaisons for making the liaison program such a success this year. The liaison program is a huge help to me in managing the visitation to the cave. I still really enjoy assisting people in scheduling trips or just talking about trips, but the liaisons take care of a lot of it.

Several years ago the primary way to schedule a trip into Sullivan was by phone. As technology advanced, those numbers shifted to e-mail, and I will be curious to see if it does not start to lean toward text requests.

E-mail contacts:	77
Phone contacts:	23
Text messages:	10
Number of trips:	38
Number of people:	304

#### Liaisons:

BIG	# of trips	27	# of people	172
SJVG	# of trips	2	# of people	58
CIG	# of trips	5	# of people	45
NNG	# of trips	6	# of people	36
EMG	# of trips	0	# of people	0
NIG	# of trips	1	# of people	13

Total	# of trips	79	# of people	637
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### Sullivan Property Report (Keith Dunlap)

This was the IKC’s 12th full year of ownership. We are basically in “maintenance mode”. The trees in the small field, planted in 2000, have grown impressively. Those in the larger ridge-top



field planted in 2001 have a more mix pattern with some species doing very well and others just holding their own. In June, I sprayed a couple of tanks of RoundUp in the smaller field to control some ground vines that were getting aggressive. Some minor pruning was also done at that time. The weed control will probably need to be repeated in 2011. In December, I started pruning trees in the ridge-top field. Much more pruning will be needed as the trees mature.

The "camping" area was mowed several times, as was the area by the driveway out by the road. The dry weather was hard on the grass. The lane and parking areas are in good shape and no maintenance is anticipated for 2011.

Several members took advantage of the camping area and firewood over the past year, but overall use seemed down compared to a few years back. I'm discouraging campers from bringing their own firewood to reduce Emerald Ash Borer transportation.

The porta-potty is still functioning. It was pumped once last year and will likely be done again this year. Locks are being serviced by Anthony Owens, as needed.

There were no major problems or concerns encountered during 2010. I plan to replace the yellow plastic chains along the parking area as several sections have broken and spliced back together.

There may be additional parking available on the adjacent property and hopefully the junky trailer on that property near the cave's entrance will be removed this year.

#### **Wayne Cave Patron Report (Dave Everton)**

The records show that 92 cavers visited Wayne Cave during calendar year 2010 in a total of 21 trips, representing four grottos through the liaison program, as well as other groups of cavers. A total of 83 waiver release forms were collected, although regrettably that doesn't represent everyone that should have returned one. The breakout follows:

Central Indiana Grotto: 1 trip, 8 cavers  
 Near Normal Grotto: 1 trip, 5 cavers  
 Northern Indiana Grotto: 2 trips, 13 cavers  
 St Joseph Valley Grotto: 1 trip, 6 cavers  
 Patron-arranged: 16 trips, 60 cavers

This was the first year during which I have not visited the cave since becoming Patron in 2005. However, I did make a late-night drive to the parking area on December 11 after nobody was able to reach CIG trip leader Dave Haun to confirm his

group had exited the cave. I was relieved to find nobody around on that snowy and yucky night. It was later found out they'd exited in the early evening, although Dave was fighting illness and took a little nap in the parking area prior to heading home.

No problems were passed along to me this year; amazingly enough, not even with the lock, which was not changed during the year.

Wayne Cave continues to be a source of enjoyment and pleasure for the average visitor, although many of them curse or otherwise loathe the moderately-difficult, but infamous crawlway. A huge thanks goes to the IKC for many years of past protection and restoration, as well as regular continued protection and property improvements. I also personally thank the organization for keeping the cave open while other agencies and organizations have taken a more knee-jerk, blanket cave closure reaction to White Nose Syndrome.

#### **Wayne Property Report (Robert Sollman)**

This will mark the IKC's eighth year of ownership of Wayne Cave. For the 2010-2011 season several trips to Wayne included overnights in the clearing on the hilltop.

- The two Tulip trees in the hilltop clearing are growing well and seem to have made it through the drought. The hilltop at Wayne has otherwise not changed.
- The gate was readjusted to help keep the bottom from dragging during use. The combination lock is still functioning and has been oiled several times.
- Trash was removed from the clearing and along driveway.
- The vines in the camping areas around the clearing have been cleared for this spring.
- The trail to the cave has been cleared of debris as of February.

There were no major problems or concerns encountered during 2010-2011 season.

#### **Robinson Ladder Property (John Benton)**

2010 RLC Property activity:

- There were no requests to visit Robinson Ladder Cave in 2010; the cave remained closed by the IKC Executive Board due to the nearby presence of WNS (White-nose Syndrome) and



the Indiana bat hibernacula in the cave; there were no visible signs of WNS noted, around or in the cave entrance during 2010. There were also no requests to camp at the property.

- April 16, 2010 – The IKC completes transaction of two adjacent tracts of land to the original RLC Preserve. The two tracts, deeded from The Nature Conservancy are 11.29 acres and 21.794 acres, in Whiskey Run Twp, Crawford County, all wooded and some bordering on Blue River. These new tracts, along with original 40.40 acres will sought to be enrolled as Classified Forest by Keith Dunlap with District Forester, Mike Coggeshall. Total enrolled acres would be 71.18 acres with small acreage subtracted for barn and parking. The two tracts are north and east of the original 40 acres.
- April 17, 2010 – In conjunction with Indiana Cave Symposium held later that evening in Milltown, a work day was held at RLC property. In attendance were Tom Sollman, Jamie Winner, Everett Pulliam, Bambi Dunlap, Keith Dunlap, and Jerry and Salisa Lewis. In just a little over 4 hours, a lot was accomplished:

The remaining missing hinge bolts on barn doors were installed; this completes a project that was started in 2009.

The steel lane gate (at entry to property) was re-hung with new hardware so gate would not drag as much when opening/closing, raising the gate 6 inches higher than it was.

Several large limbs were removed from RLC entrance and a large stump cut up and removed in pieces.

Trash and debris were removed from the remaining area on TNC deeded property that contained an old RV camper unit. Loose trash was bagged and removed. The old interior camper wall panels were broken apart and non-wooden parts were bagged while wood parts were scattered to rot. The stack of old lumber (50% rotted) was spread out to rot faster. An old tarp was bagged, RV range, freon tank, and water tank were all hauled off. The four tires and aluminum siding were left road-side where Carla Striegel-Winner will pick up and dispose of at recycling center in Crawford County.

Autumn olive bushes on edge of lower clearing were cut with loping shears and treated

with Round-Up to kill. Trying to eradicate this plant is one item of being a Classified Forest.

The camping clearing, parking areas, and drive lanes were mowed.

- July 2010 – Jamie Winner treated the ailanthus (aka Tree of Heaven) along the upper field edge, spraying with PathfinderII. Jamie noted results of previous spraying looked good but noticed some small sprouts coming up, and advised PathfinderII for larger plants/trees that have larger surface areas, but that Round-Up still works best for small stuff, that are time consuming trying to treat each little stem.
- Summer 2010 – Jamie and Carla again station their Yardman riding mower in the barn, and they along with John Benton, Keith Dunlap and others mow the lane and parking areas from time to time. Jamie also hauls his tractor and rotary mower to the property a couple of times to mow an access lane around the top and lower field, to facilitate spraying.
- August 4, 2010 – Keith Dunlap receives notice that the entire IKC Preserve is now enrolled in the Classified Forest & Wildlands Program. Taxes should be reduced starting next year (payable in 2012). Likely we will get a tax bill in 2011 for the TNC properties; the original IKC property (40 acres) is covered under a non-profit exemption.
- October 1, 2010 – Keith Dunlap visits RLC Preserve and installs 5 DNR signs per our Classified Forest requirements. Noting very dry conditions, he spotted a few clumps of Johnson Grass for future treatment, oiled the drive gate lock and noted a good supply of grapevines on former TNC tracts for future treatment.
- Fall 2010 – With Jamie Winner coordinating, the scheduled fall burn was canceled due to the ongoing drought and burn ban imposed by Crawford County. Jamie had a licensed burn applicator lined up, but conditions would not permit the burn. We will try again for fall 2011.

#### FUTURE WORK NEEDED?

- Continue eradication Tree of Heaven and autumn olive plants around field borders.
- Minimize the number of grapevines, mostly on former TNC tracts.

- Burn fields in fall 2011.
- Look for and locate 2 metal pins at NW corner boundary of new Campbell tract.

#### **Robinson Ladder Cave (John Benton)**

As far as I know, there were no cave trips in 2010. Zero people entered the RLC.

#### **Coon & Grotto Patron Report (Keith Dunlap)**

Due to White-nose Syndrome, the IKC Board elected to again keep both caves closed during the normal May-August non-hibernation periods. Thus there are not authorized recreational trips to report.

For both caves, there were two scientific trips. The first trip was to service the SpeLoggers and temperature data loggers in early May. The second trip was to service the "alarm system" and install the older data loggers in September. In both situations, only I entered the cave, while Scott Johnson stayed on the surface. This was to reduce potential WNS contamination. Proper decon procedures were followed per USFWS guidelines.

On July 16, the owners' representative requested to terminate their lease with the IKC. This was to facilitate them negotiating with the State to place a conservation easement on the property. The State was concerned our lease might subvert their easement so they requested the lease be terminated until after the easement was executed. A motion was made to the IKC Board to waive the 30-day termination period and was passed on July 21.

Scott Johnson, working with the owners installed an Anabat recorder at the entrance to Grotto Cave in October and services the until approximately once a month.

There were no unauthorized visits recorded in either cave by the monitoring speloggers during the traditional hibernacula closure period (9/2009 to 4/2010). Since the alarm systems were installed in 1996, there has only been one violation combined.

The temperature-monitoring project continued in both caves (started the 17th annual deployment on 9/2010). We also deployed a newer-generation data logger recording temperature and humidity at a sample rate of once per hour.

It is hoped the owners and the State can come to an agreement on the easement and that the IKC will enter into a new lease agreement.

#### **Suicide Patron Report (Ronnie Burns)**

Please accept this 2010 annual report for the activities of Suicide Cave in Washington County.

Visitation was light with only three trips (a total of 10 cavers) for the year. This was partially due to the fact that our contract with the landowner expired last year and no visits were allowed during that time. After a new contract was negotiated, the cave was reopened. Our new contract is a much better one than the old one and as a patron I am very happy with it.

On January 9, 2011, the owner of the cave, Charlie Biel, and his son, Will, visited with my wife and me at my house. Mr Biel expressed his gratitude with the IKC for its management of the cave. He said that he has no plans to sell the property and for as long as he owns it he will be happy with the IKC continuing the management of the cave. He also said that as he gets too old to manage his business he will pass everything along to Will, who also foresees not selling the Suicide property. In essence, it looks like the IKC will be able to manage Suicide Cave for a very long time.

The gate itself has fared well for all the years it has been in service. I replace the lock occasionally as needed and use a wire brush on the gate to remove dirt and debris. The area in front of the gate has accumulated quite a bit of rubble that is now built up to the bottom of the gate opening. I would be interested in sponsoring a work day to clean out the rubble around the gate. I can furnish shovels, buckets, and other tools. I would think that it would take no more than two or three hours to dig everything out.

I have in my file signed waivers for all visitors. For the time that trips were permitted, there were no known injuries, lost cavers, or reportable mishaps.

#### **Orangeville Rise Report (Steve Lockwood)**

The property continues to attract trash due to the large road frontage and seasonal flooding but is remaining relatively clean between trash pickups. Trash was collected from the property in September 2010, and March 2011. Every cleaning of the property yielded a garbage bag full of trash or more. The trash collected included glass bottles, plastic bottles, plastic cups, plastic bags, and etc.

The fence built in 2003 on the western side of the property has collected some flood debris but remains straight and structurally sound. The high strength wire in the fence is slowly losing its tightness and will eventually need to be stretched again. The concrete property markers installed in 2004 are still intact on the east and west sides of the property. The erosion that was occurring on





the west bank of the Orangeville Rise streambed at the intersection of the Lost River streambed has subsided because the fallen trees blocking the water flow have been washed away and thus the bank erosion has ceased moving closer to the fence posts along the west property line.

Activities planned for 2011 include trash pickups, and cleaning more trash from a small ravine located on the west side of the property which contains old bicycles, fencing, boards, posts, and other items.

#### **Shiloh Patron Report (James Adams)**

The Indiana Karst Conservancy has continued, with the permission of the landowner, to permit up to six trips into Shiloh Cave for the general caving community per year. Each trip is limited to 10 participants with three vehicles on the property. During 2010, the maximum of six trips were taken into the cave, totaling 47 cavers. One group was declined visitation because the quota was exceeded.

As is customary each year, a letter will be sent to the landowner with this brief summary and thanking them, on behalf of all visitors, for continuing to make Shiloh Cave accessible to the caving community.

#### **Shaft Patron Report (Jeff Cody)**

2010 saw only 3 trips into Shaft arranged through myself or liaisons. This is three less trips than the previous year. As most of us know there is an obvious reason for this decline. Earlier in the year the IKC came to a mutual agreement to temporarily end the lease due to complications with a conservation easement with the landowner. At this time we expect this to be a temporary situation as the landowner has been happy with IKC manage-

ment of the cave.

I received no reports from trip leaders of any accidents or incidents. One trip was arranged by me and two were arranged with Dave Everton. A total of twelve people filled out waivers for these three trips. In February I took a group of three back to the big room and noticed nothing unusual.

#### **Lost River Cave Patron Report (Dave Tibbets)**

The year 2010 saw the return to the Lost River survey project. Access to the Blanton property entrances under the direction of the Indiana Karst Conservancy was granted by The Nature Conservancy, while a research permit was granted by the Hoosier National Forest for the Wesley Chapel Gulf entrance.

Nine survey trips were made into the system between August 14 and the year's end. Four surveyors were involved in these trips. Bolt cutters for emergency exit were purchased by the IKC and one has been placed inside the Pea Hole entrance near the register. No trips have been made into the Lost River entrance, so the bolt cutter has not yet been placed there.

Minimal footage was added to the cave length. The trips netted a gain of only 742.5 feet, bringing the total surveyed length of the cave to 21.25 miles.

Several leads were eliminated and a few new (but unpromising) leads were discovered. The most significant action was the connection of the T-cubed passage with Trae's Terrible Tunnel and Trae's Terrible Tunnel with Wesley Chapel Gulf Cave. These connections had been waiting for just the right combination of low water and stupid surveyors.

Finding willing surveyors and regenerating enthusiasm for the project has been a challenge and will likely continue to be, at least in the short term.

Brenda Shultheis descending Guy Stover Pit Cave in Harrison County



**INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY TREASURY REPORT**

**Income/Expense Statement  
From January 1, 2011 to March 31, 2011**

## INCOME:

Dues Apportionment and Residuals	736.75	
Donations - General	2205.00	
Donations - Land Acquisition Fund	869.00	
SpeLoggers	960.00	
Interest	<u>480.44</u>	
		\$5,251.19

## EXPENSES:

IKC Update (printing, production, mailing)	197.87	
Education / Outreach	215.82	
Stewardship	0.00	
SpeLoggers	17.65	
Property taxes	100.00	
Business (renewal/ballot letters, misc postage, etc)	114.77	
Transfers to/from restricted funds/other adjustments	<u>1180.30</u>	
		(\$1,826.41)

NET OPERATING EXCESS (DEFICIT) THIS PERIOD:

\$3,424.78

**Balance Sheet  
March 31, 2011**

## ASSETS:

Cash in Checking / Saving Accounts / CDs	120401.34	
Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve (73.48 acres)	162000.00	
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)	<u>13.16</u>	
		<u>\$465,414.50</u>

## LIABILITIES &amp; OPERATING EXCESS:

Land Acquisition Restricted Fund	38918.59	
Deferred Dues Restricted Fund (199 members)	3750.00	
Stewardship Endowment Restricted Fund	40478.55	
Previous General Fund (total)	33842.58	
Net Excess (Deficit) This Period	<u>3424.78</u>	
Current General Fund (unrestricted)	37267.36	
Current General Fund (committed)	4150.00	
Real estate liquidity (basis value)	<u>345000.00</u>	
Total Liabilities & Operating Excess		<u>\$465,414.50</u>

# IKC ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, March 12, 2011 – Greenwood, IN

## BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jerry Lewis, President  
 James Adams, Secretary  
 Keith Dunlap, Treasurer  
 Bruce Bowman  
 Dave Haun  
 Don Ingle  
 Everett Pulliam  
 Bob Sergesketter  
 Bruce Silvers  
 Karen Silvers  
 Tom Sollman  
 Bob Vandeventer  
 Richard Vernier  
 Carla Winner  
 Jamie Winner

## BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

The Annual Business Meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM at the Greenwood Public Library, Greenwood, Indiana, IKC President Lewis presiding. An IKC 25th Anniversary cake was served. No proxies were necessary since all Board members were present. Minutes of the December 2010 meeting were accepted as published in the March 2011 *IKC Update*.

There was one e-mail motion to report since the December meeting. On 2/3/2011 Dunlap moved to accept the slate of candidates as follows: President, Jerry Lewis; Secretary, James Adams; Treasurer, Keith Dunlap; Directors Bruce Bowman, Bob Sergesketter, Bob Vandeventer, and Richard Vernier. Karen Silvers seconded the motion on 2/4 and President Lewis called the question on 2/4. The motion was declared passed on 2/8/2011 with 14 affirmations and one Board member not responding by the time the motion was declared.

### Treasurer's Report

Dunlap reported cash assets of \$119,603.19 plus land at \$345,000.00 for total assets of \$469,603.19. Funds included Land Acquisition, \$38,769.59; Stewardship, \$40,167.25; Deferred Dues, \$3,877.50; General, \$36,788.85.

The IKC has 198 members.

The IRS form 990 & state form NP-20 are due 5/15/2011 and the Treasurer will circulate these to the Executive Board prior to filing.

### Annual Elections

Jaime Coffman was appointed as Election Teller. There were no additional nominations from the floor. Elec-

tion ballots were collected and tallied (elections results were announced later in the meeting).

Property reports were distributed and reviewed. The full reports will be published in the June issue of the *IKC Update*.

### Robinson Ladder Cave

Patron John Benton submitted a report. The cave is closed due to the threat of White-Nosed Syndrome and there were no visitations scheduled. Dunlap moved to extend the WNS closer to April 30, 2012. Bowman seconded. After discussion, motion passed, 15-0-0.

### Orangeville Rise

Steve Lockwood reported that trash was not as bad as previous years. Visitation seems to be down. A fence on the property needs to be re-tensioned. The property markers are all in place.

### Wayne Cave

Dave Everton submitted a report on Wayne Cave. There were 21 trips with 92 cavers in 2010.

Tom Sollman reported for Property Manager Robert Sollman who reported some issues with the road gate. Trash was picked up.

Dunlap updated the attendees on the pending Conservation Easement. A nearby landowner has reported that he is moving towards enrolling his properties in the program. A revised easement offer has been received for the IKC property, however this revision still contains unfavorable/unacceptable language related to access control over the cave. There are several potential counter-offer alternatives moving forward.

### Indian Creek Conservation Easement

Lewis reported that a picnic pavilion straddles the easement property line. The landowner has been notified. The IKC can change the boundary if the easement property is increased or the property owner can move the pavilion. The owner has chosen the latter alternative. Lewis will send a letter to give the owner a six month deadline before legal action is initiated.

### Buddha Cave Preserve

Jeff Cody submitted his report. Twelve trips were taken into the cave which is an increase of five over the previous year. George Cesnik submitted his Property Manager report with lots of restoration activities occurring above-ground in 2010. Dunlap reiterated on the above-ground activities including work on tree plantings and weed control and highlighted work planned for 2011. The property has been enrolled as Classified Forest.

### Sullivan Cave

Anthony Owens reported 79 trips into the cave with 637 visitors in 2010. A "Day At Sullivan" event is being planned for June 4.

Dunlap reported on above ground activities. There was some tree pruning and vine spraying in 2010, along with the usual mowing.

### Lost River Cave

Dave Tibbets reported that there have been nine survey trips since August. Total length of the cave is now 21.25 miles. That is number 2 on the Indiana cave length list.

### Shiloh Cave

Adams submitted a report regarding Shiloh Cave. Six trips were taken with a total of 47 visitors. Biology inventory trips are being scheduled.

### Suicide Cave

Ronnie Burns submitted a report of only two trips into Suicide Cave. Relations with the owner are good and the property appears to be destined for many years of management. There is a buildup of debris around the gate that needs to be removed.

### Coon and Grotto Caves

Dunlap reported on both Cave and Grotto caves as Cave Patron. The caves remain closed. The lease agreement was voluntarily terminated on July 31 so that the owners were clear to negotiate a possible conservation easement with the State.

### Shaft Cave

Jeff Cody reported three trips to Shaft Cave. Like Coon and Grotto caves, the lease agreement was terminated in 2010.

### Stewardship Activities

Dunlap has been pruning the trees that are now 10 years old at the Sullivan property. A workday will be scheduled. Also, a large tree has fallen and needs to be reduced to firewood.

At Buddha, Dunlap would like to treat 14 acres of trees planted in the past two years. He proposed that the work be done on five acres by volunteers and contracted on the remaining nine acres. This will be planned in early June. Dunlap moved to fund up to \$1,000 for spraying. Seconded by Ingle. Motion passed, 15-0-0.

Dunlap reported that the DNR has cost-sharing funds available for Classified Forest properties. Dunlap has applied for funds for weed control on the Buddha property. A decision should be received by mid-April.

### Election Results

Election Teller Coffman reported the following members have been elected to positions beginning April 1, 2011: Lewis, President; Adams, Secretary; Dunlap, Treasurer; Bowman, Bob Sergesketter, Vandeventer, and Richard Vernier, Directors.

Adams moved to recycle the ballots. Bowman seconded. Motion passed by the membership present.

### Land Acquisition Activities

Dunlap reported on recent thoughts regarding various land acquisition opportunities.

### Educational and Outreach

Ingle reported on education and outreach activities. There has been limited activity that was recorded in the March *IKC Update*. Two contacts have been made resulting from the recent HASTI conference.

### Indiana Cave Symposium

The Indiana Cave Symposium co-sponsored with the Indiana Cave Survey is scheduled for April 30 at the Lawrence County Fairgrounds. Dunlap moved to fund up to \$150 for expenses. Seconded by Sergesketter. Motion passed, 15-0-0.

### Hoosier National Forest

Lewis has recently met with Steve Harriss (Cave and Karst Coordinator) and Melany Glossa (the new Forest Supervisor) of the Hoosier National Forest. Additional meeting should be scheduled to further HNF and IKC relationships. Lewis agreed to Chair an informal HNF/IKC committee.

### Items From The Floor

Dunlap has IKC hats for sale.

Haun asked about information on the Lost River Watershed Project, a Federal grant to produce a soil/water management plan.

Cody initiated discussion regarding "last minute" requests for cave or property access and the IKC Board's expectations for advance notice from potential visitors. Bowman will suggest some language for the website that will better outline access procedures.

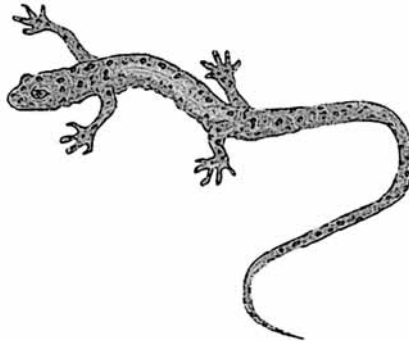
### Next Meeting

The next Quarterly Meeting was scheduled for June 11, 2010 at the IU Geology Building in Bloomington, Indiana at 6:00 PM. [*Secretary's note: the meeting location was later changed to be at the IKC's Wayne Property*]

Meeting adjourned at 12:36 PM

Respectfully Submitted, James Adams, Secretary

**Directions to the Wayne Cave Preserve:** From the intersection of SR37 and SR 45 in Bloomington, take SR 45 west 1.4 miles to Airport Road. Turn west (right) on Airport Road and continue past the airport to Garrison Chapel Road (approximately 2.7 miles from SR 45). Turn south (left) on Garrison Chapel Road for about 1/4 mile to Gardner Road. Turn west (right) on Gardner Road for approximately 4/10 mile and look for a driveway on the left (marked 8363 on the fence). If the gate is open, proceed up the driveway to the parking area.



►► *Continued from page 12....*

tions. Preliminary finding is that there is a lot of seasonal fluctuations and that some caves are surprisingly outside of traditional “safe” ranges.

- **Binkley and Blowing Hole Caves Update:** Dave Everton wrapped up the evening’s presentations with *another* exciting slide show on the renewed exploration and mapping in these two caves in Harrison County and their attempts to connect them. Binkley, the current and probably untouchable longest cave in Indiana has gained a new generation of surveyors to push the many remaining leads in that cave.

Blowing Hole is also being heavily pushed and penetrated. This past year also saw some activities in several smaller caves in the area that might be key to connecting or at least finding new entrances to facilitate exploration in the bigger system. This is what Indiana caving is all about!

A hearty thanks to everyone who made this year’s Indiana Cave Symposium a success, from planners, to presenters, to sponsors, to burger grillers, and attendees!! Interested in presenting in the future? Just let it be known!! Hope to see you next year!

**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.

