

IKC UPDATE

A Quarterly Publication of The Indiana Karst Conservancy
March 2013
Number 108



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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ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING REMINDER
SATURDAY, MARCH 9th, 1:00 PM EDT
GREENWOOD, INDIANA
GREENWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Annual Business meeting is for the purpose of Executive Board elections. Annual reports from the IKC Cave Patrons and Property Managers are also presented. And as always, the meeting is for members and other interested persons to have an open forum for talking about cave and karst conservation and related topics. Past, present, and future IKC projects are discussed to solicit comments and input from our members and the caving community as a whole. The meeting is informal, and everyone is encouraged to attend and participate. The IKC Board wants your input.

Preliminary Agenda Items: Elections; Cave Patrons/Property Managers annual reports; Under-Earth Day tree planting project at Shawnee Karst Preserve; Shawnee Karst Preserve fund-raising status; Upcoming work projects at our other preserves; Indiana Cave Symposium; White-nose Syndrome update; Financial reports; Land acquisition activities; and more....

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

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

- Mar 9 – IKC Annual Business meeting (see above)**
- Apr 20 – Under-Earth Day at Shawnee Karst Preserve (see page 5)**
- Apr 20 – Indiana Cave Symposium (see page 8)**
- May ?? – Weed Control Around Trees at Buddha Karst Preserve**
- May ?? – Trash Dump Cleanup at Shawnee Karst Preserve**
- Jun ?? – IKC Quarterly Board Meeting (date & location to be determined)**
- Jun 28-30 – Cave Capers (Crawford County Fairgrounds)**

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...

I find myself writing this on Valentine's Day. So my rambling this time is my wife Salisa's fault, just saying, so that we know where to properly place the blame. Or the credit, as she's the subject. Just for starters, I wouldn't be writing this if it were not for her, because I would never have become president of the IKC. Prior to becoming president, the highest office to which I'd ever aspired was as the newsletter editor for the Little Egypt Student Grotto at Southern Illinois University, back in 1972. When Dick Vernier approached me about the possibility of being president my immediate mental reaction was "NO!". Apparently the subject had been pre-discussed with Salisa, so when I brought it up that evening her response was "YES, you should do it". So here I am... what's the expression, *behind every great man there's a woman?* I'm not sure about the greatness aspect, but she was definitely back there pushing, and truth be told, she's frequently in front pulling...

Our first date was a cave trip. Salisa's dad has done genetics work with soybeans for decades and she grew up accustomed to working in dirt, so caving was a natural extension of what she already knew. What's not to like about getting dirty, right? From the offset I detected a feminist with a dominant gene for stubbornness, so just to make things interesting I threw out a few things like "I hope you can keep up" and "I'll try to take it easy on you". That did not work out well for me then, and now, 16 years later, I try to keep up and hope she'll take it easy on me. Since that first trip years ago we've been in hundreds of caves, from lava tubes in the Hawaiian Islands, to diving in cenotes in the Yucatan, or looking at Cro-



magnon drawings on the wall of a cave in southern France... and lots in between.

I sometimes wish I had Salisa's presence of mind. An example that comes to mind was during the filming of the episode "Cave Biologist" for the Discovery Channel's program *Dirty Jobs*. We were back in a really gross area of Hidden River Cave in central Kentucky. Mike Rowe (the show's host), Salisa, and I were sitting on a ledge in the cave, having just crawled out of an area of suck-mud that we'd taken Mike through to slime him up. So Mike asks something like "So why

do you do all this stuff, is it just about finding new species and naming them?". We'd been filming for about 12 hours at that point and I was getting tired. So I said "Well, yeah, I guess that's what it's all about". And I feel Salisa's elbow in my ribs and "Noooooo!!!!" and then the correct answer came forth about conservation of caves and fauna and karst and so on. Luckily Mike's comments about "She keeps you focused and on a straight and narrow path" were edited out of the episode. Wow was that embarrassing.

There have been times when the show would not have gone on without her. During the year that we got married we were commuting to eastern Kentucky a couple times a month to work on the environmental impact statement for the interstate 66 corridor. Unfortunately I tore the meniscus of my knee and had to have surgery to repair it... and the interstate evaluation stopped for no one. In what must have been a comical sight to the landowner we arrived one day to do a pit... with me on crutches. I walked up the ridge to the open air pit on crutches and dangled by feet over the edge



while Salisa walked around 50 feet below down on the bottom of the pit, sampling the karst invertebrate fauna we had been employed to evaluate. She had a hand-radio and we were talking back and forth as she spent the afternoon working, with me just sitting there watching from above. The show must go on so thanks to her, it did.

From an IKC standpoint she's frequently like the invisible woman... she's planted countless trees at Buddha, led scouts through Sullivan, and during the last year has been a frequent companion

at the Shawnee Karst Preserve, fixing a wildlife pond dam, digging out garbage from a dump, cutting down cedar trees in the glade, or chainsawing the path around the refuge. Salisa is a frequent proxy at the board meetings, but she spends a lot more time doing IKC work that few will ever see or acknowledge. I wish the IKC had an army like her... but I'll settle for being married to the person who is the best thing that ever happened to me.

Jerry Lewis

NEWS BRIEFS..

- ❑ The organized caving community has provided considerable long-term support to bat conservation efforts across the Hoosier state. With the arrival of White-nose Syndrome (WNS) in Indiana in 2011, cavers are encouraged to help manage the occurrence and impact of this devastating disease by honoring the various agency cave closures/advisories, avoiding private caves in winter used by hibernating bats, and using the most current USFWS decontamination procedures to reduce the potential risk of human-assisted transmission of WNS, especially to non-infected areas. Cavers can also assist the researchers by reporting sick or dead bats and/or unusual bat behavior observed during the winter months (most prevalent in February and March). The Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife home page has a link to an on-line form to facilitate the timely reporting of dead/sick bats in the state. Reports submitted through this link are received by a wildlife biologist for review and subsequent follow-up. Cavers can also use this system to report the observation of healthy-looking bats during the winter. Such information will help to better define the extent and geographic spread of WNS in Indiana. Of particular interest would be reports from Clark, Decatur, Dubois, Floyd, Morgan, Owen, Perry, Putnum, and Ripley counties. The link to the report form is: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/6386.htm>
- ❑ The IKC has gained three new members in the last quarter. Welcome Kyle Schnepf (530), Molly Schnepf (531), and Seth Gower (532). The IKC membership currently stands at 185.

SHAWNEE KARST PRESERVE WORKDAY – APRIL 20th

On the same day as the Indiana Cave Symposium on Saturday, April 20th, the IKC will be hosting our annual Under-Earth Day at the nearby Shawnee Karst Preserve. The main stewardship activity for the day will be to plant 400 hardwood seedlings (white oak, red oak, chinkapin oak, and black walnut) on the north border of the property. When we complete that task, we will continue work on clearing the eastern loop nature trail and start on the other sinkhole dump on the property. Start time will be 10 AM EDT and continue until around 4 PM. Even if you don't have the time to volunteer, stop in and take a quick tour of the property before heading over to the Symposium.

The entrance to the property is 0.7 miles east of the entrance to Spring Mill State Park on the south side of SR 60. Look for the neighbor's "4030" address sign and our driveway is immediately to the west of that sign. For more information, contact Property Manager Jerry Lewis (see page 2 for contact information).

SHAWNEE KARST PRESERVE PROJECT UPDATE

by Keith Dunlap

The IKC has now owned the Shawnee Karst Preserve for a little over a year and during that time, we have made tremendous progress in making the property accessible, cleaning up some environmental issues, implementing a number of stewardship projects, and getting very close to reaching our fund-raising goal.

On December 7th, we had another workday to finish the clean up of the trash dump located in the sinkhole that directly drains to the Upper Twin Cave entrance (see the December *IKC Update* for more on the first workday). We filled another dozen or so heavy-duty 55-gallon bags mostly buried shingles, then graded the ravine to a natural appearance. To prevent erosion, wheat

was seeded and raked in, then straw mats were rolled down the ravine, then across, and a third layer down the ravine again. Rock “dams” and tree branches were then positioned on top of the mats. By late January, the wheat was starting to spout and there were absolutely no signs of erosion despite several heavy rains.

The other stewardship project getting much attention over the past three months was development of two loop nature trails. The process involves walking and flagging a route that attempts to be interesting and highlights the various features on the property, while avoiding views of neighboring buildings and fields. Next

Continued on page 8...

| SHAWNEE KARST PRESERVE GRANTS / DONATIONS | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| \$10,000 or more | | | |
| The Nature Conservancy | | | |
| \$5,000 to \$9,999 | | | |
| Richard Blenz Keith Dunlap National Speleological Society | | | |
| \$1,000 to \$4,999 | | | |
| Bruce Bowman George Brutchen Andrew & Alison DuBois Tom Sollman | | Bruce Trotter In Memory of Paul Barker Central Indiana Grotto National Speleological Foundation | |
| \$250 to \$999 | | | |
| Miriam & Paul Ash Keith Calkins Barb & Don Coons Robert Decker Jeff Farr Scott Fee | Barbara Hanka David Lasser Jerry & Salisa Lewis Carl & Louise Nelson Nate Pate Everett Pulliam Matt Selig | Bob & Phyllis Sergesketter Gordon Smith Kevin Smith Bill Tozer Sue & Dick Vernier Norbert Welch Rich Whisler | Bob Zatarski In Memory of Robert Dunlap Bluespring Caverns Evansville Metro Grotto Northern Indiana Grotto Saint Joseph Valley Grotto |
| \$100 to \$249 | | | |
| Joy Baiz Ray Beach Carl Brown Ari Doucette Allen Goodcase Scott Hammon | Timothy Heppner Dan McDowell Bill Morrow Nick Noe Ernie & Jacqueline Payne Don Peters | Kelle Reynolds Gary Roberson Wes Roeder Russ Romme Richard Vanrheenen Gary Whittaker | Carla & Jamie Winner In Celebration of Carla & Jamie Winner Dogwood City Grotto Eastern Indiana Grotto Greater Cincinnati Grotto |
| \$50 to \$99 | | | |
| David Anderson Danielle Burden Pat & Debbie Burns Chris Carpenter George Cesnik Mike Clark Jeff Cody | William Combs John Dimit Dave Everton Jaime Fee Kim & Tom Metzgar Shannon Obendorf | Kevin Rasmus Tom Rea Cindy Sandeno Ralph Sawyer Ray & Beth Sheldon Brenda & John Shultheis | Mark Webb Gerry Woltering In Memory of Wilbur Isom In Memory of Jerry Litaker In Memory of Craig Williams Near Normal Grotto |
| \$5 to \$49 | | | |
| Ron Adams John Ahlberg Tim Aikema Bob Armstrong Brad Barcom Ted Bice Chris Carpenter Thomas Chenier Larry Coker Patty Cummings Christopher Dick | Rick & Rhonda Gikas Daniel Gray Dave Haun Hal Hempe Horton Hobbs III David Hughes Rob Jarboe Mark Kraus Brian Leavell Robert Masta Andrew Mehthop Jon Miller | Lynn & Jane Miller Douglas Moore Gene & Jennifer Pelter Steve Ragsdale Charles Rex Patty Ruback Jay Salvage Bruce Silvers Karen Silvers Ty Spatta Susan Strickland Dave Tibbets | Mark Van Buskirk Nicholas Walden Kathy Welling David Whorral Scott Worpell Kevin Wyatt Laura Young In Memory of Norman O. Flory Jr In Memory of Ava Darlene Mullen Elkhart Environmental Center Sub-Urban Chicago Grotto |
| Project goal: \$102,600 | | | |
| Raised/Pledged to date: \$100,994 | | | |
| Percent of goal: 98.4% | | | |
| February 22, 2013 | | | |



Cleanup of the trash dump at the Shawnee Karst Preserve:

Upper left – The “before” condition looking from the bottom of the ravine.

Upper right – The “after” condition with the final grading of the ravine (looking from the top).

Middle right – Rolling out the straw mats to prevent erosion.

Lower right – Rocks and tree branches were added for the final touches of the project. The ravine drains directly to the cave entrance.



2013 INDIANA CAVE SYMPOSIUM PREVIEW

by Keith Dunlap

The 21st annual Indiana Cave Symposium, co-sponsored by the Indiana Karst Conservancy and Indiana Cave Survey, will be held on Saturday, April 20, in the Community Building at the Lawrence County Fairgrounds (one mile west of SR 37 on US 50 south of Bedford). The customary free cookout (burgers, brats, and other assorted meats and non-meat offerings) and pitch-in side dishes (please bring a cover dish or dessert to share) will start at 5 PM EDT. Presentations will begin at 7 PM. The *tentative* presentation titles and presenters (not in any particular order) include:

- Indiana Saltpeter Operations in the War of 1812 – Bill Schulze
- Lost River Cave Update – Joy Baiz
- Speleology & Nature Disaster Relationships – Kriste Lindberg
- Shawnee Karst Preserve Update – Jerry Lewis
- Aaron Valandra – ICS website transformation
- Buckner Cave Graffiti Removal Update – Bill Baus
- Binkley Cave Update – Dave Everton

For more information about the Symposium, contact Dave Everton (deverton@indiana.edu or evening phone 812-824-4380) or visit the Indiana Cave Survey website (www.caves.org/survey/ics).

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the path is cleared using a self-propelled brush mower and chainsaw. The goal is to avoid removing any trees greater than an inch in diameter. Most of the chainsawing is to clear downed tree tops left over from the 2010 timbering. The mower is efficient in clearing the briars and other vegetation which have really flourished since much of the canopy was removed. The western loop trail is essentially done and is 0.8 miles in length. It starts at the end of the driveway and follows the existing logging trail north, then heads west skirting the southern edge of the grassland clearing, passes by the restored wildlife pond, then parallel the northern boundary of “panhandle” to the western end of the property. The trail then turns south and descends into one of the larger sinkholes on the property. The trail then turns east and works its way through another sinkhole and intersects another logging trail and returns to the starting point.

The eastern loop trail has been flagged and clearing the trail will occur this spring. The eastern trail also starts at the end of the driveway and follows the logging trail north. It splits off from the western trail and descends into the sinkhole containing the Upper Twin Cave entrance. It then turns east and crosses over the

breached eastern wildlife pond embankment (to be repaired) and flanks two other large sinkholes. It then heads east again and crosses into the early successional area dominated by cedars. The trail then skirts the western side of the sinkhole pond, crosses the driveway, and descends into another wetland area. The trail then ascends along the southern border to the high point on the property, passes a spur that leads to campsite #1, then descends into another sinkhole before returning to the starting point.

Recent volunteers include Keith Dunlap, Seth Gower, Alex Lewis, Geoff Lewis, Jerry Lewis, Salisa Lewis, Everett Pulliam, John Sies, Tom Sollman, and Bob Vandeventer.

Concerning fund-raising, over the past three months, we have received a \$4,000 grant from the National Speleological Foundation and numerous other smaller donation that brought us to within \$5,000 of our goal. In February, long time supporter Dick Blenz offered to match dollar-for-dollar until we reach our goal, and that has encouraged new donations from our members. We still have \$1,600 to go, so if you have not donated, please consider doing so. Any excess will help build our dedicated reserve for the next cave purchase.

PROJECT UNDERGROUND: A WORKSHOP TO HELP RAISE AWARENESS OF CAVES AND KARST

by Carroll Ritter

A Project Underground workshop was hosted at Spring Mill State Park on November 30. The event was co-sponsored by the IKC and Sycamore Land Trust.

Sixteen participants learned about karst features, groundwater challenges, and educational activities. The 3-D groundwater model demonstration was an exceptionally valuable visual tool to communicate contamination potential of aquifers and encourage discussion. A presentation on bats and the current White-nose Syndrome issue was illustrative in how we understand the current status and also the protective strategies in place by governmental agencies. Kriste Lindberg pulled out several valuable fun and educational activities that were appreciated by all,

including teachers in attendance. An outdoor water chemistry session was taught by Carroll Ritter at the karst window entrances to Upper/Lower Twin caves. This showed how scientists measure stream discharges and do quantitative and qualitative assessment of the important chemical parameters affecting the overall stream quality. Bob Vandeventer also discussed the IKC's exciting Shawnee Karst Preserve acquisition and how it relates to the Spring Mill cave system.

All participants seemed to be very enthused about this workshop and comments received back expressed appreciation for both IKC and SLT's commitment to protecting the valuable natural resources in karst environments.

Sixteen "students", many of them teachers, participated in the Project Underground class conducted at Spring Mill State Park. Kriste Lindberg was the primary in-class instructor.



Carroll Ritter demonstrates a number of water quality monitoring techniques at the boat dock in the karst window between Upper Twin and Lower Twin caves in Spring Mill State Park.

SHAWNEE KARST PRESERVE WINTER BIRD COUNT

by Jerry Lewis

Each year across the United States during the Christmas holidays, birding enthusiasts conduct a census of winter birds present in different areas. Although these bird counts are not precise tools, they do give an indication of what species are present and their relative abundance. At the Shawnee Karst Preserve we followed the same protocol as the bird survey that we've conducted at Buddha. We established twenty stations along the trail (somewhat longer than a mile) that circles the property. At each station the idea is to stop for three minutes to look and listen... any bird detected or heard (each bird has a species specific song) during that time is counted.

Two days before Christmas found Salisa, our daughter Alexandra (home from college for the holiday), and me at Shawnee. Although the temperature was in the 40s, the breeze made it seem colder and there was a light cover of snow from a couple of days before. The windy conditions weren't great for birding, but we forged ahead regardless. We saw a total of 81 birds divided among 20 species. The relatively low number of birds

observed was the result of the conditions – many of the birds were probably “hunkered down”. The low number of species was typical of a winter bird count, especially on conducted in an area of relatively low habitat diversity. The most common birds were Carolina chickadees, crows, blue jays, and cardinals. No rare birds were seen, but the Red-headed woodpeckers are rather sporadic in their occurrence in Indiana. The most fun birds were the wild turkeys... it's always interesting to watch a bird that is as cumbersome as a turkey take flight. They're surprisingly good fliers for airborne butterballs...

Like the property at Buddha, the forest at the Shawnee Karst Preserve is in transition. The cedar trees comprising the most obvious part of the forest in the east side of the property are nearing maturity. As one of the first trees to appear in old fields, cedars dominate a forest until broadleaf trees start reaching a height where they shade-out the cedars. The SKP east side forest is now reaching that stage, and over the next ten years or so the

Continued on page 14...

| Shawnee Karst Preserve Winter Bird Survey | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------|----------|---------------|-------------------------|--|--------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|-------|
| Surveyors: Jerry Lewis, Salisa Lewis, Alex Lewis, 23 December 2012 (11:57 AM 2:10 PM) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| General conditions: Partly cloudy, breezy, ground partly with about an inch of snow from 2 days prior | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Start conditions: 46 degrees, scattered clouds, sunny | | | | | | | | | | Finish conditions: 50 degrees, scattered clouds, sunny | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Station | Turkey vulture | Red-tailed hawk | Wild turkey | Red-headed woodpecker | Red-bellied Woodpecker | Hairy Woodpecker | Blue Jay | American Crow | White-breasted nuthatch | Tufted titmouse | Carolina chickadee | American Robin | Carolina wren | Yellow-rumped Warbler | Northern Cardinal | Eastern Towhee | Dark-eyed junco | White-crowned sparrow | Song Sparrow | House finch | TOTAL |
| 1 | | | | 1 | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 4 |
| 2 | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| 3 | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| 4 | | | 1 | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| 5 | 2 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| 6 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | 2 | | | 4 |
| 7 | | | | 2 | | | | | 1 | 3 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 7 |
| 8 | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | 6 |
| 9 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 2 | | | | | | 3 |
| 10 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 2 |
| 11 | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| 12 | | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | 4 |
| 13 | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 3 |
| 14 | | | | | 2 | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | | 14 |
| 15 | 2 | | | | | | | 3 | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | 7 |
| 16 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| 17 | | | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 3 |
| 18 | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 19 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 20 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | | 3 |
| 2012: | 5 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 81 |

Hopes For Indiana Bat Rise and Fall at Indiana's Cave River Valley

by Lori Pruitt

Bloomington USFWS Field Office

Four years ago, conservation partners in Indiana were celebrating the acquisition of a significant new property. The State of Indiana, using a federal grant under the Endangered Species Act and, with help from The Nature Conservancy, acquired Cave River Valley.

As the name implies, the 300-plus-acre property includes multiple caves, including Endless and River caves. Both are incredibly scenic and support significant cave resources, including several globally rare cave species. The property also supports limestone glade remnants, a rare natural community in Indiana.

Particularly, the importance of the area for the federally endangered Indiana bat was a key incentive for the acquisition. Endless Cave was considered to have high potential by Indiana bat experts, but the site was heavily visited by people, even during the winter hibernation period. This disturbance was a threat to the resident bat population.

Endless Cave was gated in the summer of 2009, and expectations were high that eliminating the

winter disturbance would lead to recovery of the Indiana bat population. The cave was also one of the best sites in the state for hibernating little brown bats, which were also expected to benefit from the protection of the site.

Unfortunately expectations were dampened by the rapid spread of white-nose syndrome (WNS) – a disease of hibernating bats that has killed an estimated 5 to 6 million bats since 2006 (for more information see <http://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/>). In January 2011, WNS was confirmed in Endless Cave, the first cave in Indiana to have a documented case of WNS.

Despite the arrival of WNS at Endless Cave, partners involved in the property remain resolute to do everything possible to conserve bats at this site. Monitoring is underway at the site to help track the progression of WNS and to help understand and manage this deadly bat disease.

US Fish & Wildlife Service and state DNR biologists recently visited Cave River Valley to perform some needed maintenance on the Endless Cave gate and to check on acoustic monitoring equipment at the site. It was a beautiful October

day and the scenery as we hiked into the valley was nothing short of spectacular. We were reminded of all the reasons we had to conserve this property and all it has to offer to visitors.

The State has plans to expand recreational opportunities at this site, including camping and picnicking, as funding becomes available. Visitors are sure to enjoy what they find there. Project partners are pleased that the public will have the opportunity to enjoy this beautiful natural treasure. Bat surveys this winter will tell us what toll WNS has taken on the bats that inhabit these caves. We remain hopeful that bats will continue to take refuge in the caves of Cave River Valley.

*[Editor's addendum: The formal census in Endless and River caves were conducted on January 20th. While the photographic-based tallies for the Indiana bat (*myotis sodalis*) have not been completed, it was clearly apparent the numbers of little brown (*myotis lucifugus*) and tri-colored (*perimyotis subflavus*) bats were down significantly, as was the case at most of the other hibernacula censuses this winter.]*



Master Chef Ray Sheldon preparing the assortment of meats (and veggieburgers) at the 2012 Indiana Cave Symposium. See the article on page 8 for more details.

INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY TREASURY REPORT

**Income/Expense Statement
From October 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012**

INCOME:

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|------------|
| Dues Apportionment and Residuals | 661.25 | |
| Donations - General | 112.55 | |
| Donations - Land Acquisition Fund | 6,516.08 | |
| DNR EQIP grant | 459.00 | |
| Interest | <u>342.76</u> | |
| | | \$8,091.64 |

EXPENSES:

| | | |
|--|-----------------|--------------|
| IKC Update (printing, production, mailing) | 182.78 | |
| Education / Outreach | 500.00 | |
| Stewardship/Conservation | 383.14 | |
| SpeLoggers | 62.93 | |
| Business (insurance, PO Box rental, misc fees) | 885.50 | |
| Transfers to/from restricted funds/other adjustments | <u>6,844.66</u> | |
| | | (\$8,859.01) |

NET OPERATING EXCESS (DEFICIT) THIS PERIOD: (\$767.37)

**Balance Sheet
December 31, 2012**

ASSETS:

| | | |
|---|--------------|----------------------------|
| Cash in Checking / Saving Accounts / CDs | 96,655.45 | |
| Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve (73.48 acres) | 162,000.00 | |
| Shawnee Karst Preserve (50.31 acres) | 105,000.00 | |
| Wayne Cave Preserve (20.00 acres) | 75,000.00 | |
| Sullivan Cave Preserve (28.00 acres) | 72,000.00 | |
| Buddha Karst Nature Preserve (36.84 acres) | 29,000.00 | |
| Orangeville Rise Nature Preserve (3.01 acres) | 7,000.00 | |
| Indian Creek Conservation Easement (valued at \$1/acre) | <u>13.16</u> | |
| | | <u><u>\$546,668.61</u></u> |

FUNDS & OPERATING EXCESS:

| | | |
|---|----------------|-------------------|
| Land Acquisition Restricted Fund | 19,578.95 | |
| Deferred Dues Restricted Fund (185 members) | 2,418.75 | |
| Stewardship Endowment Restricted Fund | 42,726.23 | |
| Previous General Fund (total) | 32,712.05 | |
| Net Excess (Deficit) This Period | <u>-767.37</u> | |
| Current General Fund (unrestricted) | | 31,944.68 |
| Current General Fund (committed) | 500.00 | |
| Real estate liquidity (basis value) | | <u>450,000.00</u> |

Total Liabilities & Operating Excess \$546,668.61

IKC QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, December 8th, 2012 – IU Geology Building, Bloomington, Indiana

Board Members Present:

Jerry Lewis, President
 Keith Dunlap, Treasurer
 Kevin Smith, Secretary
 Bruce Bowman (proxy by Seth Gower)
 Christopher Dick
 Dave Haun (proxy by Sue Vernier)
 Don Ingle
 Everett Pulliam
 Bob Sergesketter
 Karen Silvers
 Tom Sollman
 Bob Vandeventer
 Richard Vernier
 Carla Winner
 Jamie Winner

Board Members Absent:

none

The quarterly Meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM at the Geology Building at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. IKC President Lewis presiding. Sue Vernier was accepted as proxy for Dave Haun and Seth Gower was accepted as proxy for Bruce Bowman.

Minutes of the September 22, 2012 meeting were accepted as published in the September 2012 *IKC Update*. There were no e-mail motions made during the past quarter.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Dunlap reported cash assets of \$91,307.40 and land assets of \$450,000, for total assets of \$541,307.40. Funds include Stewardship: \$42,397.65; Deferred Dues: \$2,790.00; Land Acquisition: \$14,113.95; and General Fund: \$31,985.80. \$500.00 from the General Fund has been committed by previous Board actions.

The IKC membership currently stands at 182.

Sinks of Indian Creek Conservation Easement

Kevin Smith reported results from his efforts to solicit candidates to replace Jerry Lewis as the monitor for the Sinks of Indian Creek Conservation Easement. Kevin sent communications to each of the IKC Board members explaining the position and asking to respond if there was interest. Karen Silvers and Jamie Winner responded with an interest in the position. Dave Everton also expressed some interest by learning of the open position from the meeting minutes printed in the December *IKC Update*. Jerry Lewis reported that Everton later declined the opportunity. It was decided that the new monitor would be chosen between the two candi-

dates by blind ballot. The board selected Jamie Winner as the new monitor for the easement.

Jerry Lewis reports that he had received two additional postcard requests from easement landowners for a free copy of Gary Roberson's book, *50 Years Under the Sinkhole Plain*.

Buddha Cave Preserve

Nothing new to report.

Education & Outreach Report

Bob Vandeventer gave a report on "Project Underground" training that was held at Spring Mill State Park on November 30th, 2012. The class was co-sponsored by the IKC and the Sycamore Land Trust. Bob participated in the event by operating the projector and said the program appeared to be a success and had a full fourteen participants. Kriste Lindberg taught the class and IKC material was included with the packages provided for each participant. The day's agenda included a trip to lower entrance to Upper Twin Cave to conduct some water-related tests.

John Bacone of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources had requested that the Indiana Nature Preserve's logo be placed on the IKC website. Some discussion was held relating to the addition of logos to the IKC website representing both The Nature Conservancy and the Indiana State Nature Preserves. Carla Striegel-Winner moved that both logos be added to the IKC website. Everett Pulliam seconded the motion and the motion passed with a vote of 13-2.

Shawnee Karst Preserve

Work to clean up the trash dumped in the ravine containing the cave entrance is 98% complete. Several IKC members volunteered at a work day held on November 10th. After all debris was removed, straw mats were then placed along the sides of the ravine to help with erosion control. Other sites around the property will require debris removal including the wildlife pond near the entrance with a considerable amount of logging waste and some barbed wire along the edge of the property.

Dunlap reports that he has ordered and paid for 400 hardwood trees to be planted on the preserve next spring as part of Under-Earth Day.

Lewis reports the development of the first nature trail on the western side of the property is nearly complete. An additional eastern loop trail that leads back to the parking area past the cave entrance is also being planned.

Continuing discussions were held regarding the path forward with the installation of a more permanent turnaround marker inside Upper Twin Cave. Dunlap vol-



unteered to install a chain or cable across the passage from which a sign will be attached.

Jerry Lewis reports he has completed his article on the Shawnee Karst Preserve for submission to the *NSS News*. The article will be submitted in the near future.

As of November 24, 2012, \$91,589.00 has been raised through the IKC's fund raising efforts for the property, which represents approximately 89% of our \$102,600.00 goal. A grant from the National Speleological Foundation is pending. They did approve some funding, but the exact amount is unclear, however it is believed to be either two or four thousand dollars. Jerry noted that the NSS article will also include a solicitation for donations to the SKP property.

Jerry provided a progress report on the bio-inventory of Upper Twin Cave. Two different species of pseudoscorpions were found in the cave which makes it unique among all Indiana caves. Jerry hopes to provide an overview of the bio-inventory report for all IKC caves at the 2013 IKC/ICS Cave Symposium and publish the full report soon.

IKC Liability Insurance Coverage

Keith Dunlap reports that he has received a quote from our insurance agent for the additional \$1 million coverage under an umbrella type policy. Currently, the IKC holds a one million dollar standard liability policy. The additional coverage would cost \$500. Since our current assets total less than \$1 million, it was decided the additional cost could not be justified. The current standard policy covers all land owned by the IKC, as well as all volunteers working on premises, and their vehicles when performing IKC business. In addition, the Indiana "Sportsman Law" provides protection with regards to liability issues.

Wayne Cave Research Request

Jerry Lewis received an e-mail from Dave Everton regarding an individual who had contacted him about col-

lecting some speleothem samples from Wayne Cave. If additional information is received, a board discussion will be held at a future date.

Purdue University Research Request

Two graduate students from Purdue University presented to the board, a request to sample beetle populations in Sullivan, Wayne, and Buddha Cave. Their research includes collecting beetle samples from various caves to study their variation and distribution. They also hope to evaluate the beetle's life cycle, genetics, and how different species have diverged geographically. They reported collecting samples already from Binkley, Marengo, Donnehue, Pitman, and Upper Twin caves. Keith Dunlap moved that the request to sample IKC caves be approved. The motion was seconded by Richard Vernier and the motion passed with a vote of 15-0.

Items From the Floor

Kevin Romanak, along with several other members of the IU Caving Club, was in attendance and requested permission to conduct an overnight trip into Sullivan Cave in early January. The trip would include no more than twelve people and the group agreed to abide by all rules and regulations for visitation and stressed "no impact" practices. The purpose of the trip is to study human adaptation to extended stays underground. They hope to do further studies in other caves such as Wayne Cave. After some discussion, Keith Dunlap moved to approve the IU Caving Club's request for an overnight trip to Sullivan cave. Carla Striegel-Winner seconded the motion and the motion passed with a vote of 12 to 3.

Next Meeting

The next quarterly meeting was scheduled for March 9th at the Greenwood Public library. The meeting time will be identified at a later date.

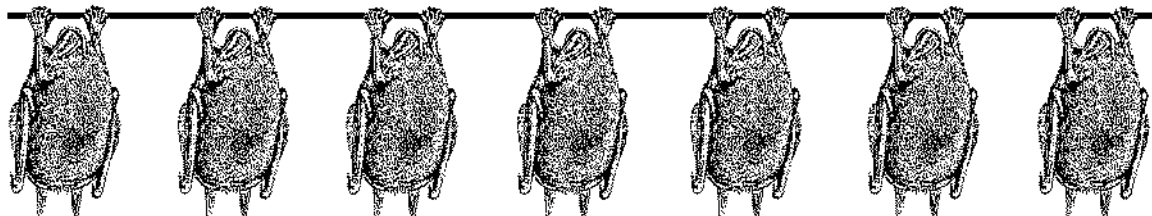
Meeting adjourned at 3:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Kevin Smith, IKC Secretary.

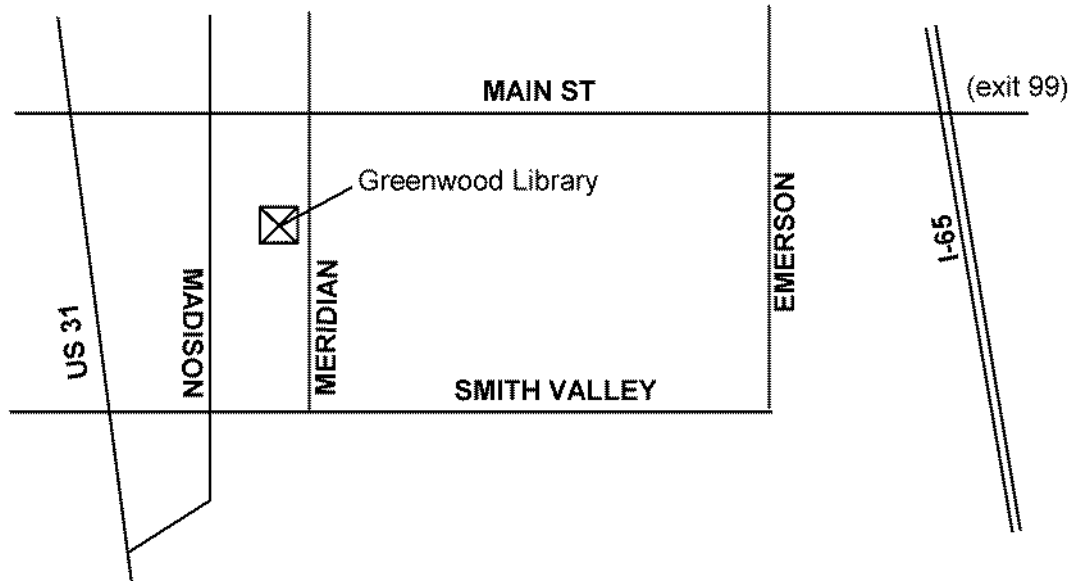
Continued from page 10...

deciduous trees will start to tower over the cedars and out-compete them for sunlight. On the west part of the property the forest has been decimated by the recent logging, but even where most of the larger trees have been removed, the forest floor is carpeted with saplings. In a few years the remain-

ing trees damaged by the logging will have died and fallen, while the new trees will start filling in the gaps. As these changes occur the birds inhabiting each kind of forest will change, and periodic winter (and summer) bird counts will be indicators of the environmental transition.



**IKC ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
SATURDAY, MARCH 9th, 1 PM
GREENWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY, GREENWOOD, INDIANA**



The address of the library is **310 South Meridian, Greenwood, IN 46143.**

Their website is www.greenwoodlibrary.us and their phone number is 317-881-1953.

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.

