

IKC UPDATE

A Quarterly Publication of The Indiana Karst Conservancy
June 2007 Number 85



INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY, INC**PO Box 2401, Indianapolis, IN 46206-2401****<http://www.caves.org/conservancy/ikc>***Affiliated with the National Speleological Society*

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President
Richard Vernier (2008)
(812) 385-5058
rsav1@juno.com

Secretary
Bob Sergesketter (2008)
(812) 482-5517

Treasurer
Keith Dunlap (2008)
(317) 882-5420
Keith.Dunlap@juno.com

Directors
James Adams (2010)
(317) 882-3724
JKAdams@aol.com

Dave Haun (2009)
(317) 781-1996
DEHcave@onet.net

Don Ingle (2010)
(812) 847-4406
D.Ingle@insightbb.com

Jerry Lewis (2009)
(812) 280-8052
LewisBioConsult@aol.com

Kriste Lindberg (2008)
(812) 339-7210
Lindberg@kiva.net

Steve Lockwood (2010)
(812) 944-8097
SKNALockwood@aol.com

Nick Noe (2008)
(317) 782-3442
NickNoe@msn.com

Bruce Silvers (2009)
(219) 471-9908
res08la3@verizon.net

Tom Sollman (2009)
(812) 753-4953
Sollman@juno.com

Bob Vandeventer (2008)
(317) 888-4501
VandeventerBob@netzero.net

Sue Vernier (2008)
(812) 385-5058
rsav1@juno.com

Jamie Winner (2010)
(765) 945-7343
JAWinner@gmail.com

COMMITTEES / CHAIRPERSON

Education/Outreach
Kriste Lindberg
(see E-Board list)

Web Technologies
Bruce Bowman
Bruce.Bowman@tds.net

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

Hoosier National Forest
Steve Lockwood
(see E-board list)

Buddha Property
George Cesnik
(812) 339-2143
GeoCesnik@yahoo.com

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

Robinson Ladder Property
John Benton
(812) 683-2733
JBenton@fullnet.com

Sullivan Property
Keith Dunlap
(see E-Board list)

Wayne Property
Robert Sollman
(812) 753-4953
SollmanCaver@hotmail.com

Indian Creek CE
Richard Newton
(812) 365-2495
Cedarman@netpointe.com

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*
Bruce Silvers
(219) 471-9908

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

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

Windy City Grotto
Jack Wood
(773) 728-9773

*grottos with liaison agreements

MANAGED CAVES / PATRONS

Buddha Cave
Jeff Cody
(317) 888-9898

Coon & Grotto caves
Keith Dunlap
(317) 882-5420
Keith.Dunlap@juno.com

Robinson Ladder Cave
John Benton
(812) 683-2733
JBenton@fullnet.com

Shaft Cave
Jeff Cody
(317) 888-9898

Shiloh Cave
James Adams
(317) 882-3724
JKAdams@aol.com

Suicide Cave
Ronnie Burns
(812) 883-7400
RBurns@blueriver.net

Sullivan Cave
Bob Vandeventer
(see E-Board list)

Wayne Cave
Dave Everton
(812) 824-4380
DEverton@indiana.edu

QUARTERLY MEETING REMINDER

SATURDAY, JUNE 16th, 6:00 PM

BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

IU GEOLOGY BUILDING, ROOM 143

(SAME ROOM AS THE BIG MEETING)

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 meeting is informal, and everyone is encouraged to attend and participate. The IKC Board wants your input.

Preliminary Agenda Items: Brief recap of the last quarter's activities (Robinson Ladder workday, the Indiana Cave Symposium, Buddha Karst Preserve tree planting, June 16th workday); Treasurer's report; *Caves: Life Beneath the Forest* DVD distribution; conservation and IKC activities at the NSS Convention and more...

Meeting directions: The Geology Building is located at 10th and Walnut Grove. Tenth Street runs east/west and is one of the major streets that run across the IU campus. Park behind the building, parking permits are not enforced on weekends. Enter the building from the rear at the west end. The room is halfway down the hall on the right.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

June 16 – IKC Workday, Bloomington (see page 10)

June 16 – IKC Quarterly Meeting, Bloomington (see above)

July 23-27 – NSS National Convention, Marengo (see www.NSS2007.com)

August 11 – Great Lakes Bat Festival, Terre Haute (see page 5)

September 15 – Lost River Field Trip, Orleans (see *IKC Update #84*)

September ?? – IKC Quarterly Meeting & Cookout (date and location TBD)

October 8-12 – National Cave & Karst Management Symposium, St Louis

For more information on the Indiana Karst Conservancy, visit our website at <http://www.caves.org/conservancy/ikc> or write to our PO box. Membership to the IKC is open to anyone interested in cave and karst conservation. Annual dues are \$15. Please see inside 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.

IKC Update (ISSN 1076-3120) copyright © 2007 by the Indiana Karst Conservancy, Inc. Excluding reprinted material and individually copyrighted articles and artwork, permission is granted to National Speleological Society affiliated organizations to reprint material from this publication, with proper credit given to the author/artist and the *IKC Update*. Articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Indiana Karst Conservancy, the National Speleological Society, or their respective members.

RAMBLINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT...



As Kriste Lindberg, my wife Sue, and I unrolled the inflatable “cave” on the stage of the Buskirk-Chumley Theater in downtown Bloomington, we looked out nervously at all of the empty seats and wondered if this was going to work. We knew that the Hoosier National Forest had put a lot of time, money, and effort into the Premiere of the new video, *Caves: Life Beneath the Forest*; and it was going to be darn embarrassing if all that showed up were a few cavers and some winos in off the street.

We needn't have worried! At first there was just a trickle coming in the door filing past the IKC and HNF displays, mostly a few parents with kids who weren't interested in the dull, old signs with the dull, old people standing around – they were there for the cave, face painting, and live bats. But abruptly things began to change and soon there were crowds waiting to pick up their information packets and be ushered in by smiling HNF volunteers and cavers like Dave Everton replete with helmet and tie.

By the time emcee Cindy Sandeno of the Hoosier National Forest had made her introductory remarks and the video was ready to roll, the main level was packed and the best seats in the balcony were mostly taken. I had not seen the final full version of the documentary, and it was impressive to see it on the big screen with a theater-quality projection and audio system.

At the conclusion, awards were handed out to those who made it all happen and to the scientists who took the time to provide technical input and interviews, including our own Dr Jerry Lewis. David McGowan, the producer/director of the video, also received the unique “Golden Bat” award; and then Hoosier National Forest Supervisor Ken Day took the occasion to present the IKC with two awards, the Forest Supervisor's Honor Award for our work on the project and the Forest Service National Volunteer of the Year Award for 2005. This award resulted from our having won the Midwest Regional Volunteer of the Year award for 2005 and then being selected out of all of the Regions to receive the national award! The award recognizes our past contributions doing

values studies, locations and surveys (in conjunction with the Indiana Cave Survey), “significant cave” nominations, cave management plans, and constructing bat gates on HNF properties.

All in all, a great success! Thanks to the HNF, Dave McGowan of Ravenswood Media, the scientists, the audience, and all of the volunteers, IKC and others who participated. See Cindy's article on page 7 in this issue for more details.

Plans are being made to get the video out to the public all over the state and region, and we will probably be giving you the opportunity to help out – more details to come.

Don't forget that beginning July 23rd, the NSS's annual convention will be in Marengo, Indiana. Plan to attend and wear your IKC hats so people will know we are there (hats will be available at consignment sales in case you don't own one or, like me, have worn your old one out).

Robinson Ladder Cave will be the closest IKC cave to the convention so we will be having a few trips there. Some will probably make it as far as Sullivan, Wayne, Buddha, and the Orangeville Rise. Please help all of the out-of-state cavers to have a great time and sneak in a good word or two for what we do and for cave and karst conservation in general.

Richard Vernier



NEWS BRIEFS...

- ❑ The IKC annual elections on March 24th yielded one change to the Executive Board. Dick Vernier, Bob Sergesketter, and Keith Dunlap were re-elected President, Secretary, and Treasurer, respectively for another year. Likewise, Don Ingle, Steve Lockwood, and Jamie Winner were re-elected Directors for three more years. Former Board member James Adams returns for a three-year Director's term. Finally, Nick Noe was re-elected as a Director to serve out the final year of Bill Tozer's term, who asked to be replaced after moving to Colorado. The other Directors serving on the Executive Board are Dave Haun, Jerry Lewis, Kriste Lindberg, Bruce Silvers, Tom Sollman, Bob Vandeventer, and Sue Vernier. We would like to express our appreciation to Bill Tozer who has served on the IKC's Board in various capacities for the past sixteen year.

- ❑ On April 16th, twenty-three volunteers joined in for a pre-Earth Day project at the Buddha Karst Nature Preserve to plant 500 oak (chinkapin, red, and white) trees. Including the new seedlings, over 2800 trees (approximately six acres) have been planted since 2002 as part of a long-term reforestation project at this property. The majority of the volunteers this year were from Boy Scout Troop 88 of Borden, Indiana who took the tree planting on as troop conservation project. Troop members included Jerry & Salisa Lewis, Joe,



- Mike, & Nancy Lynch, Carl Montgomery, Alex & Geoffrey Rafail, Greg, Jared, & Sandy Sanders, Jackie & Junior Tucker, and Kennedy & Steve Williams. Other volunteers included George Cesnik, Keith Dunlap, Cindy & Eric Sandeno, Andrienne & Shawn Tuck, and Dick & Sue Vernier. Partial funding for the trees this year were provided by a grant from the Dogwood City Grotto.

- ❑ Complementing the tree planting at the Buddha Preserve are various maintenance tasks needing attention through out the summer. Property Manager George Cesnik and volunteer Keith Dunlap have spent two days in May mowing trails, spot treating weeds around the past two year's tree plantings, and removing invasives including autumn olive, grave vines, honeysuckle, and multi-flora rose. Volunteers are always welcome and should contact George for the next work day.

- ❑ On August 11, the Sixth Annual Great Lakes Bat Festival will be held on the ISU campus in Terre Haute, Indiana. The Festival, sponsored by the Organization for Bat Conservation and the Center for North American Bat Research and Conservation will feature talks and demonstrations about bats. Some of the talks will be oriented towards children and families while others will be focus on current research being conducted to protect and better understand bats. The presentations will take place from 10 AM until 5 PM in the Hulman Memorial Student Union. A barbecue starting at 6 PM will be held at Dobbs Park, followed by demonstrations on bat netting, radio-tagging, light-tagging, and echolocation through the use of bat detectors. Several species of live bats will also be featured. For more information, contact John Whitaker at jwhitaker3@isugw.indstate.edu.

- ❑ Over the past 17 years, the Indiana DNR and the IKC has been monitoring Coon, Grotto, and Ray's caves for unauthorized winter disturbances. The monitoring is done passively using electronic "speloggers" that were installed in the caves and record time and dates of disturbances (triggered by light). The monitored caves serve as significant hibernacula for the Indiana bat. Winter disturbances are thought to be one of the primary causes of the species decline, and thus it's important to understand the levels

of disturbance and to have a means of evaluating management techniques. The fence erected around Grotto in 1986 was done to reduce disturbances, but later evaluation found the fence was ineffective. Likewise “soft” signage that discouraged visitation by appealing to sensibility of protecting the bats did not work. It was not until alarm systems and threatening signs were installed eleven years ago did the unauthorized visits cease. And because we have visitation data and winter population data that clearly shows a correlation between the two (that is when visitation decreases, population increases), we can use this information to better manage other hibernacula.

- ❑ 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 May of 2006, forty-eight individuals and four organizations have made general donations for a total of \$2,396. Donors include David Anderson & Sue O’Shields, John Ahlberg, Ray Beach, John Benton, Ted Bice, Larry Bundy, Chris Carpenter, Patty Cummings, Keith Dunlap, Dave Everton, Jeff Farr, Jeff Gosnell, Scott Hammon, Dwight Hazen, Martin Heinlien, Tim Heppner, Tem Hornaday, Pat & Nathana Jarboe, Robert Jarboe, Troy Jones, Glenn Kotnik, Jay Kress, Jerry & Salisa Lewis, Robert Masta, Doug Moore, William Morrow, Carl Nelson, Nick Noe, Shannon Obendorf, Ernie Payne, Don Peters, Everett Pulliam, Russel Pusilo, Steve Ragsdale, Kevin Rasmus, Kelle Reynolds, Ralph Sawyer, Matt Selig, Bob Sergesketter, Ty Spatta, Susan Strickland, Carla Striegel, Dick & Sue Vernier, Jamie Winner, Scott Worpell, Bluespring Caverns, Cleveland Grotto, Dogwood City Grotto, and the Near Normal 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. Over the past year, over \$4,100 in donations have been received. Donors include Tim Alkema, Danielle Burden, George Brutchen, Chris Carpenter, Dan Chase, Mike Clark, Jeff Cody, Jaime Coffman, Bob Decker, Keith Dunlap, Scott Fee, Allen Goodcase, Scott Hammon, Hal Hempe, Mark Kraus, Robert Masta, Robert Miller, Douglas Moore, Ernie Payne, Gary Roberson, Charles Rex, Kelle Reynolds, Bruce Silvers, Mark Webb, Rich Whisler, and the St Joseph Valley Grotto.
- ❑ Members occasionally ask why we do not have a recurring credit/debit card donation program like the highly successful one used by the Southeast Cave Conservancy. While we have not promoted it heavily, we do offer such a service through the Network For Good “Donate Now” button on the IKC’s home page (www.caves.org/conservancy/ikc). Members can do a one-time sign up to donate \$10 or more per month (or quarter or annually) and Network For Good does the rest, transferring the donation (minus the 3% credit card fee) directly to the IKC. Be sure to designate where you want your recurring donation to applied (e.g., general donation, land acquisition, or a specific project). Recurring donations can be changed or terminated by the donor at any time via the Network For Good website.
- ❑ One new members has joined the IKC in the past quarter. Welcome William Snyder (IKC # 465). The IKC membership now stands at 185.
- ❑ Those with a sharp eye may notice the newsletter looks slightly different this issue due to it being edited and published using Adobe InDesign. The new software will allow future newsletters to be posted on the IKC’s website in pdf format with full-color photos. *IKC Updates* issues #3 through #84 were published using WordStar. The change was long over due.



HOLLYWOOD COMES TO THE HOOSIER NATIONAL FOREST

by Cindy Sandeno

On March 23, over 600 Indiana residents joined the Hoosier National Forest and the Indiana Karst Conservancy for a taste of Hollywood. The Hoosier joined forces with the IKC to host a “red carpet” premiere for the showing of the documentary, *Caves: Life Beneath the Forest*. Both groups have been working with Ravenswood Media on the production for over two years with an impressive list of partners, and wanted to make a big splash with the release of the film.

The evening began with a variety of children’s activities that were enjoyable and allowed children to further their knowledge of caves and cave critters. Kids had the chance to see live bats, crawl through a 38 foot “cave”, make bat finger puppets, meet the mascot of the evening – a giant Indiana bat – and much more.

As the kids finished going through the activities booths, the seating began for the feature presentation. Caver ushers dressed in black slacks, white shirts, bow ties, and caving helmets helped the audience find seats. And as the film began, potential attendees had to be turned away because we had filled the theater to its capacity!

In addition to the film, Forest Supervisor Ken Day presented awards to the film’s contributors and event partners; Dave McGowan, the film’s producer/director held a question and answer session; and almost all the cave scientists interviewed in the film were available for a panel discussion. The scientist answered questions from excited

kids and adults, and proved that scientists can be knowledgeable and entertaining at the same time. The evening concluded with a reception featuring sparkling grape juice that was especially bottled for the event.

The HNF and IKC received many compliments on the event including this one from *The Herald-Times* writer, Carol Kugler, “I took my kids and several friends to the premiere, and we had a wonderful night! The cave video was fantastic! I loved when all the scientists were up there talking. What an interesting evening and how great to share all that knowledge with us!”

The whole evening was an overwhelming success and would not have been possible without the help of our many volunteers and Hoosier employees. A special thanks to Steve & Sandy Clark, Ken Day, Keith Dunlap, Stacy Duke, Dave Everton, Lisa & Dave Faulkenberg, Mindy Grayson, Phil Heitzke, Andy King, Kirk Larson, Amanda Kunzman, Jerry Lewis, Teena Ligman, Kriste Lindberg, Frank Lograsso, Clark McCreedy, Pat Mercer, Allen Pursell, Cindy & Eric Sandeno, Susan Seitzinger, Bob Vandeventer, and Dick & Sue Vernier. The evening would not have been possible without them!

Editor’s note: The DVD is now available from www.cavebiota.com for \$20 + \$4.95 S&H. However, IKC members may wish to wait as we are finalizing details on a special offer for members.



Kids activities, including the inflatable “cave” (in the background on the stage) and a live bat were very popular prior to the video showing.

UNDER-EARTH DAY 2007

by Keith Dunlap

Each April, the IKC celebrates Earth Day by organizing a conservation project on one of their cave preserves. For the past three years, we have focused on our newest preserve, the Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve in Crawford County. In the past, we have removed trash, tore down deer stands, removed interior fence lines, cleared trails, and cut grapevines.

This year we focused on three main projects. All were related to the 21-acre tract adjacent to our property on the north. This tract (referred to as the Campbell tract) was recently purchased by The Nature Conservancy which will complement the conservation value of our property as well as another 10-acre tract TNC owns immediately to the east. Between the two organizations, there are now over 73 acres protected, providing summer habitat for the Indiana bat, protecting several rare plant species, and protecting/improving the water quality of the Blue River, the habitat for the endangered Hellbender and several species of mussels.

The first project for the day was to remove 600 feet of fence line between the IKC and TNC properties. The removal was complicated because trees along the fence line had grown through and into the fence, requiring the fence to be taken out in short (e.g., ten foot) sections. As the fence was removed, it was placed in a dump trailer provided by TNC. The fence line also contained some invasive autumn olive which was cut and the stumps spot treated with herbicide.

The second project of the day was to remove an old truck camper located on the Campbell tract. In order to compact it into the dump trailer, we first had to disassemble the camper. Most of the demolition was done with brute force and sledge hammers, but we also enlisted the assistance of a generator and sawz-all to split some of the larger panels so they would fit in the trailer. Despite our careful packing, some of the camper had to be loaded into two pickups the following day. All total, over a ton of debris and fencing was removed from the property.

The final project for the day was to attempt to locate the northeast corner of the property and determine if a corner marker exists. The survey description was vague by calling the corner a "point" without mentioning a physical pin or stone. So, starting at the southeast corner of the Campbell property (the northeast corner of the IKC prop-

erty), we used a compass and "paces" to get close to where the northeast corner should be located. No marker was found, but the terrain was really difficult, including a 30-foot cliff.

Participants for the workday included John Benton, Terry Clark, Keith Dunlap, Don Ingle, Glenn Lemasters, Steve Lockwood, Nick & Carita Noe, Ernie & Jacqueline Payne, Everett Pulliam, Tom Sollman, Bob Vandeventer, Dick & Sue Vernier, Brian Welp, Jamie Winner, and Bonnie Wolf (TNC).



BUCKNER CAVE GRAFFITI REMOVAL PROJECT UPDATE

by Dave Everton

The *IKC Update* has published periodic articles about the project, most recently in the March 2007 issue. That article summarized the project, and included additional observations about the overall success up until that time. This brief article will discuss the efforts since then, as well as a few additional thoughts.

The March work weekend had been set up as a combined Central Indiana Grotto (CIG) monthly cave trip and graffiti removal weekend, during which participants from that group had the option of showing up on either day. Although turnout from that particular group was low, there was thankfully plenty of other help available, and more graffiti removal was accomplished in the Cushing Room and adjacent area. Due to not getting the word out and other factors, the April workday didn't take place.

One of the obstacles faced after the March cleanup was the lack of ladders to reach the remaining offending vertical sections of graffiti targeted for removal; only one ladder was present, but each of the three crews needed one. The availability of ladders wasn't the obstacle, but the restriction at the start of the crawlway to get them into the cave was. A couple of weeks prior to the May 12-13 work weekend, an e-mail plea for ladders meeting the narrow criteria was sent out, and thanks to Keith Dunlap, Tom Rea, and Jay Kress, three ladders were obtained for use in the Cushing Room and adjacent area. After the May work weekend, a milestone was reached: the majority of the high spots needing to be reached were done, and it was decided to discontinue the sandblasting process in the Cushing Room and adjacent area.

Graffiti still remains in the room, mainly on the ceiling and on many breakdown blocks, which are abundant in the area. An earlier decision had been made not to blast the ceiling, partly because of some historic signatures present, but also partly due to the difficulty of the effort. One idea being considered is to mix up a solution of water and clay to form a slurry similar to what has been done in previous IKC projects. However, instead of brushing it on, it is hoped to run it through the sandblasting guns. Instead of running sand through the pickup hose, perhaps the mixture could be sucked up and applied with the gun. Before even trying it though, there is much blast material to be removed and relocated from the areas. If the idea is success-

ful, it could prove to be a very effective method of "mud washing," and much of the remaining graffiti on the ceiling (excluding any historic graffiti) and breakdown blocks could be attacked.

The next scheduled workdays are June 9-10, with members of the Cleveland Grotto graciously planning to participate. It is expected during that weekend to begin the task of collecting and picking up blast material in the Cushing Room and adjacent area. One matter influencing the next area to sandblast in, is the success of an ongoing effort to run air, power, and phone lines in through the former Domocile Pit area of the cave, and into the Volcano Passage. A 20-foot deep hole was hand-augered from the surface last year, and a length of PVC pipe was installed to protect the hole. Several dig trips subsequently took place from inside the cave, and a sound connection was made on two different occasions as well. The upcoming connection attempt will be made with some more powerful persuaders. If the connection is made, it is possible that during the June work weekend, gear may be relocated back to the entrance room, where there is still some graffiti to be removed there, and in some areas near the very start of the



An example of graffiti-free cave passage in Buckner Cave after meticulous sand-blasting.



crawlway, prior to relocating the compressor near the Domicile Pit sinkhole. If the connection is not made, then blasting will commence left of the T.

The Project Coordinator is experiencing a little bit of burnout by now. The former Signature Room was a main target area of the project, and has successfully been considerably improved. The initially agreed-upon time frame to use the equipment was one year, and although a verbal agreement was given from equipment manager Ray Keeler to keep the equipment longer than that, the burnout factor could influence continued effort. Part of the challenge (as anticipated) has been volunteer interest and commitment; at times, there have been very few volunteers. The lowest turnout, for example, was on Sunday May 13, with Bill Baus and Dave Everton being the only workers. While work can be done with only a few persons, it isn't the most efficient use of time or resources. The success or failure of the Domicile Pit connection could influence the project as well, although we know we can't keep the equipment forever. Even if it was in our possession for as long as we desired, other factors, such as dedication to hold workdays regardless of how many volunteers attend, would certainly come into play.

Regardless of what will be completed prior to relinquishing the equipment, a great sense of satisfaction has been achieved in the areas that have received effort. It is especially noticeable in the Cushing Room area, including the "Wall of Shame" over the entrance to the stream passage. To see the color of the plain rock in place of the layers of paint is a real treat, but one that came

only with many hours of effort and many grains of sand. Many project participants have made positive comments about the project, as well as visitors to the cave who knew what it was like before. A huge thanks goes to each person who has assisted in any way (small or large) in the project to date.

If you have wanted to participate in the project, but haven't yet made time, I encourage you to do so as soon as possible. It is expected at the very least to have monthly workdays in June, July, and August of 2007, although dates have not yet been established for the latter two months. If you don't want to participate in the workdays, but want to visit the cave to see what has been done, please visit the Richard Blenz Nature Conservancy web-site at www.caves.org/grotto/big/rbnc/rbnc.htm to familiarize yourself with the property rules and request to visit.

For more information on the graffiti removal project, visit www.caves.org/grotto/big/rbnc/Graffiti%20Removal.htm or contact Project Coordinator Dave Everton (deverton@indiana.edu or 812-824-4380)



BLOOMINGTON AREA WORKDAY – JUNE 16th

The IKC will have a workday in conjunction with the quarterly meeting in Bloomington. We have several tasks needing attention at three locations. First we will be repairing the fence around Shaft Pit. The fence was damaged by a tree that fell during a wind storm last year. The second task will be to remove a large rock in the entrance area of Grotto Cave. The rock dislodged last winter and is partially blocking the airflow critical to the bats that hibernate there. Ropes, winches, and sledge hammers will hopefully do the trick. The third project will be to re-locate and permanently mark the remaining unmarked survey pins at the Wayne Cave Preserve. Steel T-posts will be installed and perhaps concrete posts.

Depending upon the number of participants, we will tackle the tasks sequentially or break into groups and work on them simultaneously. Meet at the Shaft Pit/Grotto Cave pull off along Spicer Lane at 10 AM EDT. We will wrap up the workday by 4:30 to allow time to eat prior to the 6 PM meeting. For directions or more information, contact Keith Dunlap (see page 2 for contact

The 15th ANNUAL INDIANA CAVE SYMPOSIUM

by Dave Everton

For the second year in a row, it was an absolutely gorgeous spring day for the event, which was held this year on April 21, 2007, also for the second year in a row at the Cave Country Canoes campground along the Blue River in Milltown. Many cavers were out and about earlier that day, including participating in the IKC workday at the nearby property containing Robinson Ladder Cave. The Symposium is co-hosted by the Indiana Karst Conservancy and Indiana Cave Survey, with each organization sharing the cookout costs, which included burgers, brats, buns, condiments, paper/plasticware, and soft drinks. Attendees helped out by bringing side dishes, desserts, chips, and the like to complete the cookout for the first part of the event.

Once again, for the presentation portion of the event, Gordon Smith offered the use of the Milltown Community Center building, which was prepped by darkening the room by placement of black plastic trash bags taped over the windows. After the technology guru "Slide Show Bob" Vandeventer got all the presentations loaded, the show began nearly on time. The following summarizes the presentations:

- **2007 Indiana Bat Census:** Keith Dunlap summarized the recent federally-endangered Indiana bat count in Indiana, as well as the techniques used to conduct the count.
- **Bugs R Us:** Dr. Jerry Lewis presented on a potpourri of projects he's been involved with over the past year, except for the one he wanted to talk about the most, but couldn't due to contract

limitations.

- **Caves: Life Beneath the Forest:** After years of work and various evolutions to something far greater than initially planned or expected, the 30-minute video documentary by Ravenswood Media was recently debuted, and Kriste Lindberg showed it to the group.
- **HNF Cave & Karst Inventory Project Update:** Bruce Trotter gave an update on the project covering efforts by major project participants over the past year.
- **Coon Trap Cave Exploration & Survey:** Chris Schotter talked about the recent caver exploration, survey, and documentation with Dave Black and Doug Hanka of this cave which had been used by a particular local to trap raccoons in.
- **Lost River Cave System Project Update:** It had been two years since someone had been able to present on the topic, and Mark Deebel came through with an update, including a virtual tour using various photos taken along what is called the Boy Scout Loop.
- **Buckner Cave Resurvey Project:** Sean Lewis, coordinator of the effort, gave a presentation on the project to resurvey the cave.
- **The Buckner Cave Graffiti Removal Project:** After a year of doing monthly workdays using the sandblasting equipment, Dave Everton gave an overview of the project to date.



With over seventy attendees, a hearty thanks to everyone who made the 15th annual Indiana Cave Symposium a success, from planners, to presenters, to supporters, and attendees!! Interested in presenting in the future? Just let it be known!! Hope to see you next year!

IKC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

by Kriste Lindberg

“Attention teachers and graduate students: Credits are now available for attending NSS conventions! For more information, call Kriste Lindberg, NSS Environmental Education/Project Underground Chairman, at (812) 339-7210.” This is an announcement that graces the 2007 NSS Convention website.

We are pleased to announce that teacher continuing renewal unit credits are now available for teachers attending Project Underground workshops (one per every two hours of instruction) and up to three graduate continuing education credits are now available for attending NSS conventions. Of course, a little work is involved for both! Please do see me for more information. This generous accreditation offer has been made possible thanks to Indiana University.

We are also offering “Education Day” at this year’s convention. It will take place on Thursday, July 26th. A full day is planned including a Project Underground Workshop, the Project Underground annual Board meeting, the NSS Education Division annual meeting, and finally, one of several showings of “*Caves: Life Beneath the Forest*”.

More information on the film, as well as the premiere held in Bloomington, Indiana at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater on March 23rd can be found on page 7 in this issue.

The Hoosier National Forest has been an invaluable partner in their support of the film and more in promoting it to the general public. In exchange, I have been a guest speaker for a class Les Wadzinski of the HNF teaches at IU on public lands.

Another valuable partner on the video as well as karst education in general is The Nature Conservancy. Likewise, we’ve been working with them to help protect the Lost River area. Also, thanks to Don Ingle and Richard & Sue Vernier for hosting the IKC’s booth at the TNC’s annual Hellbender’s Hustle on April 21st.

Not surprising, the media continues to be a great partner in getting the environmental education word out... This spring, we worked with *The Herald-Times* to host a blog on the osprey. Our role was to go to the schools to teach about water quality, as the bird’s survival depends upon it. Of course, this helps with water quality in general, including that which reaches karst areas.

The newspaper also produced two arti-

cles related to caves and caving, “Learning springs: Nature park is site of growing hands-on, fauna-filled educational project for students”, an article on a project we worked with Bloomington Parks and Recreation, Sycamore Land Trust, and the Monroe County Consolidated School System on to introduce one third of Bloomington’s sixth graders to the environments of karst, streams, wetlands, forests, and soils; and “Bats’er up: Experts are cautiously optimistic as studies show bat is on upswing”. I plan to write more about the former in upcoming issues. It was the pilot project the we hope will expand to include all of the sixth graders in the Bloomington area.

The IKC’s 37.5 foot inflatable cave is gaining in popularity. We have had more and more requests for it. And, I’m sure you will be pleased to know that the new entrance structure is working out well. Over the past three months, we have taken it to Harmony School, Edgewood Science Night (thanks to Patty Ruback for helping!), and most recently a joint project with WonderLab at Binford Elementary. The latter was the second time at Binford, we introduced it there for the first time the event was held last year. Hundreds of school-aged children have been treated to it, including information on karst conservation and education.

The “cave” will be featured at the NSS convention, as well as at the sixth annual Great Lakes Bat Festival at Indiana Sate University in August.

To help keep up with the requests for cave and karst education, in general, I attended a Project Underground facilitator training hosted by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation at Crystal Caverns in Strasburg, Virginia. Fifteen of us educators were treated to two days of excellent karst education and are now eligible to teach others how to teach Project Underground workshops. We plan to host a similar training in Indiana during the winter of 2008. More information on this opportunity will be forthcoming.

Upcoming events including not only the NSS convention mentioned previously, but a summer reading program with Bloomington Parks and Recreation, Monroe County Parks and Recreation, and the Monroe County Public Library; a Project

Continued at the bottom of page 13...

It's a bug's life for cave biologist

by Dale Moss

Water gurgled along his shady gravel drive. Of course Jerry Lewis had to stop, to kneel and to flip a rock or two.

He found bugs, all right, bugs that look like every other bug and a crustacean that did not. Lewis spotted something special and soon confirmed something unique. "The only place it's known is there," Lewis said.

Believe him. The Nature Conservancy does; same with Uncle Sam and state governments, among others. When they need a feel for life in caves, they need the impeccable reputation and insatiable curiosity of Lewis.

Lewis goes here and there, deep and deeper among bats and mud in spaces where few men have ventured. Lewis takes deliberate stock, makes reasoned recommendations used to protect land, to route highways and water mains.

"To have a resource like him in our region, we're very lucky," said Cloyce Hedge of Indiana's Department of Natural Resources.

Lewis, 53, whose six secluded acres lie near Borden, agrees his career is odd though hardly silly. His cross to bear, he said with a grin. His is a specialty ever in demand, affording him an interesting, challenging life and one without regret.

"How many people can say that?" he asks. Lewis said he has all he wants, at that moment referring in part to the show from hectic bird feeders outside the window of his at-home lab.

A Clarksville native, Lewis went

to Southern Illinois University to study photography. During his first week there, a bulletin board notice of a caving group caught his eye. He joined and right off became the guy with a million questions no one could answer.

Lewis learned his answers, learning enough ultimately to earn a Ph.D. in biology. Most on whom Lewis leaned for expertise have retired or have died, Lewis said. Pretty much by happenstance, Lewis all but corners the cave biology market, at least regionally. "There aren't a lot of me," he said.

"The House That Bugs Built" reads a small sign in front of the place he shares with his wife, Salisa Lewis, and two children from her first marriage. (Lewis has two adult daughters from his first marriage). He was to leave next for Northern Indiana, to check for endangered species before the state approves a large agricultural project. He publishes findings, serves as expert witness.

"We're trying to protect the best natural areas," said Hedge. "Without that kind of information, we'd be in the dark."

Lewis has weighed in on proposals for Interstate 69 in Indiana and Interstate 66 in Kentucky. His findings influence management of the Hoosier National Forest. The Nature Conservancy especially keeps Lewis busy. He takes inventories of life in caves on property the group preserves. With his help, the Nature Conservancy can prioritize.

"The good thing about what Jer-

ry does, he looks at the cave system as a whole," said Heather Garland of the Nature Conservancy in Tennessee.

Lewis considers his relationship with that devoted group a wonderful fit. "I have the expertise and the data," he said. "They have the intentions and the money to back it."

With the crawling, stooping, climbing and slithering, the work taxes physically, evidenced by Lewis' surgically overhauled knees. The caves he visits typically are almost nothing like Mammoth Cave, put it that way. Lewis contemplates only the next job, however, not the final one. There are invariably other discoveries.

"He is even more interested now than when I met him," said his wife and sometimes field assistant. "He's always finding new things. That's a big trip for him."

Lewis surely gets at least some of his drive from his proud mother, Dorothy Lewis, a retired teacher. "He has always been a kid who knew how to work hard," she said.

Jerry Lewis realizes roads are going to be built, land is going to be claimed for uses other than as havens for millipedes, beetles and all the other subterranean wildlife. He is content offering information, leaving often-crucial decisions to those who employ him. Though veering philosophical, he said, "There are things on the planet, other than people, that want to live here."

Reprinted from the April 8, 2007 Louisville Courier-Journal.

...continued from page 12.

Underground workshop hosted by Bloomington Parks and Recreation; a Project Underground: Cave Critter Creations class hosted by Bloomington Parks and Recreation; a Lost River geology tour hosted by Bloomington Parks and Recreation and Sycamore Land Trust; a Bluespring Caverns tour hosted by Bloomington Parks and Recreation;

the previously mentioned Great Lakes Bat Festival hosted at ISU; the National Caves and Karst Management Symposium in St. Louis, Missouri; and the Environmental Education Association annual meeting hosted at McCormick's Creek State Park. It's going to be a busy summer!

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 report and submit a written report summarizing 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 2006:

Buddha Cave Patron Report (Jeff Cody)

Buddha Cave was visited four times with permits. These trips had a total of 26 people with waivers. Most trips were in the warm weather months. The first trip was in early April and the last was in early November. The largest single trip was twelve people during Capers weekend.

During the Capers weekend there was a report of a woman from Maine who used a Petzl stop descender that went down rather fast hitting her rear-end on the bottom of the pit. She was able to exit the cave on her own power. Another report from the weekend was a couple that arrived without a permit who had plans to lower a woman into the pit without a plan to get her out. The couple reportedly left the property.

Aside from these near incidents no one reported anything out of the ordinary except for seeing flood debris. I have heard from cavers in the past seeing people with plans to go in the cave that did not have a permit. One trip was planned then cancelled because of rain.

Buddha Property Report (George Cesnik)

A report on the fauna of Buddha Karst Nature Preserve was submitted by Jerry Lewis. An impressive variety of animals were observed, some of them rare. Money was available for spraying fescue from the USDA Service. We decided against any large scale spraying at this time because of the possible adverse effects it could have on the cave biota and our newly planted trees. On March 18, Jerry and Salisa Lewis planted 40 persimmon seedlings on the property. On April 29, 200 Chinkpin oak, 200 white oak, and 100 red oak seedlings were planted with the help of several volunteers. On May 20, Keith and Bambi Dunlap sprayed four backpacks of roundup around the trees that were planted this year. Bambi also mowed all the trails and parking area and cut multiflora rose that was growing in the trails. On September 2, Keith Dunlap mowed the parking area and trails. He observed the trees are looking very good. Trees were

ordered for planting in spring 2007. They include 100 red oaks (1 year old), 200 Chinkpin oaks (1 year old), and 200 white oaks (2 years old). We are planning to plant these trees on April 14.

Sullivan Cave Patron Report (B Vandeventer)

The first thing to report is something I believe we all know, and that is Sullivan Cave is the most visited cave we own. I always enjoy talking to all who want to plan a trip to the cave. This year I had over 100 e-mail contacts along with the unknown number of telephone calls. It is always good to hear from people who went into the cave years ago and want to revisit with younger family members or friends to show them the cave. This year we had some new regular visitors make the list with the group from Wright-Patterson AFB at the top. There were some first time visitors that I was able to send in with other experienced groups when I could not be there to help out. One thing to note is that the number of school groups was down. I would think that gas prices and maybe even insurance concerns might be the reason for this. I still had my regular BSA troops make their trips with the most in the fall as usual. I did go with some of the troops which is always an experience as anyone knows who has done this. I was able to make a trip during the rainy season just to see the water level and hear that rushing sound all the way from the mountain room. There were many good trips but then I always enjoy going to the cave.

The grotto liaisons program is working out quite well for me. After checking the number of waiver forms collected from them it is clear they have taken care of many trips which helps me out a bunch. Thanks to all of them for their help and reports.

The only problems to report would be one from Anmar Mirza that the crawlway to the manhole for the Speed Hollow exit had a section that collapsed which he was able to open up. I need to look at this. I need to replace one lock which I have and check and oil the gate locks which I will do on my next visit.

It was another good, safe year for cave trips into Sullivan with our head count over 450 people and all having a great time visiting the cave.

Sullivan Property Report (Keith Dunlap)

During the IKC's eighth full year of ownership, a number of stewardship projects continued.



In early April, one hundred oak trees were planted, replacing seedlings that had died over the previous year (this was the last year replacement trees will be planted). In May, I spent one day doing tree maintenance, applying weed treatment around the trees in the smaller field. The tulip trees planted in the smaller field in 2000 continue to outgrow everything else. The trees in the smaller field are really looking great.

The “camping/clearing” area was mowed three times as was the area by the driveway out by the road.

The vinca treatment done in December of 2000 (approximately half of the infested area) is still very noticeable compared to the untreated area. Re-treatment needs to be done and the other half of the infested area needs to be treated.

Three tri-axle truck-loads of crushed stone was spread in June on the lane and in the parking area to slightly increase the parking area. Subsequent grading was done using a borrowed tractor and blade. The driveway and parking areas remained in good shape. The yellow plastic chain has been effective in keeping people from driving off into the grass when soft. We had planned to drop a truck-load of top soil to create an extended level area for camping, but the weather did not cooperate... Perhaps this year.

A large double-trunk oak tree fell near the parking area. Several volunteers cut up the tree and Jamie Winner used his log splitter to restock the firewood supply.

Several members took advantage of the camping area and firewood over the past year. Several firewood donations were received as well as other donations from those who visited the cave.

There were no major problems or concerns encountered during 2006. Activities planned for 2007 include the usual maintenance activities, plus the above mentioned top soil project. I hope to also work with Dave Haun on transporting the free porta-john after the Convention is over.

Wayne Cave Patron Report (Dave Everton)

This was my first year of acting in the position of Cave Patron since taking over the duty from Tom Willett, who asked to be replaced in late 2005 after many years of faithful service.

According to my records, there were a total of 14 reported trips into the cave in 2006. Eight trips were arranged through the Patron and the other six were through grotto liaisons. That is, unless you want to count the BIG liaison arranged trips

in the Patron category, in which case 12 trips were through the Patron and 2 were through the CIG Liaison. Any way you want to figure it: have it your way! My records also indicate that the trips represent a total of 89 visitors, although some of them went on more than one trip.

Just in case I get any Patron brownie points for visiting the cave, I'll mention that I participated on four of the trips: January, May, November, & December, with Camp IV being the furthest location away from the entrance on one particular visit. I was somewhat dismayed on the May trip to notice many scratchings in the crawlway, which I don't recall seeing before then. They were all a certain type of “out arrow”, and appeared to have been made by the same group. In my opinion, it seems obvious to me that the cavers who did this were very unsure of their route-finding abilities, since the crawlway requires no real route-finding skills. In subsequent trips, I have been rubbing mud on those markings; I keep finding them. The disconcerting part is that these were people we granted permission to, but I suppose that is part of what can happen with the honor system of allowing visitation to those we don't know. Other than that, I have not seen any direct evidence of vandalism or other recent negative impacts. There is a small amount of trash at the bottom of the entrance climbdowns, most of which seems quite old, but I keep neglecting to make time and effort to clean it up. However, I will get that done.

In the 2005 report I prepared for Tom Willett, I noted not seeing the emergency bolt cutters stashed in the entrance area. I found them this year, and they appeared to be well wrapped; so well wrapped in fact, that I didn't want to unwrap them. Therefore, they are likely well-preserved and ready to be pressed into service if needed. Also this year in December, the WY lock was replaced with WZ. Unfortunately, on the very day of installation, the last caver entering the cave was inattentive, and bent the brand new lock (he lowered the gate with the lock on the hasp), which caused it to not get any use at all. However, due to Keith Dunlap's foresight by giving me several identically-keyed locks, I was able to replace it a couple of days later. Although I was able to bend the arm of the lock back, I don't trust it well enough to use on the cave gate again.

Speaking of the cave gate, various cavers have made a similar comment about the awkwardness of opening it from inside. I'm sure it depends largely on the technique employed, which would be as



varied as the persons attempting to open it. I've never had any problems, although it is admittedly heavy and awkward. I don't know if there are any solutions, but just thought I'd pass it along that the issue was brought to my attention.

Lastly, I once again thank the IKC Board for allowing me to serve as Wayne Cave Patron; it pleases me to continue in that capacity. As always, I encourage anyone having questions, needs, or concerns to bring them to my attention and I'll do my best to address and resolve them as needed.

Wayne Property Report (Robert Sollman)

This Past year we had several groups camp outs on the property with no problems. The combination lock system for ease of access to the property is working well. Future Projects include: the planting of some Tulip Poplar shade trees in the clearing at the top of the property, scheduled for this spring; and construction of an informational kiosk.

Robinson Ladder Cave (John Benton)

There were 6 different trips, 36 cavers, average 6 cavers per trip with a high 12 cavers on one trip and a low of 2 cavers on another trip. States represented were Indiana and Michigan.

No adverse effect on the bat population was noticed during the cave being available for trips, May thru August. Bat populations seemed constant (Dunlap notes in January 2007 preliminary bat survey data, population may be slightly up)

There were no reported incidents/problems reported to the patron during CY2006. The final donations on the property were made in 2006. Also completed in 2006 was the boundary survey conducted by Jess Gwinn. A number of volunteers helped to cut sight lines to assist with the survey, then later install corner and boundary posts.

Ongoing discussion with TNC, IDNR, about habitat improvement continues, but no solid plans for 2006. The WHIP cost share applied for in 2005 remains valid. There were several truck loads of rock put on road on hill in Feb 2007, while the ground was frozen. The barn in the upper field remains in good shape. And a special thanks to Jamie and Carla (Streigel) Winner for mowing the lane and camping area several times throughout the year.

Coon & Grotto Patron Report (Keith Dunlap)

There were no incidents/problems reported to the Patron during CY2006.

There were 6 authorized recreational trips to Coon Cave involving 29 cavers. Trips were arranged through the CIG, BIG, and SJVG liaisons and the Patron. There were 6 recreational trips to Grotto Cave involving 37 cavers. Likewise trips were arranged through the same contacts.

There were 2 trips into each cave for scientific/conservation purposes (to remove and then re-install various monitoring equipment/service the alarm systems) and 1 trip into Coon associated with the production of a cave biota video.

The annual report to the property owner was drafted and mailed on 1/31/07. I made several "drive-by" checks of the property during the past year. There were no unauthorized visits recorded in either cave by the monitoring speloggers during the hibernacula closure period (9/2005 to 4/2006). In the past 10 years since the alarm systems were installed, there has only been one violation. The temperature-monitoring project continued in both caves (started the 13th -year deployment on 9/18). Copperhead consulting did an exit-monitoring project to attempt to recognize bats implanted with PIT tags. They were unsuccessful, but the chances of success were small.

The State of Indiana finally (after three years) got an approved appraisal and approached the landowners with an offer to acquire. While there is some interest, the timing is not yet right for the family.

The caves remain in good condition and no in-cave clean-ups are planned.

Shiloh Patron Report (James Adams)

The system of permitting up to six trips into Shiloh Cave for the general caving community continued in 2006. Each trip is limited to 10 participants. On March 19, nine experienced cavers from the Mid Hoosier Grotto visited Shiloh Cave. July 3 saw a trip of two visiting cavers from Palantine, IL enter the cave. The Shiloh Cave Patron was aware that this was a smaller than normal group but was persuaded that the cavers were experienced enough for the trip. Two weeks later on July 16, a photo trip yielded a number of excellent shots by Dave Lasser and Dave Anderson. It is interesting to note that the Central Indiana Grotto did not take their annual trip in October to the cave in 2006. The final trip into the cave was on December 20, by the Owens family, some visiting from San Diego, CA. Three cavers entered the cave while CIG caver Eric Higbie played tour guide to the group above ground. While waiting



for the trip to return. Eric spoke extensively to the landowner and toured many of the facilities of the quarry. This was a very positive meeting for the IKC and cavers in general.

After conversations with the landowner in 2005, the IKC is no longer paying a token sum to the owner as specified by earlier lease agreements. Verbal agreements remain in effect since 2003 and the conservancy's relationship with the landowner remains healthy.

One change of note has evolved in 2006. Elliott Stone Company has slowly taken to move its main offices from Bedford to the Eureka quarry. Extensive renovations have taken place in the former ESP gift shop and this building is or will soon become Elliott Stone's exclusive headquarters. Since most trips to Shiloh Cave are scheduled on the weekend, this may not impact cavers; however, the IKC should be prepared for possible modifications to our visitation policy. Covers should be mindful that the building that had stood empty for several years is now in use. Parking should be kept as far from the building as possible and changing in or out of cave gear behind the former ESP building may not be advisable when business activities are taking place in the new office.

Shaft Patron Report (Jeff Cody)

This year we had 12 trips to Shaft with permits. These trips had a total of 35 people fill out waivers. Of these trips, two were arranged by the patron, four by the CIG, one by SJVG, five by BIG, and one by Near Normal Grotto. All trips went off with no incidents reported to me. We had one trip at the end of May where the members of the Near Normal Grotto were doing some filming for a video called "WilderCaver."

I took my annual trip to the cave on December 10, with two others. On this day I checked out the parking area and the main trail to the cave to look for trash. I did not see anything out of the ordinary except for lots of downed trees around the property. The cave also looked good with the exception of a few cans down in the bottom of the crevice near the entrance that were out of my reach.

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 April 2006, September 2006, and December 2006. Every cleaning of the property yielded a large garbage bag full of trash or more. The trash collected included glass bottles, plastic bottles, plastic jugs, plastic cups, plastic bags, and etc.

The fence built in 2003 on the western side of the property has collected more flood debris but remains straight and structurally sound. The concrete property markers installed in 2004 are still intact on the east and west sides of the property. The west bank of the Orangeville Rise streambed at the intersection of the Lost River streambed continues to erode closer to the fence posts along the west property line. The National Natural Landmark plaque has been removed and will be reinstalled later this spring.

Activities planned for 2007 include reinstalling the plaque on the limestone base of the National Natural Landmark marker, quarterly trash pickups, and cleaning further trash from a small ravine located on the west side of the property which contains old bicycles, fencing, boards, posts, and other items.



Another action photo from the Indiana Cave Symposium held on April 21 at Cave Country Canoes campground.

INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY TREASURY REPORT

**Income/Expense Statement
From January 1, 2007 to March 31, 2007**

INCOME:

Dues Apportionment and Residuals	688.75	
Donations - General	905.00	
Donations - Land Acquisition Fund	695.00	
Little Wyandotte Trail Repairs	3800.00	
HNF Education grant	3460.00	
Interest	861.37	
	<u>861.37</u>	\$10,410.12

EXPENSES:

IKC Update (printing, production, mailing)	278.51	
Stewardship/Conservation	659.17	
Education / Outreach	124.00	
Membership	141.97	
Business (state filing fee)	7.14	
Little Wyandotte Trail Repairs	699.82	
HNF Education contract	3460.00	
Transfers to/from restricted funds/other adjustments	1005.68	
	<u>1005.68</u>	(\$6,376.29)

NET OPERATING EXCESS (DEFICIT) THIS PERIOD: \$4,033.83

**Balance Sheet
March 31, 2007**

ASSETS:

Cash in Checking / Saving Accounts / CDs	85532.14	
Wayne Cave Preserve (20.00 acres)	75000.00	
Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve (40.40 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>\$343,545.30</u>

LIABILITIES & OPERATING EXCESS:

Land Acquisition Restricted Fund	30245.80
Deferred Dues Restricted Fund (179 members)	3555.00
Stewardship Endowment Restricted Fund	25315.15

Previous Operating Excess	22395.52	
Net Excess (Deficit) This Period	<u>4033.83</u>	
Current Operating Excess (unrestricted funds)	26429.35	
Real estate liquidity (basis value)	<u>258000.00</u>	

Total Liabilities & Operating Excess \$343,545.30

IKC QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, March 24th, 2007 – Greenwood, Indiana

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Richard Vernier, President
 Keith Dunlap, Treasurer
 Bob Sergesketter, Secretary
 Dave Haun
 Don Ingle
 Jerry Lewis
 Kriste Lindberg (proxy by Karen Tadsen)
 Steve Lockwood
 Nick Noe (proxy by Kathy Welling)
 Bruce Silvers
 Tom Sollman
 Bill Tozer (proxy by Bruce Bowman)
 Bob Vandeventer
 Sue Vernier
 Jamie Winner

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

The meeting was called to order at 11:18 AM at the White River Public Library in Greenwood, Indiana, President Richard Vernier presiding. Karen Tadsen was accepted as proxy for Kriste Lindberg, Kathy Welling was accepted as proxy for Nick Noe, and Bruce Bowman was accepted as proxy for Bill Tozer. The minutes for the December 2006 and the February 2007 meetings were approved as published in the March 2007 *IKC Update*.

Treasurer Dunlap reported total assets of \$342,851.90. Our land holdings are valued at \$258,013.16 and our total liquid assets amount to \$84,838.74. A detailed Treasury Report is published in the *IKC Update*.

Dunlap reported that we have 185 members. This is down slightly compared to previous years but the good news is that 140 of the members are already paid up for 2007 and some are paid up as far as ten years into the future. He said that general donations are down, probably because we don't have any active land acquisition project going on at present. The treasury did get a nice boost with the completion of the Little Wyandotte Cave Project in February, however.

Elections

Tom Rea served as election teller. Ballots were passed out to members who had not already sent in a ballot. Vernier asked for nominations from the floor. There were none. Dunlap moved that the nominations for all Officers and Directors be closed, seconded by Bowman. The motion passed unanimously.

The election results were the re-election of Richard Vernier as President, Keith Dunlap as Treasurer, and Bob Sergesketter as Secretary. Newly elected to the Board for a three year term was Jim Adams. Re-elected to the Board for three year terms were Don Ingle, Steve Lockwood, and Jamie Winner. Nick Noe will serve the one year remaining of Bill Tozer's term. Tozer has moved out of state. There was a total of 73 ballots cast. Bowman moved that the ballots be destroyed, seconded by Dunlap. The motion passed 22-1-0.

Annual Reports for Properties/Caves

Reports were given for Sullivan Cave and property, Wayne Cave and property, Buddha Cave and property, Orangeville Rise, Robinson Ladder Cave and property, Shiloh Cave, Shaft Cave, and Coon/Grotto caves. No reports were received for Suicide Cave or The Sinks of Indian Creek Conservation Easement. The annual reports will be published in their entirety in the *IKC Update*.

2007 NSS Convention

Sollman reported that he can order ball caps with the IKC logo from a place in Fort Branch. The price would be about \$8.00 each if we order four dozen or \$7.00 each if we get twelve dozen. This is the same company that made the caps the last time we ordered caps. There was some discussion about checking with other vendors and the quantity we should order. Welling moved that we order six dozen caps from Sollman's source. Sue Vernier seconded and the motion passed 14-0-1. Sollman will place the order. Jeff Cody asked what the selling price would be. Dunlap said that we have been selling them for \$12.00. He also said that any profits from cap sales goes into the Land Acquisition Fund and so the money to purchase this next supply of caps will come out of the Land Acquisition Fund.

There was a discussion of how the IKC display will be set up at the NSS Convention. Vandeventer said that there will be several displays similar to ours set up in the registration area. Each organization will get one table on which to put out their information. Dunlap said that the plan is to start the display tables right next to registration and arrange them in an L or U pattern. The Indiana Cave Survey and the Hoosier National Forest will also have display tables.

Dunlap asked if we want to have a membership promotion at our table. He was thinking that since the convention is in July, and therefore almost halfway through our membership year, we could offer membership in the IKC through March of 2008 plus a DVD of *Caves: Life Beneath the Forest* for only \$10.00. There was some discussion about the cost of burning the DVDs and there are copyright and distribution questions that remain to be worked out before we can start handing out DVDs. Several members said that the dues should stay at \$15.00, that the DVD was enough of an enticement. Vandeventer said that we need to have the video running at our display so that people can see what they're getting. Sollman asked what the DVD will sell for once it's on the market. Dunlap said that he doesn't know how Dave McGowan is planning on distributing or selling the video. Sollman thought that the \$10.00 special was a good idea because it would bring in many members from across the country who would otherwise never consider joining the IKC. We would no doubt lose many of the after the first year but in that year we would be getting our newsletter out to many more readers and surely retain some of them as members. Dunlap thought that we would pick up some more Indiana cavers as a result of this promotion as well. He also said that he would like to see that all current IKC members receive a complementary copy of the DVD if we can get the right to do so. He would like to see this go out in the June mailing but many details remain to be worked out before this can happen. Vernier thought that was an excellent idea because the program will go beyond



just the individual members who receive it. It will be viewed by members of the family and friends, taken to school by the children, and it will get a lot of circulation.

Adams asked what is the goal of the producer for packaging and distribution of the video? If he is going to put out a professionally packaged product in a plastic case with a booklet and liner notes, we don't want to come out with something that looks like a bootleg copy to distribute to our members. There was much more discussion but we determined that there is interest in distributing a DVD of *Caves: Life Beneath the Forest* to each IKC member if the details can be worked out.

Sollman asked if we were going to make a decision on the reduced rate membership plan. Dunlap said that we can decide at the June meeting. He just wanted to bring up the plan at this meeting to get an idea of what we thought about it.

Vernier said that he hopes to get *Caves: Life Beneath the Forest* entered in the Video Salon at the NSS Convention but there are some copyright issues with the introductory music that must be worked out. The introduction may have to be re-edited. Vandeventer has been in contact with Alex Sproul about what is involved in entering and again there are copyright and distribution issues but he thinks that they can be worked out.

Education and Outreach Report

Vandeventer reported on the Hoosier Association of Science Teachers Incorporated, (HASTI), conference that was held at the Indianapolis Convention Center on February 7-9. He said that our booth was located on a center aisle in a high traffic area and we generated a lot of interest and made a lot of good contacts even though we didn't have our complete display up and running until the last day. He said that he thought it was worth the \$400.00 registration fee but he found out that the IKC qualifies for a free booth. The free booth locations are in an area with a little less traffic but that's probably what we'll do in the future. Vandeventer and Lindberg have all the contact information to get us set up in a free booth for the next HASTI conference.

Vernier said that the IMAX film, *Amazing Caves*, is being shown today at the Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis and will be presented again on April 7. The IKC information display has been picked up and hopefully is on display at the museum. The Central Indiana Grotto is conducting some activities at the museum in conjunction with the showing of the film. There is an opportunity for some volunteers to take part in activities in conjunction with the April 7 presentation of the film.

Vernier said that on April 21, along with a lot of other cave related activities, The Nature Conservancy is holding an open house combined with an event they call the Hellbender Hustle which is a walk/run event. Both activities will be held at the O'Bannon Woods State Park Nature Center, beginning at 9:00 AM, EDT. The IKC has always had a booth set up at these events and so he is looking for volunteers to set up the display and stay with it for a few hours. Ingle said that he would run the IKC booth at the open house.

Vernier said that another event that we should be thinking about is the Bat Festival which will be August 11 in Terre Haute which is the home of Dr. Whitaker's North American Bat Research Center. Details as to what goes on at a Bat Festival are still unclear but whatever it is, the IKC wants

to be involved in some way and volunteers will be needed. Ingle volunteered and Carla Winner said that she would like to help too.

Vernier said that Kriste Lindberg asked him to announce that she is trying to recruit from the local teaching community people to help with Project Underground and other programs that she is involved in. She is planning to attend a facilitator training session in Virginia on March 29-30. Her flight ticket is being paid by Project Underground and she is fairly certain that her lodging will be covered but she needs some help with other incidentals and Vernier thinks that the IKC could help out. Vandeventer moved that the IKC contribute \$100.00 in support of Lindberg's facilitator training for Project Underground, seconded by Sue Vernier. Dunlap asked that the wording of the motion be changed to up to \$100.00. Vandeventer was agreeable to the change in wording. The vote was taken and the motion passed 14-0-1.

Ingle said that he will be helping with a Girl Scout cave trip at the end of April. The cave has yet to be determined. This will be the third time he has participated in this event.

Cave Biota Video

The cave biota video, now known as *Caves: Life Beneath the Forest*, premiered last night at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater in Bloomington. The theater was packed with both cavers and non-cavers and there were activities and displays set up to entertain and educate people before and after the showing of the video. Drawings for door prizes were conducted throughout the evening and a reception with refreshments took place after the show.

Dunlap said that he was really impressed with the whole event. He thought that the Forest Service, Cindy Sandeno, Kriste Lindberg, and Bob Vandeventer did an excellent job organizing and presenting the premier. It was a good outreach event.

During the awards presentation portion of the program, Richard Vernier was called to the stage by Ken Day, Forest Service Supervisor, to accept a plaque honoring the IKC as Forest Service National Volunteer of the Year for 2005. The IKC was also presented with a Forest Supervisor Honor Award for 2006.

Vandeventer said that he thinks Cindy Sandeno paid for the food served at the reception out of her own pocket. If that's true, he thought that maybe the IKC could reimburse her for part of the cost. Vernier thought that was a good idea. Sue Vernier will check with Cindy to find out if she paid for the food.

State Bat Legislation

Efforts to get the Indiana Bat designated as the State Bat of Indiana have failed, at least for now.

Indiana Cave Symposium

The Indiana Cave Symposium will be held at Milltown on April 21. Haun said that there will be a convention planning meeting at about 3:15 PM EDT at the shelter house in the campground. The free cookout and pitch-in dinner will follow at 5:00 PM EDT and the presentations will begin at 7:00 PM EDT in the Community Center Building.

Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve



Under Earth Day, April 21, will be observed by having a workday at Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve. Activities will begin at 10:00 AM EDT at the property. Dunlap said that the two main jobs will be to disassemble an old camper which is located on The Nature Conservancy property north of our property and grapevine eradication on our property. There will be a dump trailer on site for us to load the pieces of the camper. He said that the driveway has already been graded by Jamie Winner and is in good shape. Dunlap said that he asked TNC if they want us to work on removing the old fence between the two properties but he hasn't received a response from TNC.

Carla Striegel-Winner reported that she has talked to Allen Pursell of TNC about the prescribed burn at the Robinson ladder property and it appears that TNC will be able to help monetarily but they cannot have their staff help with a burn. A burn would have to be contracted out. She said that whatever expense the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program wouldn't cover, TNC would take care of. She thinks that Pursell has come up with a plan but she hasn't seen it. She thinks he may have sent it directly to John Benton, the Property Manager for Robinson Ladder.

Jamie Winner said that the earliest a burn could be done would be in the Fall of 2007. The fact that TNC can't physically help with a burn makes it practically impossible for us to do the burn ourselves. The job will have to be contracted out and he only knows of two companies that do prescribed burns. One of the companies, Stewart Turner, offered a ballpark estimate of \$1000.00 to do the burn but that was without even seeing the property.

Carla Striegel-Winner said that she would like to have a copy of Mark Bennett's wildlife management plan for the Robinson Ladder property and she asked who had a copy. Dunlap and Vernier said that they did and they think that Benton has one too. She also said that Pursell said he would be glad to meet at the Robinson Ladder property with anyone who wants to discuss the restoration activities.

Orangeville Rise

Lockwood has the plaque and will re-attach it to the base soon.

Wayne Cave Preserve

Sollman reported that he intends to stop at the property on

his way home after the meeting. He is going to buy a couple of shade tree seedlings to plant in the clearing and also sow some grass seed. If the trees take hold, he might plant a few more next year.

Vernier said that there are still some large pieces of rusty metal junk, such as the old culvert, on the property that should be hauled away sometime.

Buddha Cave Preserve

Vernier said that there will be a tree planting workday on April 14. We will have 500 trees to plant. Lewis said that he plans on bringing a group of Boy Scouts and some parents. In all, he thinks he'll be bringing about 18 people.

Sullivan Cave Preserve

Dunlap said that if it ever dries out, we'll try to get some dirt in there to level the camping area and someday we may have an outhouse.

Land Acquisition Activities

A couple of land acquisition possibilities were discussed but none were deemed to be feasible at this time.

Little Wyandotte Project

Dunlap reported that we made \$3,100.00 on the project. He said that the DNR is happy, Gordon is happy, and we're happy.

Items From the Floor

None.

The next meeting will be on June 16, 2007, in room 143 of the Geology Building on the campus of Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. The meeting will begin at 6:00 PM, EDT.

Dunlap said that there will be a work session at Shaft Cave in the afternoon before the meeting.

Vernier thanked Tom Rea for serving as election teller and he also read a short note from Kelly Reynolds who was formerly with the Hoosier National Forest and is now with the Forest Service out west someplace.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bob Sergesketter, Secretary

INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY, PO BOX 2401, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46206-2401

I would like to help the IKC protect Indiana's unique caves and other karst features. Enclosed is:

\$ _____ for IKC membership dues at \$15 per year (dues expire March 31st of each year, please pro-rate @ \$1.25/month).

\$ _____ donation to the general IKC fund.

\$ _____ donation restricted to a specific IKC project. Please specify: _____

_____ I know of an area worthy of protection. Please contact me.

_____ I would like to volunteer to help. Please contact me.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE # _____

Make checks payable to the Indiana Karst Conservancy, Inc. and mail to the IKC Treasurer, c/o Indiana Karst Conservancy, PO Box 2401, Indianapolis, IN 46206-2401. The IKC is an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with membership dues and donations fully tax deductible.

