



# **IKC UPDATE**

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**INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY, INC****PO Box 2401, Indianapolis, IN 46206-2401**[ikc.caves.org](http://ikc.caves.org)*Affiliated with the National Speleological Society*

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

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Cover: Mark Matthews in a passage leading to Brian's Dome in Blowing Hole, Harrison County, Indiana. Photo by Dave Everton © 2010.



**IKC QUARTERLY MEETING REMINDER**  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 12th, 6:00 PM EST**  
**BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA**  
**IU GEOLOGY BUILDING, ROOM 143**

The quarterly meetings are for the elected Board to conduct business and for our members and other interested persons to have an open forum to talk about caves and karst conservation and related topics. Past, present, and future IKC projects are discussed to solicit comments and input from our members and the caving community as a whole. The meetings are informal, and everyone is encouraged to attend and participate. The IKC Board wants your input.

Preliminary Agenda Items: Indian Creek Conservation Easement update, Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve expansion; Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve stewardship fund contribution; Buddha habitat improvement project update; White-nose Syndrome update; Lost River Cave access; Financial reports; Land acquisition activities; I-69 Conservation Easement forest mitigation status; Suicide Cave lease agreement status; 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 12 – IKC Quarterly Meeting, IU Geology Building, Bloomington**

**June 19 – Lost River tour (see page 5)**

**June 25-27 – Indiana Cave Capers, Delaney Park, Washington County**

**June/July – Workdays at Buddha (contact Keith Dunlap)**

**Sept ?? – IKC Quarterly meeting (date and location to be determined)**

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

The *IKC Update*, distributed for free, is published quarterly for members and other interested parties. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep the membership and caving community informed of IKC activities and other news related to cave/karst conservation. Submission of original or reprinted articles for publication is encouraged.

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## RAMBLINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT...

The spring of 2010 finds the IKC having made tangible progress, despite the gloomy environment in which cavers currently find themselves. As I write this, I am sitting in the Atlanta airport awaiting a flight to Austin, Texas where I'm doing a karst evaluation project. I just called Salisa and she tells me that the news of the day is the discovery of WNS in Oklahoma. Looking at the geography of the epidemic, the disease has spread from the Appalachians, across Tennessee, and now through the Ozarks and beyond. From a biological standpoint, WNS has now been found on Gray bats; and the bats infected in Oklahoma were Cave bats, *Myotis velifer*. The latter occurs in the western US and Mexico, so WNS is no longer spreading just through our eastern species. Containment of the plague has found little quarter, despite wide-scale cave closures and the adoption of decontamination measures. This does not surprise me, considering the vagility of bats and their gregarious natures. But enough about WNS... I'm rambling.

Tangible progress. Last year I was informed by one of my friends in The Nature Conservancy (TNC) of grants for habitat restoration from the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). I looked into this and connected with Rich Geboy at USFWS. A little brainstorming and we came up with the idea that the USFWS could fund the IKC to complete the reforestation of the Buddha Karst Preserve in Lawrence County. One grant and seventy-two hundred trees later, the remaining open areas of the Buddha preserve have been machine-planted (more on that on page 11). Since 2002, IKC members, a variety of scout groups, and an array of other volunteers have been planting trees each spring at Buddha the old-fashioned way, with hands and shovels. Some of those trees are now taller than me, and it was with a great sense of pride and achievement that I looked through those beginnings of the new Buddha forest onto the rest of the property with its long furrows of newly planted seedlings. This is the legacy to our children, who will walk through the shade of the forest we have planted.

To the south, in Crawford County, lies our Robinson Ladder Cave (RLC) Preserve. This preserve was born through the generosity of The Nature Conservancy. The price of the property was \$74,000 and the IKC felt they could only raise \$40,000, so TNC stepped in and contributed the other \$34,000. We closed on the property in 2005. Last year Allen Pursell (TNC) offered to transfer ownership of two parcels of land adjacent to the RLC preserve to the IKC. It was my honor to sign the paperwork on behalf of the IKC for this transfer last month in

Corydon, in one fell swoop increasing the size of the preserve to 73+ acres. The new property, about 33 acres valued at \$87,000, was given to the IKC for only the investment of being good stewards of the land. This makes the Robinson Ladder Cave our largest preserve.

Perhaps you've noticed the common thread running through this ramble... *The Nature Conservancy*. I've been a card carrying member for about 15 years. My observation has been that TNC generally works quietly and

patiently, forming goals with plans, basing decisions on science. The Indiana Chapter has become progressively interested in caves and karst and as the discussion above points out, is willing to put their money where their mouths are.

The science-based decision making processes within TNC have always appealed to me. In an era when government agencies are seemingly falling over themselves to close caves because of WNS, in Indiana, TNC is willing to take a more science-based approach to cave management. As a case in point, I've been doing biological work in the Lost River System in Orange County for over 15 years. During that time the cave system has "grown" to over 20 miles of surveyed passages. Two of the three entrances are on property purchased by TNC, across the road from the Wesley Chapel Gulf owned by the Hoosier National Forest (HNF). The original intention was to transfer the property to the HNF as an addition to the Wesley Chapel Gulf special area, but legal entanglements on the deeds have slowed the process. In



the interim various problems, most recently WNS, prompted TNC to decline access to the cave. However, the nature of the Lost River System is that it floods to the ceiling on a regular basis, thus the cave is very poor bat habitat and at low risk for harboring WNS. I have discussed the ecological situation with TNC and based on the science, they are willing to consider re-establishing access

to the cave if a proper management agreement can be worked out. This would allow exploration and mapping of the cave to continue as well as other potential projects. There are still a lot of unknown details, and I encourage interested parties to attend the next board meeting for the discussion of this exciting prospect.

*Jerry Lewis*

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## NEWS BRIEFS...

- ❑ The IKC annual elections on March 13th yielded two new members to the Executive Board. Dr Jerry Lewis was re-elected President, James Adams was re-elected Secretary, and Keith Dunlap was re-elected Treasurer. Directors re-elected were Don Ingle and Jamie Winner. New Directors elected were long-time members Everett Pulliam (1996) and Carla Striegel-Winner (2003). The other Directors serving on the Executive Board are Bruce Bowman, Dave Haun, Bob Sergesketter, Bruce Silvers, Karen Silvers, Tom Sollman, Bob Vandeventer, and Richard Vernier. We would like to thank outgoing Board member Kriste Lindberg who has served various positions (including President) since 1997, and Board Member Steve Lockwood who was first elected in 1998.
- ❑ As was discussed in detail in the March *IKC Update*, The Nature Conservancy has been working with the IKC to transfer two tract of land they own adjacent to our Robinson Ladder Cave property. This transfer was successfully executed on April 16th. So the IKC Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve is now 73.48 acres consisting of 58 acres of timber and 12-1/2 acres of open fields. The entire property, minus 0.3 acres to be reserved for camping, is being enrolled in Classified Forest and Wildlands Program. The primary stewardship activities for the future will be for some modest timber stand improvements (TSI), invasives control (autumn olive, tree of heaven, multiflora rose, etc), and prairie burns. The goal is to enhance the property to be ideal bat habitat with mature woods, but with lots of edge exposure where the bats like to feed.
- ❑ On April 17th, five volunteers participated in IKC's Under-Earth Day workday at the Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve. Tasks completed included: autumn olive eradication, barn-door hinge repair, lane gate re-hanging, tree trunk and stump removal from the entrance of Robinson Ladder Cave, camping area and lane mowing, and trash pile and appliance cleanup (this was on the adjacent TNC-transferred property). Jerry and Salisa Lewis and Carla Winner also dropped by to "supervise" activities on this beautiful spring day.
- ❑ Bob Armstrong of the Lost River Conservation Association will be conducting two more Lost River guided auto/hiking tours this year, June 19th and September 18th. The tours starts from the east at its head waters in Washington County, through Orange County to its disappearance near Orleans, and on to its rise near Orangeville. The orientation lecture starts at 7:40 AM EDT at the gazebo on the square in Orleans and will depart promptly at 8 AM. Reservations are not required. Tours will go, *especially if it rains*. There will be some moderate hiking so sturdy footwear and long pants/sleeves are strongly recommended. The tours are free, but a small donation is suggested for the optional printed handouts. This is a must-do tour, if you are interested in Indiana karst. For more information, you can leave a message for Bob at 317-926-4266.
- ❑ Most of the IKC's basic operating expenses and obligations (newsletter, insurance, property taxes, routine stewardship activities) are paid with membership dues. However, we are greatly dependent upon additional donations to supplement and support the many other projects the IKC initiates. Since June 2009, 45 individuals and 2 organizations have made general donations totally more than \$3,400. Donors include John Ahlberg, Bob Armstrong, Ray Beach, John Benton, Ted Bice, Don



Bohling, Carl Brown, Larry Bundy, Jeff Cody, Andrew & Alison Dubois, Keith Dunlap, Jeff Farr, Allen Goodcase, Barbara Hanka, Dave Haun, Dwight Hazen, Horton Hobbs III, Tem Hornaday, Jason Kern, Phillip Koolier, Glenn Kotnik, Ellen Laughlin, Jerry & Salisa Lewis, Doug Moore, William Morrow, Carl & Louise Nelson, Nick Noe, Nate Pate, Ernie & Jacqueline Payne, Everett Pulliam, Kelle Reynolds, Cindy Sandeno, Ralph Sawyer, Matt Selig, Bob Sergesketter, Gordon Smith, Mark Van Buskirk, Dick & Sue Vernier, Jack Wood, Jamie Winner, Bluespring Caverns, and the Greater Cincinnati Grotto.

- ❑ And while all of our current preserve projects are fully funded, we want to be preparing for the next project and a number of members have made donations into our restricted Land Acquisition Fund. Since June 2009, over \$2,100 in donations have been received. Donors include Ray Beach, Mark Van Buskirk, Thomas Chenier, Andrew & Alison Dubois, Keith Dunlap, Dave Everton, Scott Fee, Scott Hammon, Horton Hobbs III, Doug Moore, Nick Noe, Nate Pate, Ernie & Jacqueline Payne, Don Peters, Everett Pulliam, Steve Ragsdale, Charles Rex, Kelle Reynolds, Gary Roberson, Bruce & Karen Silvers, Gordon Smith, and Richard Vanheenen.
- ❑ The IKC has gained twelve new members since the last *IKC Update*. Welcome Elleen Laughlin (489), Eric Kennedy (490), Anthony Owens (491), Carrie Owens (492), Jeff Owens (493), Chris Owens (494), Teryn Owens (495), Connie Harrell (496), Aaron Pahmeier (497), Brandon Godsey (498), Laura Young (499), and Barbara Hanka (500). Note the IKC has reached a small milestone with Barbara being our 500th unique member since the IKC formed 23 years ago. Also noteworthy is that a number of our new members are direct relatives of Willie Owens, the former owner of Sullivan Cave. The IKC membership now stands at 195.

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## WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME IMPACTS ON INDIANA

*by Keith Dunlap*

With White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) confirmed all down the east coast, across Tennessee to Missouri, and now into Oklahoma, it is highly likely it has already reached Indiana or will be here by the start of next fall's hibernation season when the bats return from their summer habitat. The bat-to-bat transmission appears to be extremely effective for the pathogen, making the concern about the possibility of a human vector for this disease inconsequential. While closing the two-dozen or so significant bat caves in Indiana may be prudent, extending the closure beyond that is simply an emotions reaction to wanting to do something, even if WNS is completely uncontrollable.

The IKC Board extended its closure of our Robinson Ladder Cave, and Coon and Grotto caves which we manage. These three caves were on the "significant bat cave" list proposed by cavers to avoid and their biological importance far out-weighs their recreational value.

The Hoosier National Forest issued an Emergency Order on May 3rd, closing all of their caves. The order will expire in three years, but there is a requirement to re-evaluate the closure annually considering the changing environment

of WNS. The Hoosier personnel in charge of karst has also indicated that scientific work, resource inventorying, and surveying/mapping could continue under their permit system as long as proper precautions were followed. This closure impacts about 200 caves on the Hoosier.

The Indiana DNR extended their closure on May 10th, impacting about 400 known caves on State property. Ironically, the DNR again excluded Upper Twin Cave in Spring Mill State Park, their only commercial cave. This is despite evidence that the risk of human transmission of the WNS fungus is no less, and may be many times greater in a commercial cave simply because of the volume of visitors and no assurance that the visitors have not been in other commercial caves out east that have been infected by the fungus.

The caving community is obviously concerned about the impacts of WNS on their cave-dwelling bats, but unfortunately, the agencies have inadvertently villainized the cavers which has alienated the very partner the agencies may need going forward. Regardless, the only thing for certain is that the situation with our bats is going to get much worse before it gets better, if it ever gets better.

## INDIANA CAVE SYMPOSIUM 2010 OVERVIEW

*by Keith Dunlap*

The Crawford County Fairgrounds' Clover Room was selected for the 18th annual event, which was held this year on April 17. Many cavers were out and about earlier that day; some of them working at the nearby Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve, while others were off caving or just enjoying the wonderful spring weather. The Symposium was again co-hosted by the Indiana Karst Conservancy and Indiana Cave Survey, with each organization sharing the facilities rental and food costs, which included burgers, brats, pork country ribs, buns, condiments and soft drinks. Approximately 70 attendees helped out by bringing side dishes, desserts, chips, and the like to complete the cookout for the first part of the event.

This year the technology end of the symposium was handed by Jerry Lewis and Rob Jarboe providing multiple laptops and video projectors. The show began right on time at 7:30. The following summarizes the presentations.

- **Gas Monitoring in Indiana Caves:** Anmar Mirza gave a quick ad hoc update on a project he and Jessica Deli is undertaking to collect oxygen, CO<sub>2</sub>, and other natural gases in regional caves to develop a baseline of what is typical and perhaps atypical. The BIG, CIG, and IKC have provided funding for the equipment to perform this research project.
- **Biology of Caves and Sinkholes on the Hoosier National Forest:** Jerry & Salisa Lewis gave their annual update on the biological projects they have been involved with in Indiana (and elsewhere). Their primary efforts this year were looking at "lesser" caves on the Hoosier National Forest. They also completed a quick study that compared bio-diversity of cave fauna in forested vs open-field coverage. Not surprisingly forested areas have many more species due to

significantly higher nutrient inputs into the underlying caves.

- **Crawford County Biomass Incinerator:** Carla Beth Jones, a local activist against the construction of a biomass incinerator/generator just north of Milltown, gave details of the proposed plant including its feed stock requirements (1,100 tons per day), water requirements (various conflicting numbers and commercial sources), air pollutant emissions (most getting special exemptions because the plant is "green"), and the poor location of the plant due to various sinkholes (several which have just appeared this year). Some could conclude this is just a Not-In-My-Backyard situation while other will say this plant is completely ill-suited for the region and is simply a "scam" to take advantage of current green-friendly funding and regulation-bending by various government agencies. At the end, Richard "Fig" Newton gave a "counter-point" view for economic-development in the area.
- **Indiana Cave Survey Cave Database Update and New On-line eLibrary:** Keith Dunlap highlighted the significant progress made with the ICS on-line cave database since its introduction last year, with the backlog on report forms mostly caught up in most counties and maps and entrance photos being added daily. He also debuted the ICS's eLibrary that currently contains over 2000 reference



documents, mostly regional grotto newsletters, organized with an easy to locate user-interface. Currently all of the major regional publications are on-line with only some older newsletters needing to be scanned and posted. This resource will significantly aid those doing research on Indiana caves. All members of the ICS can access this new eLibrary on the ICS's secure website. Membership is only \$5.

- **Prosecuting Cave Vandalism:** Patty Cummings recapped several recent cave vandalism cases she has been involved with, providing "how to" information to be successful. Most important is having a good county prosecutor who will pursue "environmental injustices" which typically are not high on the list of crimes to pursue. Kudo to Patty!
- **Houghton Hole Clean-up:** Brenda Shuttheis gave a very nice presentation on last year's clean-up on this pit located in western Harrison County. The project took many weekends and significant coordination of volunteers to remove tons of debris that had been dumped into the cave by former landowner(s). The project was a complete success with the pit being 100% clean, a new fence placed around the entrance, and a very happy landowner who welcomes cavers. A number of caving organizations helped to fund the project including the IKC.
- **History of Floyd Collins:** John Benton, a cave history buff, shared some of his personal

collection of photos related to Floyd Collins, a pioneer cave explorer in the Mammoth Cave area who unfortunately had an untimely end to his caving career in Sand Cave. John's presentation served double duty as it was presented earlier that day at Floyd Fest in Cave City, Ky.

- **Buckner Cave Graffiti Removal Project Update:** Bill Baus gave a follow-up presentation on this project that started in 2007. While the borrowed heavy-duty sand-blasting equipment that was used during the first several years has been returned, Bill and volunteers have continued to make progress in the Volcano Passage by taking a small compressor into the cave (powered by electricity from outside).
- **Binkley and Blowing Hole Caves Update:** Dave Everton wrapped up the evening's presentations with an exciting slide show on the renewed exploration and mapping in these two adjacent caves in Harrison County. Binkley, the current and probably untouchable longest cave in Indiana has gained a new generation of surveyors to push the many remaining leads in that cave. Blowing Hole is also being heavily pushed and penetrated. This is what Indiana caving is all about!

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

## PEDEN'S CHILDREN'S FARM FESTIVAL

*by Don Ingle*

*"Welcome back my friends, to the show that never ends. We're so glad you could attend, come inside, come inside."* - Emerson, Lake & Palmer

*"Never raise your hand to your kids, it leaves your groin unprotected."* - Red Buttons

In May, I had the opportunity to take the IKC's inflatable cave somewhere it had never been before. Always on the lookout for new opportunities to show off the inflatable cave, I took a suggestion from Kriste Lindberg to heart and contacted Joyce Peden about exhibiting at the Peden's Children's Farm Festival to bring some

exposure to our Education/Outreach activities. Phil Peden is a colleague of hers from the City of Bloomington Utilities and he had suggested the inflatable cave for the Children's Farm festival in the past, but due to scheduling conflicts she had been unable to attend. After all, as Joyce Peden explained to me, and I had to agree, Bloomington area farms have caves on them too. It seemed to be a reasonably good fit. So since my schedule lends itself well to weekday events, I took the project on an optimistic frame of mind. This, unfortunately, did not last long. I was soon entertaining much darker thoughts.

There are times, in everyone's life, where you





come to a crossroads, but do not recognize it as such until much later, when it then becomes painfully obvious. By that time, of course, it is much too late to turn back. You are well and truly committed. My crossroads moment came rather early that day when Joe Peden asked me if I had wanted someone to help for the day. Many volunteers were available for this purpose, mostly high school kids from Future Farmers Of America. My prior experience had taught me that help was probably unnecessary unless you just needed company, so I politely declined his generous offer and marched off to my doom. I should have taken him up on that, I realized in retrospect. You see, he had actually done this before, and knew what was coming. Silly me.

My first problem became site location. I told him I needed to be within 50 feet of an electrical outlet for the box fans that keep the cave inflated and we looked around for a bit, but could not find an adequate spot that met the spatial needs for a 37 foot inflatable cave that did not block the other exhibitors from view. Then Joe had suggested a spot adjacent to a storage barn to set up, with all the outlets right by the side door which seemed to be as about as good as I would be able to find, even though it was on a very slight downhill slope. At least it was in the grass. The only level spot within reach of the cord, was on a gravel road that wound around the barn, and that just would not do. And so I set up the cave there in the grass and hoped for the best. I went all out for effect. I brought cave water dripping sound effects and had a pair of amplified speakers to project this towards the back of the cave. I even set up the karst ground water model in case an educational moment should arise. Many did, but most were not of the variety of my original intent. I was good to go. Bring on the kids.

At first the site was just fine, and on most days would have remained so. But around noon, it became more and more windy until by 1:00 PM, I was then fighting a steady 10 mile an hour wind with the occasional gust up to 25 mph. Not too bad, unless you happen to be dealing with a 37 foot inflatable Hefty bag. It soon became necessary to create reinforced tether points onto the sides of the inflat-

able cave with black duct tape and tent peg the sides down to the ground from those points using nylon clothesline. Due to the windy conditions these tether points had to be redone as the day wore on and as the duct tape tore free. Or just simply tore. Over and over again. Not that this was my only problem. On one particularly memorable occasion the tether points had, unbeknownst to me, pulled free of the ground, which was still a tad moist from a prior days' rain, and blew the back of the cave straight up into the air some 15 – 20 feet with the kids still in it who then began screaming even more than was the norm. They must have been all clustered towards the front, was all I could figure. I stood there in utter amazement with my mouth hanging open before my brain finally registered what was happening and I ran quickly forward to grab the back of the cave to pull it back down to the ground. If you think the inflatable cave is impressive in repose, you should see it rising straight up into the air full of a dozen or so screaming school kids like some prehistoric predatory Jurassic Park leviathan.

My second problem became flashlight maintenance. What was at first nine working flashlights eventually dwindled down to five. It seems 1st through 4th graders can't seem to grasp the intricacies of turning on a MagLight. The problem was that they didn't seem to understand to stop twisting the head of the flashlight once it is finally lit. And soon, kids were coming out of the cave with flashlights in pieces, missing lenses, bulbs and batteries, in no particular order. I never found some of the pieces to reassemble them. I assume they are still rolled up inside the cave. I may nev-



er know. Assuming they didn't eat the pieces, of course. I'm not ruling anything out.

Bob Vandeventer had made a really cool pillar formation for the cave made out of a pool noodle, and layers of foam insulation, then lovingly colored an authentic cave brown. It probably took a lot of work to make it. That was the only formation I had to bring. As it turned out, that was a very good thing indeed. Later, one of the kids told me after I remarked that I probably needed to get in there because I would undoubtedly have to reattach the pillar to the ceiling that the pillar had indeed fallen. Once I got in there, I also saw that not only was it down, it was also in several pieces and one of the kids was busy beating another kid with what was left of the other half. Sorry, Bob. What's left is in a landfill somewhere.

And the kids. *Ah, the kids.* When they finally figured out I was there and where I was I was absolutely invaded. The kids were fine and more or less well-behaved. Outside the cave. Inside the cave it was a completely different story. Once out of sight of their adult chaperones, they just went crazy. They were magically transformed into Genghis Khan and his Mongol Hordes. The chaperones stood outside and smiled a lot and mostly gave me sympathetic or pitying looks, but very few offered to help. Certainly they weren't going in there. Are you crazy? Earlier in the day, this was a manageable situation. But after noon, when they began arriving in earnest, it was a matter of survival. My survival, that is. Crowd control became the order of the day... when I wasn't having to reinforce tether points, push the tent pegs back into the ground, fix the flashlights I'd brought, yell at the kids when they beat on the sides of the inflatable cave (at this point I no longer cared nor had the time to calmly reason with them) or rolled around on the ground wrestling with one another against the sides. And, as I mentioned earlier, I was on a gentle downhill slope. When the adorable little darlings were doing the latter, the cave began slowly but surely rolling downhill with the kids in it. This had the rather interesting effect of twisting the entrance crawl counterclockwise somewhat, so that even though the front end was still duct taped to the PVC entrance frame and in its original position, the cave was slowly twisting shut and blocking the airflow from the box fans, causing it to slowly collapse. I had to close the cave down for repairs at least four or five times. If I stayed at the front to regulate an orderly flow of kids into the cave, all Hell broke loose at the

rear. When I went to the back to effect repairs or enforce order, they poured into the cave from the front unimpeded. At one point, I took a count just because I thought no-one would believe me. I counted about 25 waiting to get in, and when I went in (see Little Caleb reference below) I counted 16 in the back room of the cave, excluding however many was in the crawlway.

So.... when I could drag myself away from all the chaos mentioned above, I would march into the belly of the beast to enforce a little order inside the cave. This just had to be done periodically as the kids were on more than one occasion wrestling with one another, and kicking holes in the side of the cave towards the lower downhill side. Repairing these secondary holes was often necessary. One little heathen even attempted to exit the cave out of a hole he had just made in the side. Little Caleb (I got his name from a helpful classroom informant) was immediately perped walked right out of the cave and turned over to his teacher for whatever the public school system passes for discipline nowadays. It at least involved an enforced apology under the watchful eye of the teacher. God bless you, whoever you are. Whatever they pay you is not enough. The same little girl later on notified me that one kid was beating up on another kid in the cave. So I went in wearing my UN peacekeepers hat. However, when I got there, the kid that was pointed out to me who had been on the receiving end of the abuse was well over twice the size of the supposed aggressor. He looked none the worse for wear. Indeed, he even started laughing when I'd asked her incredulously, "You mean, him?" She nodded in the affirmative. He looked like he could take care of himself to me. He might have even been able to beat me up in a pinch. I left. Every man for himself.

And, though the site was ideal for the morning, as the sun marched its way across the sky, what was initially a nice perfect shady spot soon became a sunny unpleasant spot. The inflatable cave is black. Entirely so. Go stand out in the sun in a black t-shirt on a hot summer's day and let me know what conclusions you draw from that experience. I'm sure you'll figure it out quickly. And so, it wasn't long before the cave became quite hot inside. Best guess, I'd have to say that it was probably 90 - 95 degrees in there in the late afternoon. Even with two box fans moving the air around in there it was kinda oppressive. Say, maybe *that's* why the cave made its abortive attempt to become

## BUDDHA KARST NATURE PRESERVE NOW A “FOREST”

by Keith Dunlap

As many of you know, the IKC has and continues to invest a lot of its resources (volunteers and money) in stewardship projects *above* ground at the five properties the IKC own. While it is true we bought those properties for what is *under* them, we still have obligations and incentives to apply proper management on their top sides. First, two of our preserves are actual Nature Preserves so we have an obligation to the State to manage those properties appropriately. Second, on some of our properties, if we managed by “benign neglect”, we would end up with a real mess. For a property like our Buddha Karst Nature Preserve that was formerly grazed, once the cows were removed, the melting pot of invasives such as autumn olive, tree of heaven, multiflora rose, johnson grass, and honey sickle would take over immediately, overpowering even the hardiest of fescue. In ten years, it would be very difficult to navigate the property. Third, for the long-term, we need to minimize our on-going expenses of owning those properties which means doing things that can reduce our biggest expense, property taxes. The best way to do that for “ag” properties is to enroll them in the Indiana DNR’s Classified Forest and Wildlands Program. This generally entails reforesting the properties or converting the fescue-dominant fields into natural grass “prairies”. We have previously enrolled our Sullivan and Wayne preserves and are in the process of enrolling our expanded Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve. We have also been working towards getting the Buddha Karst Nature Preserve to the point of qualifying, which means planting trees.

We stated this reforesting effort at the Buddha property in 2002 when we bought the property, and up through 2009 had manually planted 5,200 trees on about 10 acres using volunteers. We could have continued our cadence of 1-2 acres per year

for the next 10 years and that was our default plan. However, we have looked for other opportunities to accelerate this effort and last summer we became aware of some USFWS habitat restoration funds that matched our situation. After several iterations, the IKC’s project to reforest the remaining open areas at Buddha was approved and agreements were signed. The grant would cover about 95% of the \$6,900 contract to plant 7,200 trees on approximately 12 acres. The grant would cover a pre-treatment of RoundUp to kill back the fescue in the fall, the tree seedlings bought from the Indiana DNR’s nursery, the mechanical planting, and part of the first-year RoundUp post-treatment. The IKC will be responsible for subsequent weed treatments, needed every 2-3 years for the following 10 or so years. This can either be done by paying a contractor to mechanically spray or using a dedicated crew of volunteers with backpack sprayers.

So at the end of April, our 7,200 trees were planted and fortunately we have gotten a number of beneficial rains since that time. Hopefully our luck will continue as getting the trees roots established the first year is critical in how well they do in subsequent years. It will take 2-4 years for the trees to start showing above the ambient grass and weed and up to 10 years before the landscape starts to noticeably change. With that said, anyone who has been to Buddha recently will see some of the trees that were planted in 2002 and 2003 are now 10-15 feet tall, depending upon the species.

The species and quantities of trees planted in 2010 are as follows: black cherry (300), black walnut (700), bur oak (700), chinkapin oak (900), red oak (900), shumard oak (200), tulip poplar (400), white oak (900), chestnut oak (300), kentucky coffee tree (200), shagbark hickory (900), sugar maple (200), flowering dogwood (200), red-



bud (100), pawpaw (300). Previously we have planted some of those species, plus black oak, gray dogwood, hazelnut, persimmon, scarlet oak, and white ash. The mixture goal was to re-establish the dominant oak-hickory forest landscape as

it likely was 200 years ago.

We still have a lot of work ahead of us over the next 10 years, but then we can sit back and watch them grow (unless of course we are reforesting other properties we have acquired).

### INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY TREASURY REPORT

#### Income/Expense Statement From January 1, 2010 to March 31, 2010

**INCOME:**

Dues Apportionment and Residuals	680.00	
Donations - General	1775.97	
Donations - Land Acquisition Fund	567.00	
USDA GIS layer contract	4830.50	
Interest	407.55	
	407.55	\$8,261.02

**EXPENSES:**

IKC Update (printing, production, mailing)	201.87	
Education / Outreach	226.92	
Stewardship	44.92	
USDA GIS layer contract	4500.00	
Business (renewal letters, postage, fees, etc)	96.55	
Transfers to/from restricted funds/other adjustments	802.44	
	802.44	(\$5,872.70)

**NET OPERATING EXCESS (DEFICIT) THIS PERIOD:** \$2,388.32

#### Balance Sheet March 31, 2010

**ASSETS:**

Cash in Checking / Saving Accounts / CDs	111339.60	
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	
	13.16	\$369,352.76

**LIABILITIES & OPERATING EXCESS:**

Land Acquisition Restricted Fund	36860.59
Deferred Dues Restricted Fund (184 members)	4065.00
Stewardship Endowment Restricted Fund	30614.56

Previous General Fund (total)	37424.29	
Net Excess (Deficit) This Period	2388.32	
	2388.32	
Current General Fund (unrestricted)	39812.61	
Current General Fund (committed)	6500.00	
Real estate liquidity (basis value)	258000.00	
	258000.00	

**Total Liabilities & Operating Excess** \$369,352.76

## ANNUAL CAVE PATRON / PROPERTY MANAGER REPORTS

Each year at the Annual Business Meeting, the Cave Patrons and Property Managers are asked to give a verbal summary and submit a written report describing the prior year's activities and incidents, and to make any future recommendations needing implementing. The following is a compilation of the reports for calendar year 2009:

### Buddha Cave Patron Report (Jeff Cody)

This past year there were seven trips arranged into Buddha Cave. Fifty-six people filled out waivers for these trips. This was one less trip than last year. I was in the area for work several times during the year and made a couple of stops to the property; all looked well. Like last year, a few of these people contacted Property Manager George Cesnik for cave access, and he forwarded these waivers to me.

This past year in June there were a total of ten waivers from all across the country. The cave was used as part of a week-long NCRC event. I was told they just used the entrance area. Also on August 15, there were 11 waivers filled out as the cave was made available for Cave Capers.

### Buddha Property Report (George Cesnik)

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

- April 18 – Approximately 1300 trees were planted. We had 39 volunteers sign in for the day. Representatives of Boy Scout Troop 88 included Michael Lynch, Joe Lynch, Jerry Lewis, Salisa Lewis, Alexandra Lewis, Geoff Lewis, Kelsie ?, Boy Scout Troop 136 representatives included Justin Crohn, Tyler Crohn, Sam Martin, Shane Spriggs, Jason Martin, Eric Sandeno, Cindy Sandeno, and Lynne Crohn. Representatives of Girl Scout Troop 264 included Sarah Wieligman, Melanie Martin, Michaela May, Patricia G. Wieligman, Heather Mayand, Tiffany Spriggs. The IKC was represented by Everett Pullian, Bambi Dunlap, Keith Dunlap, Steve Lockwood, Richard Vernier, Sue Vernier, Don Ingle, Bill Baus, Terry Clark, Tom Rea, Mark Kraus, Tom Sollman, Robert Sollman, and George Cesnik. Also attending were Michelle Gray, Jeff Ziegler, John Danovich, and Noah Lockwood.
- May 23 – Keith Dunlap mowed the parking area and trail while George sprayed multiflora

rose bushes. Keith and George treated the fescue and weeds around half of the 1300 trees that were planted in April. Over 95 percent of the trees we planted in April looked healthy.

- June 6 – Keith Dunlap did weed control on the remaining 2009 trees.
- Sept 13 & 17 – Jamie Winner and Keith Dunlap mowed strips for 2010 tree planting.
- Late Sept – Bruce Bowman cut up a large downed tree in the parking area.
- Sept 27, Oct 8, Oct 17 – Keith Dunlap trimmed older trees, removing lower limbs, double trunks, etc that will facilitate weed control next spring.
- Oct 18 – George removed a dead tree trunk from the loop trail.
- Late Oct – Contractor sprayed strips for 2010 tree planting

### Sullivan Cave Patron Report (B Vandeventer)

This report is on the cave activity and visitation for the year of 2009. 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. We had another good year with no major problems other than some stuck locks and a pile of snow at the end of the year. Below are the numbers for the cave trips in 2009. I was happy to see the liaison number high again which shows the system works. Dave Everton wins the most liaison trips award. This has been a great help to me in managing the amount of visits to the cave.

Most of the cave trip requests were by e-mail, but I still did several over the phone. We will see if the amount of closed caves will have any change in the numbers for 2010.

E-mail contacts:	175	
Phone contacts:	37	
Number of trips:	41	
Number of people:	408	
Liaisons:		
BIG	# of trips 29	# of people 214
SJVG	# of trips 3	# of people 39
CIG	# of trips 1	# of people 5
NNG	# of trips 4	# of people 36
EMG	# of trips 1	# of people 9

NIG	# of trips	7	# of people	75
Total	# of trips	86	# of people	786

### **Sullivan Property Report (Keith Dunlap)**

This was the IKC's 11th full year of ownership. We are basically in "maintenance mode". The trees in the small field, planted in 2000, have grown impressively. Those in the larger field planted in 2001 have not done as well, but are holding their own. No tree replanting or spraying was done in 2009. I do plan to do some "limbing" in 2010 and perhaps some weed control (realistically, the weed control probably will not happen until 2011 so I can focus on weed control at Buddha).

The "camping/clearing" area was mowed three times, as was the area by the driveway out by the road. I also fertilized and over-seeded the new terraced area in the spring and mulched the leaves in the fall. I plan to fertilize again this spring to improve the hardiness of the grass.

The lane and parking areas are in good shape and no maintenance is anticipated for 2010.

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

The porta-potty is still functioning. We still need to figure out the logistics of servicing the privy on a routine basis.

Locks are being serviced by Bob Vandeventer as needed.

There were no major problems or concerns encountered during 2009. There was some evidence that someone drove around the plastic chain long the parking area and cut up the grass slightly while the ground was soft. Just shows that there are still people without common sense that go caving.

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

The cave was visited more times this year; records show a total of 21 trips comprised of 129 visitors, although some of those persons made repeat trips during the year. Twelve of the trips could be considered Patron-arranged; one was a monthly CIG trip, eight of them were through the grotto liaison program (one Near Normal and the rest BIG). The cave was offered for use during Cave Capers, but nobody took advantage of the opportunity. The breakout follows, not listed in any particular order:

Patron-arranged: 12 trips, 75 cavers  
 Central Indiana Grotto: 1 trip, 7 cavers  
 Near Normal Grotto: 1 trip, 10 cavers  
 Bloomington Indiana Grotto: 7 trips, 37 cavers

For those hair-splitters out there, some of the trips could be classified more than one way, especially Patron-arranged versus CIG cavers, but what does it really matter? If you really wish a further breakout, contact the Patron directly and he can give you way more detail than you likely care to hear.

Most cavers visited once, although several had repeat visits. The Patron only made one visit during the calendar year, but that was due to a decreased amount of recreational trips he led. There were a total of 106 waiver forms collected, with a couple of should know betters failing to complete forms (including the Patron – maybe the Board should consider reprimanding or firing him after this report is read). No problems were passed along to the Patron, although the last lock of the WZ series had to be installed after the November 11 trip, so the cave gate was unlocked for a couple of days. It is believed that the distant cries and banging of metal heard back out at the road after replacing the lock were likely due to neighboring activities unrelated to the new lock on the cave gate.

Wayne Cave continues to be a source of enjoyment and pleasure for the average visitor. As always, credit and thanks goes to the IKC for the many years of past protection and restoration, as well as regular continued protection and property improvements. The Patron would also like to thank the IKC board for allowing continued visitation (in spite of the awful White-Nose Syndrome) to this and most of the caves the organization owns and manages.

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

This will mark the IKC's seventh year of ownership of Wayne Cave. So far no incidents have been reported. Several overnight trips have occurred in the clearing at the top of the hill without incident.

- Five Tulip trees were planted during the spring of last year. After this winter's harsh weather conditions only three remain. Mulch will be applied around the trees in the spring to help with weeds. I plan to also fertilize and over-seed the grass along the driveway in the spring to help with rutting that has occurred over the



past year. The hilltop at Wayne has otherwise not changed.

- After visiting in February ruts have been created in the driveway by vehicles during wet and snow conditions. The culvert pipe was not damaged when the rutting occurred. A tractor and blade will be needed later in the spring to re-even the driveway for summer patrons.
- Several trees have fallen across the path to the cave due to snow and ice conditions; a chain saw will be needed to properly cut and dispose of them.
- The combination lock is still functioning and I have heard zero complaints from those visiting the cave other than being stiff during below-freezing temperatures. Patrons have noted how much easier it is to use the combination lock rather than acquire a key for each visit.
- An information kiosk regarding the property at Wayne Cave and the history of the above and below ground surfaces is still in the works. A budget and workday will be presented later in the year.
- There were no major problems or concerns encountered during 2009.

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

2009 RLC Property activity:

- Jan 31, 2009 – Five people, Virgil Brack, Jason Duffey, Keith Dunlap, Tom Sollman, and Elise Sollman entered the cave to perform the biennial bat census. They were in the cave about an hour. The bat population was down from previous counts. The cave was closed to all recreational caving during 2009 due to WNS by the IKC Executive Board.
- March 18, 2009 – Upper and lower fields had prescribed burn to try to eliminate fescue. The barn was singed on one lower end, but did not suffer any structural damage. Jamie Winner oversaw the burn with a hired licensed contractor, Bruce Marheine of Wildlife Land & Resource Management; Carla Striegel-Winner, Dick and Sue Vernier were there also. Bambi Dunlap stopped by and picked up several bags of trash along Hwy 66. A follow up fall burn for 2010 needs to be addressed, pending conditions.
- May 17, 2009 – Keith Dunlap enters cave to download two data loggers in the cave (plus one

outside on a tree). He was in the cave for about 30 minutes.

- Summer 2009 – Jamie and Carla “stationed” their riding mower in the barn and mowed the lane and camping areas from time to time.
- July 2009 – Completion of the USDA NRCS WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program) cost-share paperwork was finalized and submitted for payment. The IKC received a check for \$1939 that was direct deposited in August. Thanks to Mark Bennett, IDNR and Jennifer Knable, NRCS, and all IKC members for their help in seeing this through.
- July 2009 – Jamie and Carla met at RLC with District Forester, Mike Coggeshall and walked the property to discuss management objectives (creation/preservation of bat friendly habitat) and inclusion of property to Classified Forest program for tax savings and benefits. Mike Coggeshall prepared a 9 page Woodland Stewardship Plan, as a guide. He thinks the entire property, minus the barn and ½ acre camping area will qualify for Classified Forest status. Also the two TNC tracts planned to be added.
- Sept 12, 2009 – Workday held at RLCP to re-mount detached barn door with new hinges. Volunteers included Tom Sollman, Dick and Sue Vernier, Ernie Payne, Everett Pullium, and Keith Dunlap. Took about 3 hours. Jamie Winner used herbicide Pathfinder II to treat the bark of Tree of Heaven to kill it. Killing this invasive is one of the items required for enrolling the property in the Classified Forest program. Follow up treatments will probably be needed.
- Sept 2009 – Jamie and Carla met with Cassie Hauswald, TNC, and Mark Bennett, IDNR to discuss management recommendations. Hauswald and Bennett were impressed with what is growing there, plant wise, after the spring 2009 burn. They recommend a fall 2010 burn would be better than spring (2010). A list of over 30 plants was published in the *IKC Update*. Lots of flying insects were noted; one quail was flushed.
- Fall 2009 – The Nature Conservancy (TNC) plans to transfer ownership of two adjacent tracts, 11.29 acres and 21.79 acres, fully wooded, (bordering our 40.40 acre RLC tract) to the IKC, but it will not happen until sometime

in 2010. Upon transfer completion, the IKC Board will pursue enrolling the total 73.48 acres into Classified Forest Program to save time and paperwork.

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

Due to White-Nose Syndrome, the IKC Board elected to keep both caves closed during the normal May-August non-hibernation periods. Thus there were no authorized recreational trips to report.

For both caves, there were three scientific trips. The first were for the biennial bat census. The other trips were to remove data loggers and speloggers in early May and re-deploy them in mid-September.

The Indiana bat populations in both caves were up. Coon cave had 14,525 Indiana bats + 716 other bats (up around 400 Ibats). Grotto had 16,190 Indiana bats + 2600 other bats (up around 3,300 Ibats). Grotto was the only Indiana Priority I cave to show any significant increase.

The annual report to the property owner was drafted and mailed on 12/23/09.

Dunlap 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 traditional hibernacula closure period (9/2008 to 4/2009). Since the alarm systems were installed in 1996, there has only been one violation combined.

The temperature-monitoring project continued in both caves (started the sixteenth annual deployment on 9/2009). We also deployed a new-generation datalogger recording temperature and humidity at a sample rate of once per hour.

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

In June, we had a mini-workday, cleaning up trash along Spicer Lane and eradicating autumn olive on the property.

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

This is my annual update regarding activities at Shiloh Cave. The Indiana Karst Conservancy has continued to permit up to six trips into Shiloh Cave for the general caving community each calendar year. Each trip is limited to 10 participants with three vehicles on the property. During 2009, four trips were taken into the cave. These took place in March, April, June and August.

Currently, two trips are already scheduled for 2010. The first is set for July 17, a trip sponsored by the Northern Indiana Grotto of the National

Speleological Society from Ft Wayne, Indiana. I will also be leading a trip of Central Indiana Grotto (Indianapolis) cavers into Shiloh in August and I anticipate 10 cavers to participate on both trips.

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

Please accept this 2009 annual report for the activities of Suicide Cave in Washington County. Visitation was light to moderate with only three trips for the year. There were no known injuries, lost cavers, or reportable mishaps.

The condition of the cave remains excellent with no known trash, litter, or graffiti. Several cavers reported problems getting the lock on and off the gate. As a result, I cleaned the moving parts of the gate with a wire brush and replaced the lock with one that has a slightly smaller shank. The gate and lock are now much easier to operate.

I have in my file signed waivers for all visitors. In reviewing the contract with the property owner, I believe we are entirely in compliance.

Our lease agreement with the owner has expired and I have been instructed by the IKC Board to not arrange any more trips until a new lease agreement is executed.

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

This past year six trips went into Shaft cave with a permit. Two were arranged by me, three by the Bloomington Grotto, and one by Near Normal Grotto. A total of 24 people filled out waivers for these trips. This was a slight increase over last year (4 trips). Most of these trips were in the fall.

I made a visit to the property on October 10, but I did not enter the cave. I did not see anything out of the ordinary. None of the trip leaders reported anything out of place or any incidents to me or the liaisons.

#### **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 May 2009, October 2009, and March 2010. 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, tires, boards, ropes, and etc.

The fence built in 2003 on the western side of the property has collected some flood debris but remains straight and structurally sound. The



# IKC ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, March 13, 2010 – Greenwood, IN

## BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jerry Lewis, President  
 James Adams, Secretary  
 Keith Dunlap, Treasurer  
 Bruce Bowman  
 Dave Haun  
 Don Ingle  
 Kriste Lindberg  
 Steve Lockwood  
 Bob Sergesketter  
 Bruce Silvers  
 Karen Silvers  
 Tom Sollman  
 Bob Vandeventer  
 Richard Vernier  
 Jamie Winner

## BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

The Executive Board Meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM at the White River Branch of the Johnson County Library in Greenwood, Indiana, IKC President Lewis, presiding. Minutes of the December 2009 meeting were accepted as published in the March 2009 issue of the *IKC Update*.

### Treasurer's Report

Dunlap reported cash assets of \$110,650.28 plus land at \$258,000 for a total of \$368,650.28. Funds included Land Acquisition, \$36,688.59; Stewardship, \$30,379.12; Deferred Dues, \$3,690.00; and General, \$39,892.57 of which approximately \$5,800 has been earmarked.

The IKC has 184 members.

### Record of E-mail Motions

Since the December meeting, three e-mail motions were passed:

December 14, 2009. Motion #1 by Jim Adams. The IKC attendance at the annual meeting of the Hoosier Association of Science Teachers Inc (HASTI) was funded at the December 2009 meeting for \$150. Following that meeting, it was determined that this amount was too low and did not cover the cost of our participation. "Adams moves to increase the HASTI conference funding to \$250." Seconded by Karen Silvers. Lewis calls for discussion.

December 15, 2009. There being no further discussion, Lewis called for the vote.

December 16, 2009. Lewis declared the motion passed, 12-1-2.

February 1, 2010. Motion #2 by Jim Adams. "Adams moves that the following slate of candidates be accepted for the March 2010 IKC Annual Meeting elections":

President: Jerry Lewis  
 Secretary: Jim Adams  
 Treasurer: Keith Dunlap  
 Directors: Don Ingle  
 Steve Lockwood  
 Everett Pulliam  
 Kevin Smith  
 Carla Striegel-Winner  
 Jamie Winner

February 2, 2010. Seconded by Vernier. There being no further discussion, Lewis called for the vote.

February 4, 2010. The vote was unanimous and Lewis declared the motion passed.

February 1, 2010. Motion #3 by Keith Dunlap. "Dunlap moves to authorize President Lewis to execute the TNC offer letter dated January 27, 2010 to accept the two tracts of land adjacent to the Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve."

February 2, 2010. Seconded by Vernier. There being no further discussion, Lewis called for the vote.

February 4, 2010. The vote was unanimous and Lewis declared the motion passed.

### Appointment of Election Teller & Election Results

Lewis appointed Sue Vernier as Election Teller. After voting, Vernier reported the results:

President: Jerry Lewis  
 Secretary: James Adams  
 Treasurer: Keith Dunlap  
 Directors: Don Ingle  
 Everett Pulliam  
 Carla Winner  
 Jaime Winner

Terms will begin on April 1, 2010. Haun moved to recycle the ballots. Sergesketter seconded. Motion passed, 15-0-0.

[Secretary's Note: The property reports mentioned below will be published in the June 2010 *IKC Update*.]

### Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve Annual Report

Property Manager John Benton submitted his annual report regarding 2009 activities at the Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve.



Dunlap reported that Under Earth Day will be held at Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve on April 17, 2010.

The acquisition of two properties from The Nature Conservancy is proceeding. There are some closing costs associated with taking possession of the parcels: Attorney fees to review the deeds, \$100; title search, \$200; title Insurance, \$290. Haun moved to approve up to \$700 to fund the closing costs of acquiring two properties from TNC. Vandeventer seconded. After discussion, motion passed, 14-1-0.

#### **Orangeville Rise Annual Report**

Property Manager Lockwood submitted his annual report on activities at the Orangeville Rise.

#### **Wayne Cave Preserve**

Cave Patron Dave Everton and Property Manager Robert Sollman submitted annual reports on activities at Wayne Cave Preserve.

Dunlap reported that the property has been accepted for review for a possible Conservation Easement offer from InDOT.

#### **Indian Creek Conservation Easement**

Easement Monitor Lewis reported on 2009 activities at the Indian Creek Conservation Easement property.

#### **Buddha Cave Preserve**

Cave Patron Jeff Cody and Property Manager George Cesnik submitted reports regarding the Buddha Cave Preserve.

Dunlap noted that 7,200 trees will be planted this Spring. Weed control continues.

#### **Sullivan Cave Preserve**

Cave Patron Vandeventer and Property Manager Dunlap submitted reports on activities at the Sullivan Cave Preserve.

Dunlap noted that the outhouse has not been serviced for a year and a commercial vendor has been contacted for cleaning and chemical maintenance.

#### **Shiloh Cave**

Cave Patron Adams reported on activities at Shiloh Cave.

#### **Suicide Cave**

Lewis reported that there were three trips to the cave in 2009, according to Cave Patron Ronnie Burns. Since our lease agreement with the property owner has expired no further trips are being allowed. Bowman is trying to contact the owner but has been unsuccessful, so far.

#### **Coon & Grotto Caves**

Cave Patron Dunlap submitted reports on Coon and Grotto Caves activities. There is no indication that there have been any unauthorized visits since the cave has

been closed due to concerns of White Nose Syndrome.

#### **Shaft Cave**

Cave Patron Jeff Cody submitted his annual report of Shaft cave.

#### **Grotto Liaison Information**

Dunlap reported that Appendix A of the Grotto Liaison Agreement has been updated and needs Board approval of the revisions. Dunlap moved to accept the revision. Vandeventer seconded. Motion passed, 15-0-0.

The Northern Indiana Grotto has submitted a liaison request after their reorganization. Sergesketter moved to accept the agreement. Dunlap seconded. Motion passed, 15-0-0.

#### **White Nose Syndrome**

Lewis noted that new cases of White Nose Syndrome continue to surface. The Indiana caver-initiated visitation policy seems to have wide-spread support in the caving community.

Dunlap reported that the USDA has allowed each National Forest to determine their WNS closure policy. The Hoosier National Forest has proposed closing all Indiana caves for a three-year period. He asked for the IKC to officially respond. Dunlap volunteered to write a first draft.

The IKC has three bat caves (Coon, Grotto, and Robinson Ladder) and a visitation policy needs to be considered for 2010. Dunlap moved to extend the existing closure for recreational trips for another calendar year. Bowman seconded. Motion passed, 15-0-0.

#### **Land Acquisition Activities**

Dunlap reported that the TNC transfer at Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve is the only acquisition in the works.

#### **Education and Outreach Report**

Ingle reported on the Education and Outreach Committee. New volunteers have offered assistance. The Facebook page continues to grow. On June 18, the IKC will be represented at an Environmental Education Symposium at the Indiana State Museum. Ingle is monitoring other organizations to determine if the IKC would like to join these.

Ingle moved to become a partner organization with the Southern Indiana Cooperative Weed Management Area. Lindberg seconded. Motion passed, 14-0-1.

Lewis has received a call from a landowner who has a sinkhole open on his property. Dave Everton responded and visited the landowner, who was appreciative.

#### **2010 Indiana Cave Symposium**

Dunlap moved to fund up to \$150 as a co-sponsor of the symposium. Sergesketter seconded. Motion passed, 15-0-0.

**Items From The Floor**

None

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting was tentatively set for Saturday, June

12, 2010 at the IU Geology Building beginning at 6:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 11:46 AM.

Respectfully submitted by James Adams, Secretary

▶▶ Continued from page 10....

a hot air balloon. Makes sense.

Finally, after a particularly energetic WWE moment inside the cave had partially twisted the entrance shut (again) and collapsed the entrance, I got the remaining kids out and closed it down for what turned out to be the last time. But only after I moved the cave downhill and reassembled it only to find once I had done that there was only one school bus left and they were lining up to leave.

I'd love to tell you that I had time to take lots of pictures. I didn't. Or that I had adequate time to give an educating and enlightening talk about cave and karst conservation. That didn't happen very much either. No time. But the following

day, I finally found out the guest count that day was around 350 kids. This was only the first day of the Peden's Children's Farm Festival. I only saw the home-schooled kids and the kids from the Bloomington area surrounding schools. They asked me as I was packing up if I would be back tomorrow. I told them the truth, that I couldn't, I had to work. Never was I so glad to have to go to work. Sincerely. And later on I was even more grateful for that fact to protect me from my own magnanimous impulses.

The next day I'd have gotten the city kids. They estimated some 1,000 kids would have been there the following day.

▶▶ Continued from page 16....

high strength wire in the fence is slowly loosening its tightness and will eventually need to be stretched again. The concrete property markers installed in 2004 are still intact on the east and west sides of the property. The erosion that was occurring on the west bank of the Orangeville Rise streambed at the intersection of the Lost River streambed has subsided because the fallen trees blocking the water flow have been washed

away and thus the bank erosion has ceased moving closer to the fence posts along the west property line.

Activities planned for 2010 include quarterly trash pickups, and cleaning more trash from a small ravine located on the west side of the property which contains old bicycles, fencing, boards, posts, and other items.

**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.

