

# IKC UPDATE

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September 2010

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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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**IKC QUARTERLY MEETING & COOK-OUT REMINDER**  
**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11th, 4:00 PM EST**  
**FERDINAND STATE FOREST, INDIANA**  
**HOME OF CARLA & JAMIE WINNER**

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; Buddha habitat improvement project update; Lost River Cave access and Cave Patron appointment; Suicide Cave lease agreement status; Coon, Grotto, and Shaft lease agreement status; Land acquisition activities; I-69 Conservation Easement forest mitigation status; I-69 Draft Environmental Impact Statement comments; White-nose Syndrome update; Financial reports; and more....

Following the quarterly meeting (around 6 PM) will be the annual pitch-in cook-out. The main entrees will be burgers and brats. Please bring a salad, dessert, and/or other covered dish to share. If there are enough entries, we will also have a dessert contest [editor's note: hopefully with impartial judges unlike last year]. *Please bring a lawn chair if you want to sit.*

Meeting directions and camping details: See the inside back cover (page 13).

**ACTIVITIES CALENDAR**

**Sept 11 – IKC Quarterly meeting & cookout (see above)**

**Sept 18 – Lost River tour (see page 6)**

**Sept 28 – I-69 Section 4 DEIS comment deadline (see page 5)**

**Dec ?? – 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...

Things above and below ground are on my mind. In the underworld there seems to be lots of caving happening this summer. Personally, I've taken on a project to get some biologically significant caves in southern Harrison County mapped and into the Indiana Cave Survey database. Back in the 1990s, I did a multi-year project for The Nature Conservancy looking for cave critters in the Blue River basin. There are several caves in the Laconia quadrangle that are inhabited by ultra-rare bugs of one sort or another, but remained unknown except for the cave names in biology publications. My goal, with my new caving buddy (whose identity will remain anonymous to protect the guilty) is to get these little caves so that they are known by somebody other than me. Note that I've located someone competent to be the brains in the mapping, since Dave Black can testify that I don't know which side of a compass to look through. After somewhat of a hiatus due to my shoulder surgery, it felt great to be lying in a wet, muddy crawl... and I do at least know how to hold a tape on a survey station.

Elsewhere, I'm hearing of lots of good work happening on other projects. Since my last Ramblings column, I had the privilege of accepting interim management, on behalf of the IKC, of two of the entrances to the Lost River Cave System from The Nature Conservancy. It was a great day when Keith Dunlap and I went down and swapped out the new locks on the Lost River Cave gates. The first survey trip has gone into the cave and confirming a new Cave Patron is on the docket for the September meeting.



Nearly every week I get an update e-mail from Dave Everton telling what happened in Blowing Hole or Binkley Cave. The exploration and survey progress in Blowing Hole has been incredible, changing from a mile long cave ending in a terminal breakdown to a 5+ mile system that's going-like-crazy cave with lots of leads. When the circumstances don't work out for Blowing Hole, Dave's crew is usually someplace in Binkley, mapping more passage in Indiana's longest cave. Anyone who wants to map virgin passage... Dave's begging for help. If you want to go caving, caving is happening.

Above ground the IKC continues to forge ahead in the management of its properties. As you probably know (see the June *IKC Update*) the IKC had over 7,000 more trees planted at our Buddha Karst Preserve. This completed the re-planting of trees on the property, but now we have to see the project through to fruition. It will be fun to watch the saplings grow into a forest, but watching won't make it happen. For the foreseeable future the trees need to have

weed control around them, and that means somebody carefully pruning and spraying around each and every one... all 12,000+ trees. You remember the recruitment posters, "*Uncle Sam Needs You!*"... well, "*Uncle IKC Needs You!*" One of the agenda items for the September meeting is going to be soliciting more members to step up to the plate. I hope each of you will consider coming to Buddha, put on a backpack sprayer and get involved in conservation from the ground up, as well as the ground down.

*Jerry Lewis*

## NEWS BRIEFS...

- ❑ The last three months have seen a lot of activities with the IKC's non-owned cave assess agreements. The good news is that we have finally re-signed our access agreement with the owner of Suicide Cave. The agreement expired last year and the owner was reorganizing his business entities that hold the land and wanted to wait until those business activities were complete before resigning a new lease. In June, he signed the new lease and we should be good for another ten years.

Also good news is that the IKC worked with our partner, The Nature Conservancy, to re-establish access to the two private entrances to the Lost River Cave System. The Cave had been closed as a result of White-nose Syndrome and some other issues. The access established will allow continued surveying and other scientific research, but is not meant for general recreational caving at this time. Proper decontamination precautions (as we are promoting for all IKC caves) is also required. A Cave Patron will be selected at the September Board meeting.

The not so good news is that the lease agreement between the Hancock family and the IKC has temporarily been extinguished, so access to Shaft Cave has been suspended. Coon and Grotto caves are also covered under that lease agreement, but those caves were already closed temporarily due to WNS. The reason for the lease termination has to do with the family negotiating with InDOT to place a conservation easement on the 300-acre property and our lease was a complication in that process. The Hancock family indicated they would enter into a new agreement with the IKC after the conservation agreement is executed or they fail to negotiate an agreement with the State.

- ❑ Volunteers have been spending a lot of time this spring and summer at our Buddha Karst Nature Preserve. We used a contractor to plant 7,200 trees (thanks to a USFWS grant) that has allowed us to concentrate on getting caught up on tending to the other 5,300 trees planted in previous years (weed control and low-limb removal) and focusing on invasive control (multiflora rose, autumn olive, johnson grass, grape vine, honeysuckle, etc). On July 12th, we also had Jason Larson (DNR Nature Preserve field technician) and Janet Eger (DNR District Forester) visit the property to provide feedback and in preparation for enrolling the property in the Classified Forest and Wildlands Program. If you have not been to the property for a number of years, it is starting to look significantly different than the open cow pasture it was in 2001. Volunteers this year have included George Cesnik, Keith Dunlap, Dave Everton, Jerry Lewis, and Everett Pulliam.

- ❑ Over the last few months, the IKC has been working with a surveyor to better delineate the boundaries of our Indian Creek conservation easement in Harrison County. This survey is now complete and as we have done at our other properties, once the surveyor places his pins, we have driven adjacent steel t-posts and added white two-inch PVC pipe covers with red caps to make the boundary lines easier to find in the future. For the Indiana Creek easement, we are obligated to inspect that tract at least once per year and report any issues or easement violations found to the land-owners for corrective action. The purpose of the easement is to keep the area adjacent to the Sinks of Indian Creek in its natural condition. Jerry Lewis is the appointed easement monitor for this property.

- ❑ The Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Section 4 of the I-69 interstate was released on July 30th and available online at [www.i69indyevn.org/section4\\_DEIS.html](http://www.i69indyevn.org/section4_DEIS.html). The section spans eastern Greene County from and south-western Monroe County and crosses highly karstified ter-





rain. While InDOT did extensive field work to identify the various karst features, in the end they did little to mitigate or avoid the features. The justification for this project in the Tier 1 evaluation was originally to improved safety, stimulate economic development, and improved local transportation; none of these goals appear to be substantially improved and in some cases are degraded, so the goal now appears to be to complete the project as quickly and cheaply as possible. The 60-day comment period ends September 28th which is insufficient for any substantive analysis and review of this huge document (the karst study alone is almost 700 pages, although the majority of the public version was significantly redacted). The IKC has officially requested to extend the comment period, but similar requests by other organizations have thus far been rejected.

❑ At the 2010 National Speleological Society convention in Vermont, the Indiana Karst Conservancy was honored by being selected for the Group Conservation award, recognizing our twenty-plus years of conservation and protection activities. Kriste Lindberg accepted the award on our behalf. A \$100 honorarium is also part of the award.



❑ Also at the NSS convention, Kriste Lindberg was appointed as part of a steering committee for a newly-developed Outreach Through the Arts Sub-committee, under the NSS Environmental Education Committee. The sub-committee will serve as a bridge to bring conservation education together with the arts, utilizing the arts as a vehicle to help get the word out and form partnerships for mutual benefit. A brainstorming session was held during the Conservation Session and members met with those involved in the Fine Arts Salon. Many fun and productive endeavors bringing the compatible interests together for a win/win are now in the works! The new steering committee will also be working on a Project Underground Committee to help disseminate cave and karst education across the country.

❑ Bob Armstrong, of the Lost River Conservation Association, will be conducting his last Lost River guided auto/hiking tour on September 18th. The tour 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 tour is 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.

❑ In July, Liberty Green Renewables, the promoter of constructing a bio-mass incinerator in Crawford County, just north of Milltown and directly downwind from our Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve, pulled the plug on their plans. There were many conflicting details on water sources, waste disposal, and feedstock supplies, but the critical turning point was the passage of new permitting process by the Crawford County government.

❑ The IKC has gained two new members since the last *IKC Update*. Welcome Rick and Rhonda Gikas (501). The IKC membership stands at 192.

## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

by Don Ingle

Well, it's that time again. I have two events to report on for this issue. Or is it two and a half? Dave Everton and I did our annual Sullivan Cave trip for the girl scouts from Camp Gallahue on July 15th, preceded by a karst education and Project Underground activity session that occurred separately on July 13th. We also put in an appearance of the IKC Display and inflatable cave out at Holy Rosary Church in Evansville for Boy Scout Troop 312 on August 8th.

### Sullivan Cave – Splendid Spelunkers

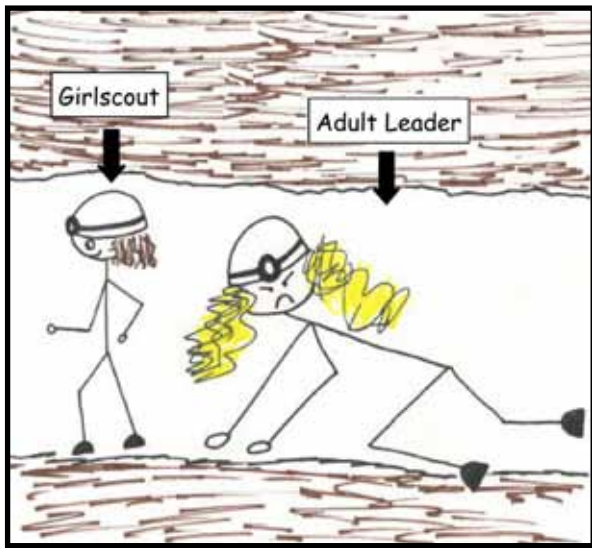
This year, we had the girls from Camp Gallahue later in the week than in previous years. I got totally crossed up on the dates, but managed to set up the karst education and activity session earlier in the week. Given that it was a late add-on to the original plan, things went splendidly. Perhaps I should improvise more often... Or, maybe not. First I gave them a brief rundown on caves in Indiana, why we have them where we have them, explaining some of the many landforms prevalent in a karst landscape. I managed to wrap it up nicely before their eyes glazed over. To illustrate how sinkholes form, we then did our own sinkholes in a cup, which for once, went perfectly. Having dry sand helps immensely. I recommend keeping it under your bed for over a year if you can manage it. After asking them about their wild trip to Old Town Spring Cavern, which had occurred the day before courtesy of the folks at Marengo Cave, we then showed the *Caves: Life Beneath The Forest* video. Then, activity time. A quick game of "Click, Click, Where's My Pup?" ensued, with the usual mayhem involved in such an endeavor. The girls were blindfolded then sent off to find their baby bat partner who was not, and would then go hide somewhere in the same room and make noises until found. This one went over very well, even more so than usual. So much so, that an encore performance was requested before they'd let me leave. My last activity was Lost River Village, where the girls had to create their own community on a karst landscape. Most of them wanted to play devils advocate and make a poor example, which I permitted, as long as they could explain why all the irresponsible elements were environmentally unsound. Their leader insisted however, at least one of the groups do a good example of a responsible community. This was a good thing, as it

meant I did not have to be the bearer of bad tidings and insist at least one of the groups show a good example for contrast. That group sullenly complied. Very sullenly, actually. Then we wrapped it up, until later in the week...

We met at the Sullivan property for the annual wild trip. This one went well, but was not without some logistical problems, due to "someone" not reading their handouts. Dave had come up with a list of things every girl and scout leader was to bring along. Guess no-one read their lists. And so, unfortunately, no one brought drinks or any snacks for the rest stop we'd traditionally take before we'd take them down to Sullivan River. This Dave and I only discovered when the group was finally out of the Backbreaker and into the Mountain Room on the return trip, when it occurred to Dave to ask why virtually no-one but us had a pack. Also, one of the trip leaders turned out to be a little claustrophobic and not feeling well, backed out just immediately before the short connection passage that leads to the Mountain Room on the way in, so one of us had to stay with her. The lucky girl that got to show her the way out (one of the caver guides, not one of the scouts) had the backup batteries as well. So it was Captain Overkill to the rescue. That would be me, of course, as anyone would know who has ever been caving with me and seen me dragging the apparently heavy pack around with me through crawlways unnecessarily. I had two Coke Zeros and six granola bars in my Lost Creek Pack (free product placement ad, Anmar, no thanks necessary) and passed them around which were snarfed up in record time after they enjoyed all of Sullivan River they could stand. I also found a use for some of my excess rechargeable batteries and light sources, before we found the cache of batteries in a small cairn left by the aforementioned exiting pair in an obvious place. And so, for once, I was prepared just enough instead of way over-prepared. Bound to happen sooner or later. Even a broken clock is right twice daily. We took apart the cairn, and started the long trek out. I also took lots of pictures, which I found out later upon exiting from the claustrophobic troop leader that scouting rules state you cannot post pictures of scouts, particularly if they are engaging in something with an element of risk involved, such as... oh, caving, for example. And they were the best pictures I've



ever taken. You just have to trust me. Would I lie? [Editor's note: *Since Don couldn't use his photos, below I adopted artwork from Karen Silvers depicting the Backbreaker passage.*]



### Holy Rosary Church and Boy Scout Troop

Somewhat of a mixed bag, I was contacted by one of the troop leaders and was asked to do a presentation for them as they were Venture Scouts working on a speleology badge, meaning they had to learn as much as they could about their chosen subject in a three month period. This is where I came in. They had found the IKC online and contacted us and we had set a date for Sunday, August 8th on their normal meeting day. The scouts were great, although totally without curiosity when it came time to ask if anyone had any questions. I thought I'd heard crickets chirp at the time, though that might have been my imagination running away with me. The scout leaders were absolutely great and very welcoming. I had time to make plans to refine my presentations to suit this older group, which of course had to be completely scrapped when I found out where I was to set up the inflatable cave and IKC Display was in the gymnasium, and where the videos had to be shown and activities performed was in another building. After the flag ceremony and meeting rituals were over, I gave them all the grand tour of all 37 feet of Barefoot Cave, then we headed on over to the music room in the other building where I showed them Ravenswood Media's excellent White-nose Syndrome video, did the usual cave and karst explanation with somewhat more depth than I did the Gallahue girls, asked for questions, got none, and started up a second video to further explain karst formation, since I could not seem to locate the

*Caves* video I had brought along at the time. Improvisation... You gotta love it. That went well for the first five minutes before the freshly re-encoded video, *Living On Karst*, that I had also put on an SD card, developed an extremely annoying case of stuttering that made it necessary to cut that short. It kind of made the narrator sound as though someone had him by the shoulders and was shaking him violently (note to self – do a quality check on all newly encoded cave education videos if you even THINK you may use them). Improvise again, you fool. And we're walking! We're walking! So... it was right back to the gymnasium again, where we spent the last 15 minutes or so demonstrating the karst ground water model and letting them play "Click, Click, Where's My Pup?" (a crowd pleaser no matter the age bracket) until it was time to wrap things up. The troop leaders had the guys help roll Barefoot Cave back up, and to help pack all the other stuff away. That was very nice of them, and entirely unexpected. I'm kinda used to doing all that on my own. It was during the repacking that I then finally found the *Caves* video, and gave it to a grateful troop leader along with the Project Underground activity printout that we did not have time to do because we were running back and forth in between buildings like cast of Benny Hill in one of their video segues (insert Yakkety Sax music here). I don't mean to make it sound as chaotic as all that, but given all the on-the-fly changes I was forced into by circumstance, and the time constraints, things went extraordinarily well.

That pretty much sums it all up this quarter's activities. Coming up, we have.....

**September 18th** – The Hoosier Outdoor Experience, in Indianapolis at Fort Harrison State Park.

**September 19th** – The Fourth Annual Indiana Bat Festival in Terre Haute at the Science Building on the campus of Indiana State University. Both inflatable cave gigs. Still trying to figure out the logistics for *that* one. What do you think, time machine? Or some sort of a matter transference device a la Star Trek? Not sure we have the money in our budget for that, being a non-profit sub-committee and all.

It's getting towards the end of the peak period for the Ed/Out Committee for this year, but you never know what may decide to take form. If you know of anyone that would like to help with our Education/Outreach activities, please send them my way as we can always use more volunteers.



# BIRD SURVEY AT BUDDHA KARST NATURE PRESERVE

by Jerry Lewis & Ronnie Burns

On May 29, 2010 we conducted the “first annual” survey of breeding birds at Buddha. The assumption is that all birds present at this time of year are nesting birds, although a few were undoubtedly just visiting or flying over, rather than nesting on the preserve. To conduct the survey we took the trail map of the one mile loop through the preserve and established 20 stations about 200-300 feet apart. We started the survey at 9:30 in the morning under a clear blue sky, temperature 72 degrees. At each station we stopped for 3 minutes to identify any birds that we could hear or see through binoculars. We counted only birds that we estimated to be within the boundaries of the preserve or the air above it. The results were penciled onto a spreadsheet.

We found 39 species of birds. The most common species are the Field sparrow, Eastern towhee, Indigo bunting, Northern cardinal, and Blue Jay. Three species of warblers nest on the preserve: Prairie Warbler, Common yellow-

throat, and Yellow-breasted chat (all three are beautiful, bright yellow birds). Up in the air we saw a Great blue heron (probably flying from an adjacent pond), several Turkey vultures, and one Black vulture. Not surprisingly a pair of Eastern phoebes were hanging around the entrance to Buddha Cave. Only one species was mildly surprising, a single Cedar waxwing that was sitting in plain view in a dead tree. This species is generally more of a winter bird in southern Indiana – Lawrence County is right on the line where year-round populations of waxwings occur in Indiana.

We plan on doing the same route next winter, which should produce a mostly different list of birds... the nesting birds will depart and only the permanent residents and other species that overwinter will be present. Doing the survey every year should be interesting as the reforestation of the preserve proceeds in time and the species will change as a result.

Buddha Karst Nature Preserve Bleeding Bird Survey																																																		
Surveyors: J. Lewis, R. Burns, 29 May 2010 (9:35 - 11:35 AM)																																																		
Start conditions: 74 degrees, clear, sunny										End: 82 degrees, scattered clouds																																								
Station	Great Blue Heron	Black Vulture	Turkey Vulture	Mourning Dove	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Chimney Swift	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Downy Woodpecker	Eastern Wood Peewee	Eastern Phoebe	Great Crested Flycatcher	Eastern Kingbird	White-eyed Vireo	Blue Jay	American Crow	Cliff Swallow	Barn Swallow	Tufted Titmouse	Carolina Chickadee	Carolina Wren	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	American Robin	Gray Catbird	Northern Mockingbird	Brown Thrasher	Cedar Waxwing	Prairie Warbler	Common Yellowthroat	Yellow-breasted Chat	Northern Cardinal	Indigo Bunting	Eastern Towhee	Chipping Sparrow	Field Sparrow	Song Sparrow	Brown-headed Cowbird	Common Grackle	House Finch	American Goldfinch											
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Totals	1	1	8	5	1	2	4	1	1	5	2	1	3	10	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	4	5	5	14	17	12	2	29	7	7	1	3						4					

**INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY TREASURY REPORT**

**Income/Expense Statement  
From April 1, 2010 to June 30, 2010**

**INCOME:**

Dues Apportionment and Residuals	701.25	
Donations - General	400.00	
Donations - Land Acquisition Fund	127.00	
USFWS Habitat Grant	2850.00	
TNC Stewardship Fund contribution	4350.00	
Interest	509.62	
	<u>509.62</u>	\$8,937.87

**EXPENSES:**

IKC Update (printing, production, mailing)	187.25	
Education / Outreach	80.86	
Stewardship	5258.74	
Research Grant	250.00	
Property Taxes	10.00	
Business (renewal letters, postage, fees, etc)	143.16	
Transfer to Stewardship Fund	8700.00	
Transfers to/from restricted funds/other adjustments	364.26	
	<u>364.26</u>	(\$14,994.27)

**NET OPERATING EXCESS (DEFICIT) THIS PERIOD:** (\$6,056.40)

**Balance Sheet  
June 30, 2010**

**ASSETS:**

Cash in Checking / Saving Accounts / CDs	114186.21	
Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve (73.48 acres) <sup>1</sup>	162000.00	
Wayne Cave Preserve (20.00 acres)	75000.00	
Sullivan Cave Preserve (28.00 acres)	72000.00	
Buddha Karst Nature Preserve (36.84 acres)	29000.00	
Orangeville Rise Nature Preserve (3.01 acres)	7000.00	
Indian Creek Conservation Easement (valued at \$1/acre)	13.16	
	<u>13.16</u>	<u>\$459,199.37</u>

**LIABILITIES & OPERATING EXCESS:**

Land Acquisition Restricted Fund	36987.59	
Deferred Dues Restricted Fund (180 members)	3903.75	
Stewardship Endowment Restricted Fund <sup>2</sup>	39551.82	
Previous General Fund (total)	39812.61	
Net Excess (Deficit) This Period	<u>(6056.40)</u>	
Current General Fund (unrestricted)	33756.21	
Current General Fund (committed)	4450.00	
Real estate liquidity (basis value)	<u>345000.00</u>	
Total Liabilities & Operating Excess		<u><u>\$459,199.37</u></u>

**NOTES:**

- 1) Reflects the addition of \$87,000 for the 33.08-acre TNC expansion
- 2) Reflects a positive transfer of \$8700 for the Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve expansion

## IKC QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, June 12, 2010 – Bloomington, IN

### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

The Quarterly Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM at the Indiana University Geology Building, Bloomington, Indiana, IKC President Lewis, presiding. Two proxies were accepted.

### Treasurer's Report

Dunlap reported cash assets of \$114,085.70 plus land at \$345,000.00 for a total of \$459,085.70. Funds included Land Acquisition, \$36,920.59; Stewardship, \$34,964.56; Deferred Dues, \$4,365.00; General, \$37,835.55 of which approximately \$3,400 has been earmarked.

The IKC has 175 members.

Because of recent fund increases in the Indiana Cave Survey account, those funds have been separated and removed from the IKC bank accounts.

### Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve

The IKC has accepted 33 adjacent acres from the TNC to increase the Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve. The new land is valued at \$87,000. Dunlap noted that we have traditionally contributed 10% of our owned property's value into the restricted Stewardship Fund. As part of the negotiated transfer, TNC has funded one half of this contribution. Dunlap moved we transfer \$4,350 from the General Fund into the Stewardship Fund to make up the difference. Seconded by Ingle. Motion passed, 14-0-0.

### Wayne Cave Preserve

Dunlap reported that the contractor for InDot has hired an appraiser to value the Wayne Cave Preserve property as a potential mitigation tract. No other information.

### Indian Creek Conservation Easement

J. Lewis noted that the IKC has contracted to have the easement re-surveyed. A large picnic pavilion and a garden plot appear to be built on the easement. The surveyor has found description errors in the original deed and we may have to amend the legal description (the actual easement boundary appears to be correct). Once the surveyor verifies the position of the structure and garden plot, we will need to contact these landowners to mitigate the violations.

Dunlap moved to fund up to \$500 to correct the easement description. Motion seconded by Bowman. Motion passed, 14-0-0.

### Buddha Cave Preserve

7,200 trees were planted in April and are growing well. A weed treatment is expected in the next few weeks. Up to this point, grant money has covered all expenses. This next treatment will exceed the grant limit, however, the funds have already been allocated for this.

The District Forester has been contacted to advise the IKC of what other things need to be done to enroll the property as Classified Forest.

### Shiloh Cave

J. Lewis would like to conduct a bio-inventory. Adams moved to grant permission. Seconded by K. Silvers. Motion passed 13-0-1. [*Secretary's Note: Adams, as Shiloh Cave Patron, will communicate with the landowners.*]

### Suicide Cave

Bowman reported that he has been in contact with the owner of Suicide Cave. The owner has been sent a draft lease, initially for review. According to the owner, the lease has been signed and sent back to us, however, we have not received a copy via the USPS.

### Land Acquisition Activities

Regarding the Lost River Cave System, the TNC has closed the cave as a precaution against WNS and some other prior access issues. After recent discussions with J. Lewis, TNC is open to discuss the IKC managing visitation to the system.

Dunlap commented that TNC wants to see surveying and mapping continued and is less interested in recreational trips and thus the IKC should probably encourage scientific and survey work and limit recreational visits. Dunlap moved to empower J. Lewis to move forward with a visitation agreement for the Lost River Cave System with TNC. Seconded by D. Vernier. Motion passed, 15-0-0.



Regarding Bryant's Cave, B. Silvers noted that this cave is open but the owner wants to make sure cavers are "experienced" and the cave remains protected. He wants to preserve the cave for the future and possibly enter in to a long-term lease arrangement. There are about 20 acres including a house. After some discussion, there was no interest in a lease of this property since it was Silver's understanding the owner was wanting significantly more than the traditional \$1/year agreement. The IKC would be interested in pursuing acquisition, but this is not the intent of the owner.

J. Lewis reported that he has been in contact with resident in southern Indiana who is aware of property, reported to have a cave entrance, that the owner wishes to divest himself of for a tax credit. An IKC member has visited the property and reported his findings which was little more than a short crawlway. There was no significant interest from the membership and board members present.

#### **Education and Outreach Committee**

Ingle reported on recent education activities including today's successful inflatable cave display at Wonder-Lab. More events are planned during the summer.

#### **WNS Updates**

J. Lewis updated attendees on recent developments of the spread of White Nose Syndrome. He will be looking for signs of the disease in Illinois. The disease has recently been found in Missouri and western Oklahoma.

#### **NSS Group Section Conservation Award**

A representative of the Conservation and Management Committee of the NSS has suggested that we self-nominate the IKC for this year's Group Conservation award. We will pursue the nomination and J. Lewis will follow up.

#### **Ducks Unlimited**

J. Lewis has received an e-mail from Ducks Unlimited regarding a conservation easement database. No objections were noted in the IKC providing location information on our CE.

#### **Indiana Cave Survey**

The ICS may be reviewing the ICS/IKC Memorandum of Understanding at their next meeting. This involves data sharing with the Hoosier National Forest.

#### **Items From The Floor**

Haun noted that the Central Indiana Grotto would again be sending out their Christmas cards to cave owners this year as well as a separate newsletter. He invited IKC members to contribute ideas and cave owner contact information to both.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting was tentatively set for Saturday, September 11, 2010 at the home of Jaime and Carla Winner beginning at 4:00 PM

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted by James Adams, IKC Secretary



**Directions to Ferdinand State Forest (FSF) and Jamie and Carla's House:**

From State Road 64, just east of St Anthony: Turn south at County Road 600 East (there is a green FSF sign) and go exactly 3 miles to the entrance gate.

From State Road 162, just north of Ferdinand: Turn east onto State Road 264 (there is a green FSF sign), which ends at the entrance gate after several miles.

At the entrance gate: Stay on the main road about a mile and a half until it ends at the Sycamore Shelters. Park in the gravel lot there. The house is just across the lot. Normally the gate is closed at this time, but if it would happen to be open, just tell the attendant you are here for the meeting and she will let you through.

You can mapquest with success: **7985 S 600 E, Ferdinand, IN**. This will get you to the entrance; follow our directions to the house from there.

Overnighters: Folks are welcome to stay over, we have futon and floor space and a small yard for a tent. Also, a primitive campground is available at FSF for \$8 per night and you are welcome to use our shower!

Ferdinand State Forest also has hiking and mountain biking trails, a 38 acre lake, which is a fun canoe/kayak and has great fishing, so come early or stay over!

If you get lost, call (812) 367-1602.

**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.

