



IKC UPDATE

A Quarterly Publication of the Indiana Karst Conservancy
September 2011

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INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY, INC

PO Box 2401, Indianapolis, IN 46206-2401

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.

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Cover: Shane Myles in Loretta's Kitchen in Guy Stover Pit Cave (Binkley Cave).
Photo by Dave Everton (July 2011).



IKC QUARTERLY MEETING REMINDER
SATURDAY, September 10th, 5:00 PM EDT
BORDEN, INDIANA
HOME OF SALISA & JERRY LEWIS

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 fall workdays at our preserves; Financial reports; Preserve reports; Land acquisition activities; I-69 update; Cave cleanup sponsorship; and more....

Following the quarterly meeting (around 7 PM) will be the annual pitch-in cook-out. The main entree this year will be self-roasted wieners over a campfire. Please bring a salad, dessert, and/or other covered dish to share. If there are enough entries, we will also have a dessert contest (otherwise Keith Dunlap will just claim victory by default). Please bring a lawn chair if you want to sit.

Meeting directions: See page 15 (inside back cover) for directions.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Sept 10 – IKC Quarterly meeting & cook-out (see above)

Sept 17 – Lost River Tour (see page 6)

Sept ?? – Prairie Burn Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve (see page 11)

Oct 15 – Lost River Tour (see page 6)

Oct ?? – Invasive Weed Control Buddha Karst Preserve (after first frost)

Dec ?? – IKC Quarterly meeting (date & location to be determined)

For more information on the Indiana Karst Conservancy, visit our website at 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...

This ramble finds my thoughts on the fate of karst in the path of interstate highways. Salisa and I have evaluated a number of what we call, for lack of a better name, “engineering project sites”. The common denominator in all of them is that something, usually large, is slated to be constructed on a karst site, be it a highway, a water treatment plant, or a building complex of some sort.

Before I go any further with this discussion I have to confess that I rather like driving my car when I go places, and it certainly makes the trip go faster than walking or riding a horse. I’ll be driving to Nashville, Tennessee this week and I enjoy the fact that I can get there in about three hours thanks to I-65. So I guess I’m pragmatic about interstates since I drive on them frequently, but I do appreciate being in a position to have some influence about where the footprint of certain roads will be.

On the way to Nashville I’ll be driving near a couple of my favorite project areas in Kentucky, and I thought I’d share some thoughts about them. One of them involved the proposed Interstate 66 corridor that would connect Somerset to London. The road would potentially cross Sinking Valley, a large karst valley with many caves. The other project area was a road connector route to I-65 near Bowling Green, in the Graham Springs groundwater basin west of Mammoth Cave National Park.

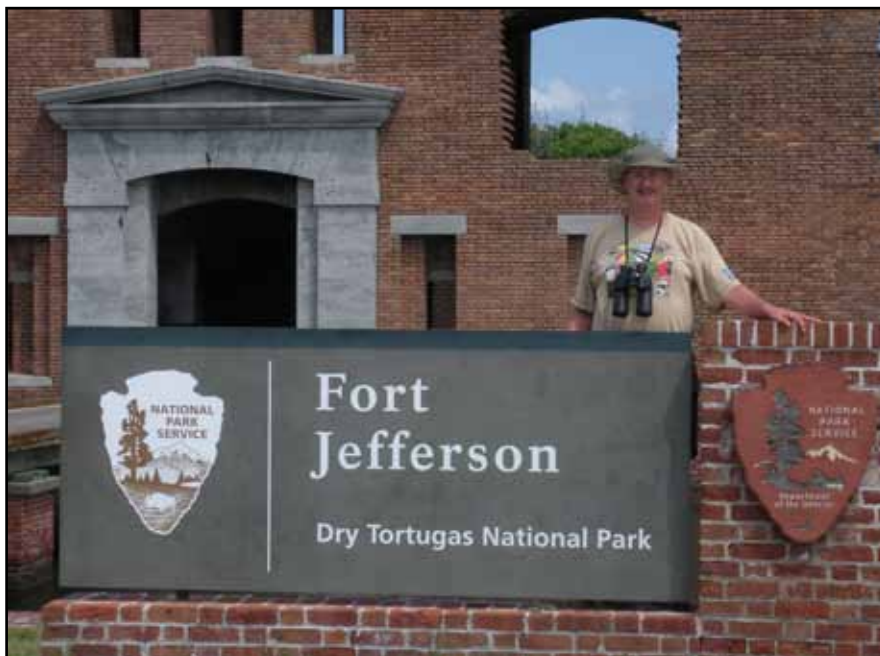
The folks in the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KTC) who were in charge of providing the project specifications were some of the best people I’ve worked with when it came to recognizing

the challenges involved in doing an engineering project in a karst terrain. There were several things that were important to the project’s success, but I think the one that might have been the greatest was their flexibility. Thinking now about the Somerset-London route there were ten potential paths that had been proposed, but the idea remained viable with the KTC that maybe we’ll still have to move the road corridor, depending on what the consultants discover during their investigations. Nothing was set in stone. In fact, my understanding was that the entire project area had already been moved to keep the road off another significant cave system.

One of the first things we had to determine was, “Where is the project area?”. This question was answered with, “Where ever you think it needs to be... You’re the expert”. A common mistake is that a map with cave entrances plotted indicates where the caves are. In fact, this does not reflect where the caves are because the entrance is not the cave. A cave frequently extends long distances away from the entrance, sometimes in multiple directions. Added to that is the fact that groundwater tracing frequently indicates relationships between caves or other karst features that can not be traversed by people, the overall groundwater basin becomes a more important feature than a map showing a cave entrance.

The entrance used by people is not necessarily the conduit into the cave important to the fauna. Related to the entrance is that it also functions as

an exit. Some of the most important cave animals are the ones that leave the cave to forage outside, like the ubiquitous cave crickets of southeastern Kentucky caves. These insects emerge from the cave to feed on a variety of organic material in a relatively wide circumference around the exit. So not only are the cave entrance and the cave passage important as habitats, the surface area is critical as a feeding ground. After feeding the crickets return to the cave, where their guano becomes the foundation of the



food web for cavernicoles that are unable to leave the cave environment to search for food. When we conducted the evaluation of fauna in the Somerset area, we searched dozens of individual caves to inventory the fauna. The next step was to spend time doing GIS mapping in which all of the known passages were compiled as well as implied routes connecting known caves. In analyzing the susceptibility of the subterranean fauna to disturbance, all of the cave passages as well as a broad swath of land on each side was mapped. This entire corridor, including the entrances, passages, inferred passages and surface foraging areas were considered sensitive and to be avoided.

A lesson that we learned early on was that sampling caves only in the project road corridor was fraught with peril. On our first day of sampling, in the most obvious cave in the I-66 corridor, we found a species new to science, known from nowhere else on earth. Cave faunas are well known for their endemism (i.e., the restriction of a species to a small area, sometimes only a single cave). In the case of the Somerset project, after one day we had a species that was, at that point in time, considered endemic to the road corridor! Obviously the animal might well exist someplace else and sampling in adjacent areas indeed we found it in caves outside of the road corridor. The point being that flexibility in sampling is important to establish the true range of occurrence of one of these karst invertebrates.

For both of these projects in Kentucky we were

provided with lists of potential sites to sample, but were given a completely free hand in determining what circumference around the actual construction site should be investigated. At no time during the process was there any suggestion of anything resembling, "Don't look at that cave". Thus we were allowed to sample in a relatively widespread area and produce the best possible understanding of the subterranean fauna of the project area.

I was impressed with the desire by the KTC to communicate the findings of the environmental investigations with residents of the area. We attended multiple public meetings held in both Somerset and London to show our results and discuss the findings informally with anyone who wanted to come to the meeting. I remember a humorous moment when an elderly couple came in to the meeting, and the lady came up and hugged me! That produced some raised eyebrows...the couple had a small cave on their property, but we had found some incredible fauna in it that had the effect of moving the road corridor away from their home. Almost all of the caves were on private property, but we could not recall a single property owner who denied access. Many were ecstatic to have us look for cave bugs on their lands.

Engineering projects have always been one of the "necessary evils" of our consulting business. Although it is gratifying to be able to participate in the process, in some projects we are able to make more of difference than others...

Jerry Lewis

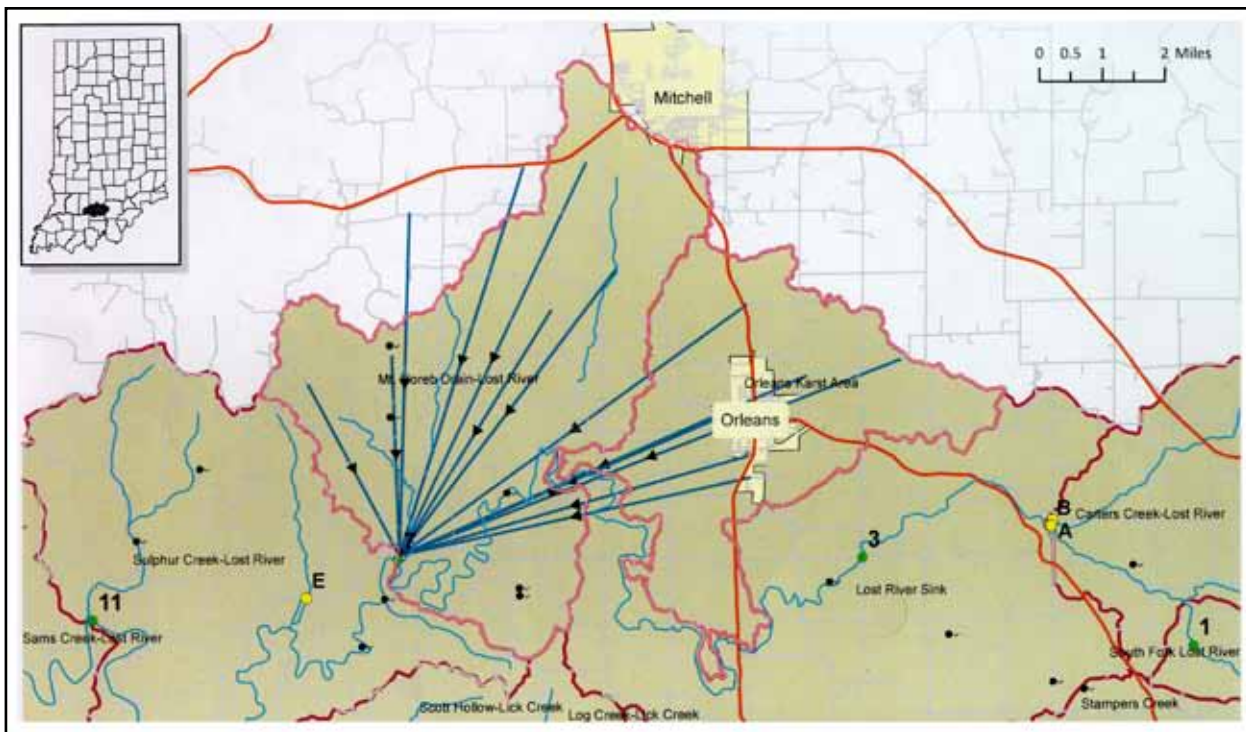
NEWS BRIEFS...

- ❑ As a follow-up to the article on our preserve restoration work in the June *IKC Update*, at the Buddha Karst Nature Preserve, the IKC hired a contractor to mechanically apply weed control on nine acres of the trees planted in 2010 (using an EQIP funding grant). Also, George Cesnik, Keith Dunlap, Jerry Lewis, and Evertt Pulliam manually treated the remaining trees planted in 2010 and 2009 (six acres) with backpack sprayers. While 2010 was very droughty, the survival rate from both years has been excellent. And at the Sullivan Cave Preserve, Keith Dunlap treated weeds around 4 acres of trees planted in 2000 and 2001. Some of these trees are now thirty feet high.
- ❑ At the recent NSS Convention in Glenwood Spring, Colorado, the IKC was honored to have received Honorable Mention ribbons on three of our four 2010 covers in the Cover Arts Salon. The Covers were from *IKC Updates* #97, 98, and 99 with photography from Elliott Stahl (1) and Dave Everton (2). Approximately a dozen cover awards were given this year so for the IKC to receive three of them was quite an accomplishment. Also during this year's convention, Keith Dunlap was recognized by being honored with the Victor A Schmidt Conservation Award for his many years of conservation work and service to the caving community.
- ❑ Bob Armstrong of the Lost River Conservation Association will be conducting two driving/walk-



ing tours of the Lost River this fall. The dates are September 17th and October 15th. The tours will follow the river from its headwaters in western Washington County, west to a series of sinks where the water gradually disappears (depending upon flow conditions), along the (usually) dry bed, to several “windows” into the underground such as at Wesley Chapel Gulf, and finally to one of several representative resurgences such as the True Rise or the Orangeville Rise (actually draining areas to the north). The tour will commence at the Gazebo on the square in Orleans with the orientation presentation starting at 7:40 AM EDT. The tour will depart at 8:00 and end around 4:30 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. Bug spray and sun lotion are also a good idea. 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.

- Speaking of the Lost River, there are at least two watershed projects underway in that area. First, the Orange County Soil and Water Conservation District was awarded a water quality improvement grant to look at the various surface and sub-surface drainage systems in the Lost River Basin to determine water quality and recommend methods to improve these qualities that could then be implemented in the future (under additional grants). One aspect of this study will be to conduct chemical and biological sampling at 26 locations for no less than a year. The monthly samples will monitor nitrogen, phosphorus, flow/stage, habitat, dissolved oxygen, pH, suspended soils, turbidity, water temperature, salinity, conductivity, and *E.coli*. One of the sample sites will be at the IKC’s Orangeville Rise which has the unique characteristic of being the first opportunity to sample water quality “down stream” of the Orleans water treatment plant that is permitted to dump the plant’s influent into a sinkhole that drains to the Rise. Water quality at the Rise will be compared to reported quality at the treatment to see if there is correlation. If you have questions about this project or would be interested in helping, contact the project’s coordinator, Ginger Korinek (812-723-311 ext 3 or We.R4LostRiver@gmail.com). The second project is being conducted by the USGS and is focused more on drainage and flooding. The sampling will be geared more toward stage level and flow rates. The IKC (and DNR since the Rise is a dedicated Nature Preserve) has granted permission for the USGS to install temporary continuous recording devices below the rise pool, with the collected data transferred by satellite.



Area of influence and dye tracing to the Orangeville Rise (graphics courtesy of the Lost River Watershed Project)

GUY STOVER PIT CAVE CLEAN UP PROJECT - PART TWO

by Benda Shultheis (Cleanup Project Coordinator)

As was reported in the June *IKC Update*, the newly re-formed Indiana Speleological Survey (ISS) has taken on their first conservation project, the cleanup of Guy Stover Pit in Harrison County. The entrance pit is a 25 foot drop with a sizable trash mount at the bottom consisting of mostly small trash with lots of glass, although there is some larger debris including the stereotypical kitchen sink.

In the last report, I described our first efforts in March to scope out the project and start some of the surface clean-up. Since that time, we have had two more cleanup trips (June 18th and July 16th). Both trips concentrated on bagging up trash in the pit. With so much broken glass, the bagging process is very slow and tedious, but we are also making enormous progress. And by the time you read this, we will have had a fourth

cleanup trip to the cave on August 27th with the goal of getting most of the other trash bagged and ready to haul out.

Our plans are to rent a large dumpster and have a "haul" weekend in late September or early October. Several organizations have already made or pledged donations to pay for the dumpster and the IKC has an agenda item for their September meeting to also consider sponsorship.

If you are interested in helping and would like more information, please call me (317-354-6661) or e-mail me (flowersbybrenda@sbcglobal.net). To participate, you will need to sign and notarize a liability waiver for the owner, so contact me for a copy of the waiver.

I'm looking forward to working with each and every one of you on this, and thank you in advance for the help.



Benda Shultheis and Tim McClain at the bottom of the entrance pit in Guy Stover Pit, Harrison County.

I-69 PLOWS ACROSS KARST SOUTHWEST OF BLOOMINGTON

by Keith Dunlap

As some of you may know, the construction of I-69 is slowly slithering towards Bloomington and the bulldozer could be plowing across the fragile karst southwest of Bloomington in just a few months. Sections 1, 2, and 3, are already under construction with the northern extent intersecting US 231 northwest of Crane. Section 4, will extend the four-lane highway to SR 37 on the south side of Bloomington.

For more than 20 years, this highway has been discussed and various studies performed, but the environmental impacts associated with the project and the anticipated low usage made the costs-to-benefits ratios unfavorable to allow the road to move forward. However, the current State administration pushed for “privatization” of the Indiana Toll Road with a huge up-front lease payment, and the Governor is now determined to spend all of the \$3.4 billion windfall before he leaves office. This, along with his mandate for InDOT to “throw out the rule books”, cut costs with sub-standard designs, and circumvent every environmental rule possible, has fast-tracked everything with a goal to have the highway done by 2014.

With that said, there is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that is supposed to assure large federally-funded projects consider all the impacts (just not environmental, but economic, social, and political) and evaluate alternatives to derive the optimum design. Traditionally, state agencies have attempted to follow the spirit of NEPA and take their responsibilities seriously to follow the process. Dr Lewis, in his column on page 4 described how the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet is an example of how things are supposed to work.

Unfortunately, the I-69 project has turned out to be the exact opposite. There are examples (and I will describe one in a minute) where alternatives exist that provide reduced environmental impacts, improved safety, improved mobility performance metrics (e.g., getting where you are going faster and cheaper), and cost less, but InDOT has rejected those alternatives simply because it might delay completion of the process on the schedule the Governor has set. Complicating the matter, most of the NEPA and design work has been farmed out to multiple contractor that are motivated only to make money (not that this is necessarily a bad thing), but obviously skews their moral compass

to do what is “right” for the citizens of Indiana.

As for the IKC, we have been involved in this project at every step of the way. In the early stages, the IKC and the Indiana Cave Survey worked with various agencies to identify and provide location information on all the known caves and karst features in the various study areas. This allowed InDOT to eliminate a number of alternatives during the Tier 1 study. As an example, the alternative that followed US 50 through the Tinchler area west of Bedford was abandoned because of the extensive karst. Likewise the route that was to bypass Bloomington on the west side that skirted the Garrison Chapel area was also tossed for environmental reasons, specifically the potential impacts to the bats in Coon and Grotto caves. Unfortunately, the alternative InDOT did select southwest of Bloomington still had considerable risks. However, to appease those who expressed concerns (including the IKC), the 2005 Record of Decision (ROD) for the Tier 1 study provided the “flexibility” to look outside the selected alternative (defined by a 2-mile wide corridor), if significant impacts were discovered during the Tier 2 in-depth environmental studies.

Fast forward four years and InDOT publishes the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) with a 60-day comment period. The document with appendices is over a foot thick. Reading, comprehending, analyzing, and constructively commenting on this massive document was an impossible task. Several organizations, including the IKC, requested an extension, which was first refused, but later was extended by another 30 days. Despite the time constraints, the IKC was able to digest a significant portion of the main document and many of the pertinent appendices, including the six-inch thick “karst study”. While there was much information and a wealth of knowledge in this study, it appears that InDOT ignored the findings. Specifically, in the area south of Stanford, the density of karst features was significant. Yet rather than look for alternative alignments outside the corridor, InDOT simply claimed the karst was “unavoidable” and plowed ahead. While the Tier 1 ROD specifically authorized InDOT to evaluate other alignments under such situations, they chose not to do so.

So the IKC’s primary comments submitted last October were directed toward suggesting the al-



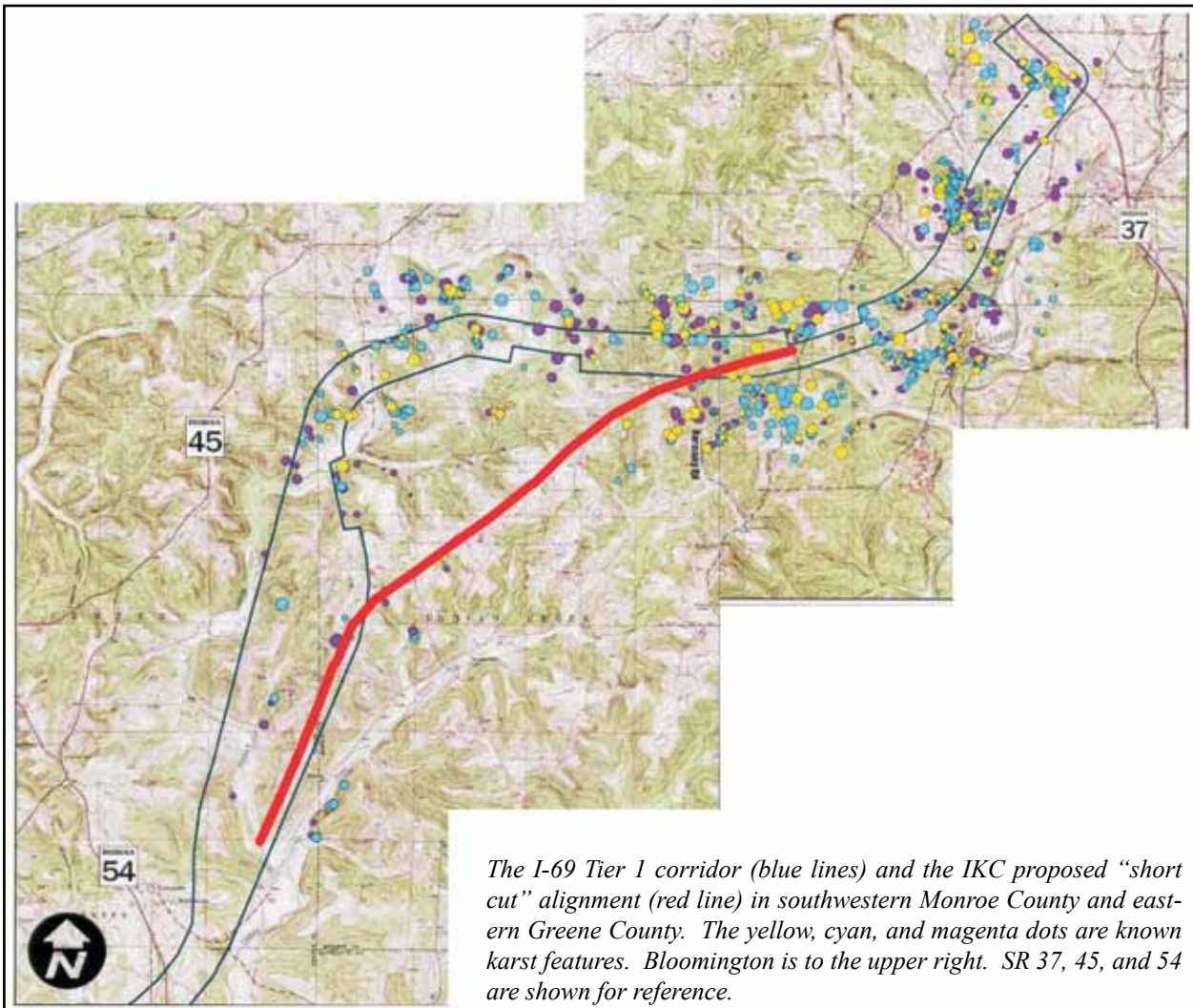
ternative alignment which is shown in red on the map below.

The alternative not only avoided many of the known impacted karst features (up to 22 by InDOT’s account) but likely several time that number of unknown feature that will not be discovered until the construction phase. And because the IKC proposed route was nearly a mile shorter, impacts on just about every other environmental concerns (forests, wetlands, stream crossing, surface and sub-surface water quality, noise pollution, etc) were reduced. Finally, by InDOT’s own estimations, the IKC alignment was \$37 million cheaper to build. We also estimated user’s costs over the lifetime of the highway in present value dollars would be reduced by over \$50 million. In essentially every metric, our proposal was better.

After the close of the comment period, we started hearing rumors that InDOT was seriously looking at our proposal (and another, similar one submitted by Pat Munson). We didn’t know if the “seriousness” of their analysis indicated the pos-

sibility of it being considered and accepted, or if they were just wanting to be able to defend their position of rejecting the notion. Later, one of our environmental partners through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request discovered a contract extension had been awarded to BLA to perform an in-depth analysis and prepare what was to be known as *Appendix NN*. Frankly we were encouraged and anticipated its release with the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

The Section 4 FEIS was finally released in late July and to our surprise, there was no *Appendix NN* (although there were *Appendices LL* and *MM*). Even more curious was that in the required Responses to the Comment Section of the FEIS, in responding to the IKC’s comments, InDOT referred to *Appendix NN* three times and said to see this appendix for more details on the analysis. I and others subsequently asked for a copy of *Appendix NN* and were repeatedly told this document does not exist. We have since made several FOIA requests for this document



The I-69 Tier 1 corridor (blue lines) and the IKC proposed “short cut” alignment (red line) in southwestern Monroe County and eastern Greene County. The yellow, cyan, and magenta dots are known karst features. Bloomington is to the upper right. SR 37, 45, and 54 are shown for reference.

and any communications between InDOT, its contractors, and BLA related to *Appendix NN*, but so far no documents have been produced. One final oddity is that after we asked about *Appendix NN*, InDOT issued and distributed a “corrected” DVD that removed the three reference to mystery appendix, as well as some other material details of the analysis. It was as if InDOT thought they could put the genie back in the bottle and we wouldn’t notice.

The IKC was not the only organization dismayed with the DEIS. The USFWS, and especially the USEPA, also voiced their displeasure over various aspects of the preferred alternative alignment selected by InDOT. All were in agreement against the new interchange at the Monroe/Greene county line that InDOT added after the Tier 1 study and claimed it was “essential” even though it added significant costs to the project, didn’t seem to improve any of the mobility metrics, and would encourage indirect impacts to the

karst area in western Monroe County, something InDOT committed to avoid in the Tier 1 study.

It was also interesting that the EPA was critical of the very limited and inadequate karst biota study that was performed as part of the karst study. The EPA also questioned why the few caves that were sampled, were restricted to within the Tier 1 corridor even though many of the sub-surface drainage systems extended significantly outside the corridor. InDOT’s response was that they did not feel they had the legal authority to request for sampling outside the corridor, and therefore did not seek permission from landowners beyond these boundaries [*editor’s note: now re-read page 4 for a contrasting way of performing a proper karst biota study*].

The comment period for the FEIS was August 22 and the IKC submitted additional comments related to our proposed alignment, but realistically, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will likely conclude our comments were not substan-

Continued on page 14 ►►

SUICIDE CAVE WORK PROJECT – SEPTEMBER 10th

The gate on Suicide Cave was installed in 1997 and for the most part has not required any maintenance. However, over the years, organic debris and soil have slumped down the entrance sinkhole and accumulated against the gate bars. At the March meeting, Cave Patron Ronnie Burns in his annual report suggested a work project to remove some of this debris and has coordinated this effort with a Central Indiana Grotto’s monthly grotto trip on **September 10th**. This is also the same day as the IKC quarterly meeting (that evening).

If you are interested in helping, then go caving afterward, the trip will be meeting at **noon** at Ronnie’s home (just minutes away from the cave). Ronnie’s address is 1362 West Pump Station Road (1 mile west of SR 135) north of Salem. Shovels and buckets will be the tools of choice. For questions or more more information, see Ronnie’s contact information on page 2.



BUSH-HOGGING FOR BATS

(at the Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve)

article and photos by Carla Striegel-Winner

Back when the Robinson Ladder Cave property in Crawford County was acquired in 2005, Jamie and I only lived 6 miles away. We didn't really have a getaway property of our own, and loved the peaceful feel and the sweeping views of the land. We decided to help keep the lanes and camping area mowed, and assist with the prairie restoration. Needless to say, times change, and we now live almost an hour away and have several irons in the fire. We still love the property, and got a nice reminder of that on our recent visit to mow and prep it for the fall 2011 prescribed burn.

As we mowed the access lanes, parking, and camping areas, I was having a good ole' time on my little riding lawn mower, until Jamie; on John Deere tractor, observed me trying to push the mower out of a ditch in the lane (the lane, I might add, that he had *already* mowed with the bush-hog). "Get off that mower and go saw up those trees!" he exclaimed, much to my chagrin. Yes, I was putting off my other task – the trees that had blown down over the road earlier this year – blocking vehicular access to the camping area and upper field. I manhandled the mower out of the ditch as Jamie shook his head, and trudged over to the Jeep to get the chainsaw, feeling sorry for myself. By the time I got my safety gear on and started up the saw, I was grinning. I had forgotten that I would be in the shade, and that I actually enjoy chainsaw work... as long as it is not *too* strenuous.

As I sawed the tops into long sections and laid them parallel to the wooded slope (which helps slow down run-off, allows leaves to gather there and promotes rot... all good things in a woods), I could hear Jamie in the distance, bush-hogging trails along the edges of both the upper and lower



Jamie Winner bush-hogging a fire-break around the field edges at the Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve.



The presence of blazing star is a great indicator that the prairie restoration is working!

fields. These will serve as fire breaks during the prescribed burn later this fall.

By the time I finished and put my tools away, Jamie was just finishing the bush-hogging, so I got a chance to walk along the freshly mown breaks, checking out the butterflies on a nice patch of blazing star flowers... normally hidden at the back edge of the lower field. As I moseyed along, I imagined the field as the blaze of flames it would be during the fall burn. That burn will encourage even more diversity, making the insect life over that young prairie a bat heaven on earth on summer evenings.

We were certainly glad for an 80 degree day in August for our maintenance and restoration work. Having our favorite restaurant, the Blue River Café, just down the road in Milltown did not hurt matters either. We both hope that members will take advantage of the beautiful 70+ acre preserve for hiking, wildlife watching, and camping this late summer and fall. Although the cave remains closed due to White-nose Syndrome, the property makes a great base camp for visiting other area caves. Visiting the property by members does not need permission. John Benton is the property manager, and should be contacted to arrange camping (see page 2 for his contact information).

INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY TREASURY REPORT

**Income/Expense Statement
From April 1, 2011 to June 30, 2011**

INCOME:

Dues Apportionment and Residuals	656.25	
Donations - General	445.00	
Donations - Land Acquisition Fund	500.00	
Interest	357.54	
	<u>357.54</u>	\$1,958.79

EXPENSES:

IKC Update (printing, production, mailing)	326.15	
Education / Outreach	82.52	
Stewardship	670.19	
Property taxes	70.00	
Business (renewal/ballot letters, misc postage, etc)	95.00	
Transfers to/from restricted funds/other adjustments	813.71	
	<u>813.71</u>	(\$2,057.57)

NET OPERATING EXCESS (DEFICIT) THIS PERIOD: (\$98.78)

**Balance Sheet
June 30, 2011**

ASSETS:

Cash in Checking / Saving Accounts / CDs	120835.02	
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)	13.16	
	<u>13.16</u>	<u>\$465,848.18</u>

LIABILITIES & OPERATING EXCESS:

Land Acquisition Restricted Fund	39418.59	
Deferred Dues Restricted Fund (199 members)	3468.75	
Stewardship Endowment Restricted Fund	40792.26	
Previous General Fund (total)	37267.36	
Net Excess (Deficit) This Period	<u>(98.78)</u>	
Current General Fund (unrestricted)	37168.58	
Current General Fund (committed)	3000.00	
Real estate liquidity (basis value)	<u>345000.00</u>	
Total Liabilities & Operating Excess		<u><u>\$465,848.18</u></u>

IKC QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, June 11, 2011 – Bloomington, IN

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jerry Lewis, President
 Keith Dunlap, Treasurer
 James Adams (proxy by Sue Vernier)
 Bruce Bowman
 Dave Haun (proxy by Kevin Smith)
 Don Ingle (proxy by Anthony Owens)
 Everett Pulliam
 Bob Sergesketter
 Bruce Silvers
 Karen Silvers
 Tom Sollman
 Bob Vandeventer
 Richard Vernier
 Carla Winner
 Jamie Winner

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

The Quarterly Meeting was called to order at 6 PM EDT at the IKC's Wayne Cave Preserve, Bloomington, Indiana, IKC President Lewis presiding. Three proxies were accepted.

Treasurer's Report

Keith presented the treasurers report. The IKC currently has \$120,349.17 in cash and \$345,000.00 in land for a total of \$465,349.17 in assets. The breakdown of funds is as follows: \$38,918.59 in land acquisition, \$4,110.00 in deferred dues, \$40,478.55 in stewardship, and \$36,842.03 in the general fund. We currently have 200 members with 174 paid and 26 that still need to renew.

Orangeville Rise Nature Preserve

Ginger Korineck, Lost River Watershed Coordinator, presented a request to access the Orangeville Rise property to collect water samples for analysis. Samples for chemical analysis would be collected once a month for twelve months. One sample would be collected for biological analysis. Sampling would be within the stream bed below the rise. Keith Dunlap moved that we approve the request to collect sample data. Dick Vernier seconded. Motion passed 14-0-0 (one Board member absent).

There has also been a request from the USGS to collect sampling data at the Orangeville Rise. The sampling would be geared more toward stage level and flow rates. There would be temporary recording devices installed in the stream bed below the rise pool, with collected data transferred by satellite. Keith Dunlap moved that we approve the project contingent upon evaluation of the final plan. Sue Vernier seconded. Motion passed 14-0-0 (one Board member absent).

Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve

The restoration contractor agreed to try again for the Robinson Ladder burn in the fall for the same rate quoted previously. Keith Dunlap needs to go in Robinson Ladder this summer to place a SpeLogger and download/service the temperature/humidity data loggers.

[Bruce Bowman arrived for remainder of meeting.]

Wayne Cave Preserve

Keith discussed the proposed I-69 conservation easement on Wayne Cave property. However, Keith reported that the conservation easement offer had been withdrawn by InDOT. Keith would like to make a counter offer of the southern half of the Wayne property using the same language as was used for Keith's neighboring property. His agreement has no mention of cave related restrictions. Keith Dunlap moved that the IKC inform INDOT we are still interested in enrolling the southern half of the Wayne property. Jerry Lewis seconded. Motion passed 13-1-1.

Keith Dunlap has accepted a conservation easement on his 12-acre tract adjacent to Wayne Cave property. Keith offered to donate the now-restricted property to the IKC. There would be some closing costs involved, but these should be minimal. Keith will have to get an appraisal for the donation, and the IKC would have to sign an 8283 tax form confirming the appraisal value. Someone other than Keith would need to handle this from the IKC side to avoid a conflict of interest. The IKC might want to get a separate appraisal. There was further discussion and a straw vote was conducted. All board members supported the proposed donation. Keith abstained. This land transfer likely will not happen until next year.

Indian Creek Conservation Easement

Jerry Lewis will send out letters next week to inform lot owners of the Indiana Creek conservation easement of the annual inspection to be conducted within the next month or so. There is still the known issue of the picnic shelter on the easement, which the owner has been given a six-month deadline for resolution. We also still need to record the description correction to the original survey discovered last year while permanently marking the easement boundary.

Buddha Karst Nature Preserve

Keith discussed the Buddha Karst Nature Preserve stewardship activities. The IKC qualified for an EQIP grant allowing \$51 per acre for weed treatment on up to 16 acres of trees planted in 2009 and 2010. We hired a contractor who did 9 acres at a rate of \$65 per acre.



The IKC is using volunteer labor to do the treatment on the remaining acres and should come out with a small surplus of funds. There was a discussion of effectiveness of spraying methods.

Bruce Bowman sent the Board a copy of the draft revised management plan for Buddha. IN addition to general updating to reflect what we have accomplished over the past ten years, there are several issues needing attention and Bruce is looking for feedback. Bruce specifically mentioned references to the removal of the old bolts at the drop to the lower section, and whether replacement bolts should be allowed for safety reasons, and how this should be worded in the management plan (which prohibits modifications to the cave for "convenience"). There was much discussion on the issue.

Sullivan Cave Preserve

Keith reviewed recent management activities at Sullivan Cave. He plans to start weed treatment around the trees in the southern field. This has not been done for eight or nine years.

Miscellaneous / Floor Items

There was quick discussion of Shiloh Cave bioinventory activities.

Keith summarized current status of potential land acquisition opportunities.

Bob Vandeventer covered the education and outreach activities in Don's absence. There is the annual bat festival in Terre Haute in late August.

Jerry has e-mailed Steve Harris to set up an IKC/HNF meeting, but has been unsuccessful to date.

David McGowan has asked for permission to video

in Buddha Cave. Keith asked whether the visitation would need a motion or would be handled as a normal visitation. It was decided to handle it as any other visit.

Keith updated the Board on the Notice of Intent to sue the USFWS and FHWA regarding I-69. The concern is that the previous Biological Opinion issued by USFWS is now outdated related to the Indiana bat due to White-nose Syndrome and that consultation with IN-DOT needs to be re-initiated. Subsequent to the filing of the NoI, the two agencies have re-initiated consultation and USFWS has recently published a revised BO. No further action is anticipated since the agencies did what they were supposed to do.

Anthony Owens, Sullivan's Cave Patron, discussed the "Day at Sullivan Cave" event. It was a successful event with 28 participants. He would also like to start a Facebook fan page. The general public would not be able to post on it, but there could be informal postings from Anthony or other IKC staff.

Carla Striegel-Winner disseminated some information regarding ethical issues of married couples as Board members and the legal responsibilities of Board members in general. She passed out printed information to Board members for reference.

The next meeting will be at the home of Salisa and Jerry Lewis in Borden, Indiana on the 10th of September. Start time will be at 5 PM EDT. A pitch-in cookout will be after the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30PM EDT with the treat of a thunderstorm.

Respectfully submitted by Jamie Winner, Acting Secretary.

▶▶ *Continued from page 10...*

tial different than what was submitted during the DEIS comment period and the FWHA will issue the ROD, authorizing InDOT to start the bulldozing of Section 4.

Where do we go from here? Frankly, our only

recourse is to consider joining other organization in litigation. This will be up to our Board to decide the level of involvement we will pursue and what reasonable outcome and results we can expect by participating.



DIRECTIONS TO THE LEWIS HOME (if lost: 812-967-7592):

From the north – Take I-65 south to Exit 9 –Indiana State Road 311 (Sellersburg/New Albany). At the bottom of the ramp, at the split go right toward New Albany and Starlite attractions. At the first stop light, **set odometer to 0.0**. Get into middle lane.

Mileage: 0.0 - stop light (Ohio Avenue), get into middle lane, continue straight on Hwy 311; 0.5- stop light, **turn right** onto old Hwy 60; 0.8 - stop sign at T-intersection, **turn right** on Hwy 60 (just past Carepets on the right); 4.2 – T-intersection Hwy 60 with Hwy 111, stoplight is immediately past railroad tracks; turn right and continue on Hwt 60 (toward Salem); 7.8 – landmark: Deam Lake on right (continue straight on SR 60); 9.9 -- landmark: Bogie Golf Course. If you like golf, we'd suggest continue just driving on past this one... 10.0 –landmark: Dow Knob Road to left (Huber Winery et al.), **continue straight** on 60, but **start slowing down**; 10.3 - metal guard rail on both sides of road; 10.4 – **turn left**. After turning, continue left 180 degrees onto frontage road, then right onto last gravel drive leading back to house (immediately before the “Park Closed” sign barring the road. You will see the sign on left side of our lane if you are going the right way. 10.7 – circle in front of house (GPS N38 26 41.5 / W85 54 30.1)

From west I-64 – Take I-64 to –I-265 (bypass around north side of Louisville metro area). On I-265 take Exit 3 Grant Line Road (Indiana SR 111) At the stop light at the top of exit 3 ramp, **set odometer to 0.0**.

Mileage: 0.0 - stop light (top of Exit 3 ramp), turn left onto Grant Line Road (SR 111); 0.2- stop light, continue straight on Grant Line Road (SR 111); 0.3 - stop light, Hausfeldt Lane, continue straight on Grant Line Road (SR 111); 0.5 – IUS, stop light, continue straight on Grant Line Road (SR 111); 0.7 – IUS, stop light, continue straight on Grant Line Road (SR 111); 3.1 – Railroad crossing, continue straight on SR 111; 6.5 – Stop light, intersect SR 111 and SR 60, continue straight toward Borden on SR 60; 10.2 – Landmark: Deam Lake, continue straight on SR 60; 12.2 – Landmark: Bogie Golf Course; if you like golf, just keep on driving....continue straight on SR 60; 12.3 –landmark: Dow Knob Road to left (Huber Winery et al.), **continue straight** on 60, but **start slowing down**; 12.6 - metal guard rail on both sides of road; 12.7 – **turn left**. After turning, continue left 180 degrees onto frontage road, then right onto last gravel drive leading back to house (immediately before the “Park Closed” sign barring the road. You will see the sign on left side of our lane if you are going the right way. 13.0 – circle in front of house (GPS N38 26 41.5 / W85 54 30.1)

From west state road 60 from Salem/Mitchell – At the yellow light in downtown Borden, **set odometer to 0.0**.

Mileage: 0.0- yellow light, downtown Borden; 0.9 – Landmark: Borden post office, continue straight on SR 60; 1.3 – Point of interest: cute single female available for dating on right in frame house at corner of SR 60 and Koetter Road; otherwise continue straight on SR 60; 2.5 –**turn right** onto access road to our house. After turning, then immediate dogleg to left 90 degrees onto frontage road, then right onto last gravel drive leading back to house (immediately before the “Park Closed” sign barring the road. You will see the sign on left side of our lane if you are going the right way. 2.8 – circle in front of house (GPS N38 26 41.5 / W85 54 30.1)

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.

