

IKC UPDATE



No. 19 – December 1990

INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY, INC.

PO Box 2401, Indianapolis, IN 46206-2401

Affiliated with the National Speleological Society.



The Indiana Karst Conservancy, Inc. 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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Central Indiana Grotto/ Mike Miessen	(317) 353-6624
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Mid-Hoosier Grotto/ Jeff Cody	(317) 882-1414
Northern Indiana Grotto/ Mike Sunderman	(219) 485-0237

Cover photo of a Harrison/Crawford County cave by Steve Collins

Publishing facilities courtesy of the Central Indiana Grotto; Editor and Publisher Keith Dunlap, Assistant Angie Manon.

QUARTERLY MEETING REMINDER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8th, 7:00 PM

BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

IU STUDENT UNION

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI ROOM

The quarterly meetings are for members and other interested persons to have an open forum for talking about 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.

Preliminary Agenda Items: Brief recaps of fall activities; Committee reports; HNF Management Plan & cave management plan, KARST inventorying progress; Bat projects; IKC managed caves status; Devil's Graveyard recap; Poster proposal; Proposed bylaw revisions; and more!

Meeting directions: See inside back cover.

EVENTS CALENDAR

- 08 DEC = IKC QUARTERLY MEETING, Bloomington (see above).
- 09 DEC = IKC/CIG ANNUAL WAYNE'S RESTORATION TRIP (see page 6).
- 09 DEC = MHG RESTORATION TRIP TO DOGHILL-DONAHUE (see page 7).
- 29 DEC = HNF INVENTORYING ORIENTATION (see page 4).
- 19-20 JAN = SPRING MILL PROJECT SURVEYING (see page 5).
- JAN/ FEB = BIENNIAL INDIANA BAT CENSUS (see page 5).
- 16-17 FEB = SPRING MILL PROJECT SURVEYING (tentative).
- ?? FEB = IKC DIRECTOR'S MEETING, date and location to be announced.
- ?? MAR = IKC ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, Indianapolis.
- 21 APR = UNDER-EARTH DAY II, Sullivan's Cave (tentative)

Membership to the IKC is open to anyone interested in cave and karst conservation. Annual dues are \$15. Please see inside back cover for the membership application form or to make a donation.

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 informed, and to document past, report on current, and announce future IKC activities and business. Submission of articles for publication pertaining to the IKC or any other related conservation subjects are encouraged. Forward material to the *IKC Update*, PO Box 2401, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

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RAMBLINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT...

This issue's "ramblings" is a clarification of the last issue's "ramblings" where I elaborated on Larry Mullins' observations on vandalism and on his proposed method of deterring it by removing the "seed" before it has a chance to grow. Larry promoted the idea that all cavers should carry a wire brush to remove graffiti where ever it may be found, and I further suggested that a wire brush should be listed as standard equipment for novice cavers, principally to instill a sense of conservation ethics early in their caving experience. One of our members, Norm Rogers, took justifiable exception to my suggestion, and the liberal use of wire brushes in general. Norm writes:

Last Monday, I had the pleasure of visiting two popular caves near Bloomington, Indiana. In one cave we sat down to rest in a long stoopway not far from the entrance and marveled at what unique resources caves are. I was impressed by the gypsum crust on the walls and ceiling and at closer inspection we could see tiny gypsum petals forming in the cracks. In spite of some nearby graffiti, it was still pretty.

In one small stand up dome, someone had done a fine job of mud washing the walls and very nearly covered all the graffiti at that point. In contrast however, I was shocked to see a place where someone had used a wire brush on the wall. A large white scar was easily visible and the floor under it was sprinkled with gypsum and limestone powder.

That is why I was particularly alarmed when I read Larry Mullins' proposal in the September *IKC Update* that all cavers should always carry wire brushes.

Maybe I'm wrong, perhaps I don't quite understand his intended use of a wire brush, but it seems to me that a wire brush in the hands of every caver on every trip would spell disaster for our caves. I would rather look at a gypsum formation painted fluorescent orange than it's wire brushed remains.

If our goal is to preserve our caves for future generations, scraping their walls is the wrong way to do it. Wire brushes may work great on picnic tables but I think that their use in caves should be severely limited. I have, like everyone else, picked up a handful of mud and rubbed it across someone's signature or picked up a beer can to carry on the way out. This is what we need to teach our novices, not to pack a potentially damaging tool like a wire brush.

I hope I don't offend anyone by these comments, or maybe I missed the point altogether, but these are my feelings. I hope you understand.

Norm has a very valid point in that a wire brush in the hands of "untrained" and novice cavers is bad news. Besides the obvious visual damage that can be caused by a wire brush, someone that does not know what s/he is doing could easily erase archaeologically significant artifacts such as a historic name or date. Therefore, I take back my unqualified suggestion, especially in highly vandalized caves where careful restoration is required. However, both Larry and I stand by his original premise that we were promoting, that is, in a cave that has only a small amount of graffiti, it is imperative to remove this graffiti, by whatever **reasonable** means possible, else it will soon multiply.

- Keith Dunlap

HOOSIER NATIONAL FORESTS UPDATE

by Keith Dunlap/Larry Mullins

The prominent news pertaining to caves on the Hoosier National Forest is that the inventorying project is fully underway. Over the past several months, several training/orientation sessions have been conducted and groups have been assigned area to inventory. To date seven groups/teams have been formed and are working to document cave and karst features. The various groups are structured somewhat differently to provide flexibility to the participants - some teams consisting of just one or two individuals, while at least one group consist of a whole grotto (Mid-Hoosier Grotto). The teams select their own schedule when to perform their work, but they are expected to complete their assignments in the mutually agreed upon time. Periodic status reports are also expected. The areas being inventoried currently are all in the Tincher Hollow/Tincher Pond Area (just west of Mitchell). This area was selected because it is being considered to be designated as a Special Interest Area (SIA) specifically for cave and karst features. Assuming enough significant cave and karst features are found and documented, potentially the entire 3700 acre area could be designated as a SIA and protected from timbering and other non-compatible uses. Enthusiasm of the teams have been excellent, and new caves are being found and mapped. Additional volunteers are needed to join the existing teams or to form new teams. Another training/orientation meeting is scheduled for December 29th, 9:30 AM at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Bedford. Contact Larry Mullins (812-275-5987) or Tom Rea (317-745-4115) for more information.

Also over the last several months there has been an effort to train cavers in becoming para-specialist in paleontology and archaeology. Ron Richards and Ruth Brinker conducted a class with subsequent field trips for about a dozen participants to provide information on what to look for and how to classify findings of interest.

Over the next several months, Tom Miller will be working on the Forest to identify the rock formations in the various known caves. He will also perform some hydrological studies, including some dye tracing. Tom is looking for volunteers to assist him, especially during the week. Related to this work, Tom will also be conducting a class to train his assistants and para-specialists in the areas of geology and hydrology.

One final comment, the formal Forest Management Plan for the Hoosier is expected to be released in January. It will be interesting to see what the final plan consists of after five years of battling between the timber industry and the conservationist.

IKC DIRECTORS NOMINATION

As the end of the year approaches, it is time once again to be thinking about nominations for Board positions (President, Secretary, Treasurer, Directors) to be elected in March. All members are eligible, with the only qualification being the willingness to be involved and attend meetings. Self-nominations are encouraged. Please contact Keith Dunlap for self-nominations, suggested nominations, or more information.

NEWS BRIEFS...

- ☐ Please note that the IKC has a new post office box address: PO Box 2401, Indianapolis, IN 46206-2401. The new box was obtained to allow the Officers to pick up the mail directly rather than requiring Tom Rea to forward the mail from the Plainfield box. Our old box will be retained indefinitely until we get all our signs changed over to the new address.
- ☐ The NSS Board of Governors (BOG) meeting was held in Indianapolis on November 10th, hosted by the Central Indiana Grotto. A sizable turn out of cavers attended the meeting, including quit a few IKC members. A field trip the following day visited the ACCA's American Cave and Karst Center in Horse Cave, KY. The Center is located in a renovated building on the edge of the sinkhole containing the entrance to Horse Cave, a former commercial cave closed due to pollution problems. The Center's goal is to educated and involve visitors with the problems associated with living in a karst region. To date, approximately \$500,000 has been spent on renovation, and another \$700,000 will be required to complete the displays for the Center. I recommend that cavers stop in the Center, take a quick tour, and donate to the cause.
- ☐ And while on the subject of the ACCA, they are in need of donations to fund the day-to-day expenses of their organization. Most of their fund raising has been directed towards the Karst Center, with restrictions for that sole purpose. This doesn't provide operating cash for their other activities or staff. If you would like to help the Association, please send a donation to ACCA, PO Box 409, Horse Cave, KY 42749.
- ☐ The deadline for this years NSS Conservation Award is December 15th. I would encourage all area NSS Internal Organizations (i.e. grottos) to submit a self-nomination, as we have some of the most active conservation minded grottos in the country that deserve recognition. Contact Keith Dunlap if you would like further information on submitting a nomination.
- ☐ The Spring Mill Surveying Project has continued with monthly trips, extending the length of the caves in the park. While the Shawnee System and Hammer Cave are just about complete, Whistling Cave continues to go and grow. As of November 19th, Whistling surpassed 4.5 miles, placing it 5th longest in the state. Tentative dates for the next work weekends are January 19-20 and February 16-17. Contact Steve Collins 317-759-6124 if you would like to participate or learn more about the Project.
- ☐ The biannual *Myotis sodalis* (Indiana) bat census will be conducted sometime between January 15th and February 15th. This census, sponsored by the IDNR, has been conducted over the past decade to provide an indication of the status of this endangered species. Approximately fifteen caves will be visited to count populations of known colonies, and a few more caves will be visited to hopefully find new colonies. IKC members have help in the past with this project and several members have already volunteered for this year. If you are interested in assisting or know of a potential hibernacula, contact Keith Dunlap.
- ☐ The IKC is proposing to distribute three cave conservation posters to its membership as a means of promoting cave conservation. Hopefully our membership will display these posters such that they will be exposed to others who will ask questions and become better informed. The posters consist of one from the Virginia Cave Board on ground water pollution, one from the non-game program in Missouri, and one from the non-game program in Indiana. We had hoped distribution would have been in January, but the Indiana poster is being delayed until approximately March.

- ☐ The IDNR is developing a written history of Wyandotte Cave and is looking for photographs, artifacts, stories, and other items related to the cave. This project is being funded by the Indiana Heritage Research Grant Program and the Indiana Historical Society. If you have something that you think would be of interest, contact Roger Gleitz, Wyandotte Cave State Recreational Area, RR 1 Box 85, Leavenworth, IN 47137; or 812-738-2782
- ☐ The December issue of *Outdoor Indiana* is to have an article on Indiana bats and how the DNR is trying to protect them. Since the issue isn't out yet, it is not known what the article contains, but it should be interesting. Watch for it on your favorite newsstands.
- ☐ NSS Conservation Chair and former Indiana caver, Mark Laing, has moved back to Indiana. The IKC would like to welcome him. Mark's address is 307 N Bancroft Street, Indianapolis, IN 47201.
- ☐ No news on the Federal Cave Resource Protection Act still lost in Washington!

CIG/IKC RESTORATION TRIP - WAYNE'S CAVE

DECEMBER 9th

The IKC and the Central Indiana Grotto are once again co-sponsoring the annual cleanup trip into Wayne's Cave on Sunday, December the 9th. Our intention is to have a little fun while performing some conservation/restoration work.

For those unfamiliar with Wayne's Cave, it is Monroe County's longest with 4.25 miles of mapped passage. Wayne's is notorious for its 1250 foot crawlway connecting "Old Wayne's" and the rest of the cave. This cave is very demanding and is not for the first time caver, but if you are in good physical shape, have been caving enough to know what you are doing, and have the proper equipment (especially a good set of knee pads), this could be the cave for you.

The cleanup effort this year is again tentatively planned to be concentrated in the "Wells" and "RPI Discovery" areas (last year we were unsuccessful in finding our way to the RPI discovery, but I have it on good authority that one of CIG's most infamous members will lead us on our quest). Those that know their way in Wayne's may elect to work in other sections of the cave. Haul bags will be provided by the IKC, but the majority of the trash has already been removed during previous trips. There will be wire brushes available for graffiti removal, and we will continue to do some "brown-washing" where wire brushing proves ineffective or impractical.

If you have not been in Wayne's since the IKC started this restoration project, you may be presently surprised at the progress. And the most encouraging part of our effort is that it is remaining clean, due to the regulated access policy the IKC has imposed.

NOTE: We plan to meet at the west side McDonald's in Bloomington by 9 AM. Those needing directions or other information should contact Keith Dunlap. Also, out-of-towner coming the night before for the IKC meeting and needing a place to stay should contact Keith for potential arrangements.

MID-HOOSIER GROTTO CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

by Mark Webb

The Mid-Hoosier Grotto (MHG) has been a supporter of the IKC since its beginning. In 1986 the MHG donated \$100 to help the IKC pay for the fence around Grotto Cave (With its large number of endangered Indiana bats, Grotto became a popular and worthwhile project. The fence has slowed down winter traffic considerably since it has been installed). Before that time, cave conservation in Indiana was limited to a few small cleanup trips each year.

Since 1986, both the IKC and MHG have more than doubled their membership! Through its leaders and members, the IKC has become the major contributor to cave and karst conservation in Indiana. Our state's cavers are recognized all over the USA as leaders in cave conservation. I think we can be proud of this honor!

The MHG has also continued to make conservation one of its main objectives. We have supported groups like the NSS, Bat Conservation International, ACCA, and the IKC with labor and financial contributions. MHG members have participated on almost every cleanup trips that the IKC has sponsored (most find out that restoration trips are a lot of fun).

We have also sponsored cleanup trips of our own. In 1989, we removed several bags of trash from Brinegar's cave (including an inflatable rubber raft found near the entrance). Also during a recent through trip in Donahue Cave, grotto members noticed that someone had spray painted the walls near the Boat Club entrance. Thus Jeff Cody (MHG conservation Chairman) has scheduled a cleanup trip into the cave on December 9th. A sweep of the cave to the culvert entrance will be made. Most of the work will be mud painting and picking up the trash.

Another very important project we are becoming involved with is the Restoration work in Mammoth Cave National Park. Teamed up with the Louisville Grotto, we made two weekend trips into Great Onyx Cave in 1989. Last September alone, we removed three truck loads of rotten cedar logs left by the former commercial operation. Since the work site was over 3/4 of a mile into the cave. Each piece of wood had to be carried or pushed (with a wheel barrel) to the surface one at a time.

Six MHG members also participated in the week long Restoration Camp last summer, along with 35 other cavers from all over the USA. We spent approximately 1,600 hours working in the cave. This work wouldn't be completed (or even started) without the help of the NSS volunteers. Even before the camp last summer over 56 tons of debris had been removed from Park caves. With continued support from the NPS, work like this can go on for years to come. In closing, I would like to say that the IKC has brought all Indiana cavers together for a good cause, cave conservation. If the CIG, BIG, EMG, HCG, EIG, NIG, MHC, independent cavers, and other groups continue to support the IKC and its conservation projects, we can really slow down vandalism and hopefully change the attitudes of fellow Hoosiers.

[Editor's note - I want to thank Mark for responding to my solicitation for an article on the MHG's conservation activities. I would also like to encourage the other area grottos to submit similar articles pertaining to their conservation activities.]



1990 HOOSIER ENVIRONMENTAL CONGRESS

by Susan Sweeney

The Hoosier Environmental Council held its 1990 Congress on October 20th in Indianapolis at the Turners Athenaeum. Tom Miller, Jeanette Holland, Kevin Strunk, Bruce Bowman, Cecilia Bowman and I had the opportunity to represent the IKC by setting up our traveling display and attending several workshops.


I might never have attended this educational and inspirational event if Keith Dunlap hadn't approached me - I had been leaning more toward the Devil's Graveyard gating project where Keith's talents were much more in demand - but, I'm happy it worked out as it did. Many of us have our own pet environmental causes that we put energy into, and as the HEC Congress pulled together many diverse groups, this was a great opportunity to get educated to what else is going on out there.

The opening speaker was Scotland's George McRobie, author of *SMALL IS POSSIBLE*. Mr. McRobie, a long time environmentalist, gave an amusing example of how the media and masses have viewed these individuals: First they were considered to be social and political deviates; next they were viewed as a well-known bunch of cracks; then it was agreed that what they were saying was right, but it would upset society and hurt jobs; eventually it was seen as probably a good idea, but just couldn't be done; and then finally the assertion "you're not doing enough!" McRobie talked of ways to work towards a sustainable technology, while emphasizing a need to improve geographical distribution of work and utilize production for local use. He stated that developing a renewable energy source would reduce our dependency on oil and allow us to be less aggressive towards the rest of the world as well as have positive environmental impact.

The HEC Congress included a lunch hour speaker who spoke on the plight of the ancient forests of the Pacific Northwest. He emphasized that these forests belong to every individual in this country. These are our forests as much as the Hoosier National Forest and our concerns need to encompass all of our public lands.

At the evening session, Governor Evan Bayh disclosed that he would designate \$100,000,000 to purchase public lands in Indiana to be set aside as a wildlife heritage for future generations.

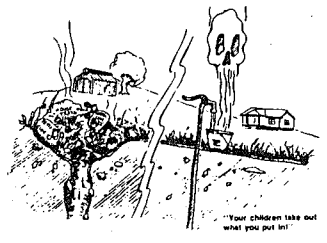
Although it can be disheartening to think of all the environmental battles that are left, as yet, unwon, attending the HEC Congress shed a bright light on the kind of people who fighting these battles, on what is being done, and on what can be done.



AMERICAN CAVE
Conservation Association, Inc.
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502 • 786 • 1466

**Some People Even
Dump Garbage In
Sinkholes!**

**Can You Think Of
A WORSE Place
To Put Your Garbage?**



CAVE CONSERVATION NEEDS THE SUPPORT OF CAVERS!

GATING DEVIL'S GRAVEYARD

by Bob Vandeventer

Friday October 19, end of the work week and time for another weekend project. Installing a new gate on the Devil's Graveyard Cave was our plan so time to load the Jimmy and head for the Stagestop Campground in Harrison-Crawford. We stood by the truck looking at in amazement how all that gear fit in there, then loaded Bambi and me plus three kids Steve, Carrie, and David in and off we went.

Arriving at the campgrounds late that night we thought somebody would be there before us with a fire going and some sign of life. Wrong. We were first, so the caving art of setting up camp in the dark began. Soon other cavers showed up and tents set up and a nice fire built the 30 degree night was more tolerable.

Saturday morning the sun was out, the earth warmed up, the cavers were fed, and we were off to meet Keith Dunlap, Master Cave Gate Builder, with loads of building material for the job. Keith was at the cave when we arrived so everyone began taking the building materials up the hill to the cave entrance. The old gate had been removed on a work project two weeks before. Loads of dirt and rocks were moved during that weekend to prepare for this gating. Nice job everyone! Kenney Carrigan delivered a portable welder (portable if you have a monster truck like Kenney has) close to the entrance. The welder was the source of our power for the saws and drill which we used extensively. The monster truck was then taken back to the road to load bags of concrete mix onto it for drop off service at the entrance. After a look at the amount of concrete mix versus the amount of hole to fill it was decided that a trip to town for more mix was a must. The trip was made and a nice neat stack of 49 1/2 were ready for use (the other half bag was contained inside the gate door).

First things first, the gate was positioned and leveled on heavy metal rebar supports, then a strong network of rebar was welded together. The task of making all the forms around the gate from plywood was next. This job takes a lot of time but it must be done correctly to avoid filling the entrance with concrete making the gate much too permanent. After cutting, recutting, wiring, and bracing the forms just right we were ready to start mixing the 49 1/2 neatly stacked bags of concrete. It was two bags in the trough, add water, two people mixing, then two people shoveling in the concrete. There were enough cavers there to give someone a break with all the mixing and shoveling details. When the surface was finished off around the gate, there were only two neatly stacked bags of concrete left, and the entrance looked great. It was getting dark by then, so the area was cleaned up with all tools and materials taken away except for the gate door, which was hidden nearby to be installed on Sunday when the concrete had time to set.

We returned to the campground tired, but well pleased with the day's progress. The fire was started, the cavers were cleaned and fed, and we formed a circle around the fire talking about the 47 and 1/2 bags of neatly stacked concrete used. We all agreed that Keith had developed quite a talent in gate making. A trip had to be made back to the cave to rework the concrete surface that night. Bambi volunteered to drive to the cave, the work was done and on the way back a "shortcut" was attempted which enabled this crew to see parts of Harrison-Crawford none of them had seen before. They made it back, we enjoyed their story by the fire, then everyone turned in for the night.

Sunday morning, the cavers were fed, then tents and camping gear were loaded back in the Jimmy at an easy pace since we all decided to meet at the cave about 2:00 PM to finish the gate installation. The bees finally ran us out of the campground so we went caving for a while. We arrived back at the cave entrance to find the concrete forms removed, the gate door installed, and picture taking in progress. This gate looks very professional and everyone who helped should be congratulated on a job well done. I know the land owner will be pleased with the new gate.

Much thanks to all who helped on the work weekend of October 6th and 7th and the actual gating weekend October 20th and 21st, those include: Tom Reynolds, Travis Reynolds, Keith Dunlap, Kenney Carrigan, Craig Williams, Leesa Isenhower, Brian Leavell, Jerry Litaker, Clint Litaker, Bruce Richardson, Bob Vandeventer, Bambi Erwin, Carrie Erwin, Steve Kappus, David Kingrey, Bill and Betty Bunting, Willie Lunsford, Brad Lunsford, Missy Lunsford, Barb Metcalf, Steven Metcalf, John Vargo, Chris Field, Mike Jackson, Niese Jackson, Greg Jackson, and Aaron Litaker. A lot of us did more than others, but all in all the little things added up to a great and successful project completed efficiently and looking like pros did the work. Congratulations to everyone involved.

[Editor's note - This project had been proposed several years ago when continual vandalism was being noted in this highly decorated Harrison-Crawford County cave. Fortunately the Eastern Indiana Grotto finally organized the project and got the job done. Special recognition should go to Brian Leavell and Tom Reynolds, the co-coordinators for the project. Approximately 200 person-hours of effort was expended, with nearly half that required for the site preparation. The project cost approximately \$340, with funding from the NSS (\$150), the Ohio Valley Region (\$100), the Central Indiana Grotto (\$50), and the IKC (the remainder).]

The access policy for the cave has changed slightly in that the owner now wishes to be contacted before each visit. His name is Chris Watson, 2865 Beth Lane, Corydon, IN 47112, 812-738-2824. After permission is obtained, the key to the gate may be picked up from the tenant in the house near cave.]



The "before" picture of the old wooden gate that was often breached despite numerous attempts by the Northern Indiana Grotto and others to keep it maintained. (All photos by Tom Reynolds)

more photos on next page...



The new gate in place. The gate door measures 24" by 40" for ample air and water flow. A considerable amount of dirt and rocks had to be removed around the entrance for provide a solid foundation for the gate and concrete.



The gate with the door in the open position. Note the safety latch that locks the door in the open position and allows the door to be used as one climbs out the entrance.

UNEXPECTED HELPERS

by Ernie Payne

As a member of the Evansville Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America, I received the Fall 1990, Vol. 29, No. 2, edition of *THE HOOSIER WALTONIAN*, published by the Indiana Division of IWLA. Along with the usual state news items, conservation awards, etc., were the 1990 Policy Resolutions as approved by the state Izaak Walton League convention in June. Here was the second resolution printed on page 5.

PROTECTION OF INDIANA CAVES

*Whereas, the state of Indiana is blessed with numerous caverns; and
Whereas, caverns are inhabited by various wildlife species, with some Indiana caves harboring the federally-endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis Sodalis*); and,*

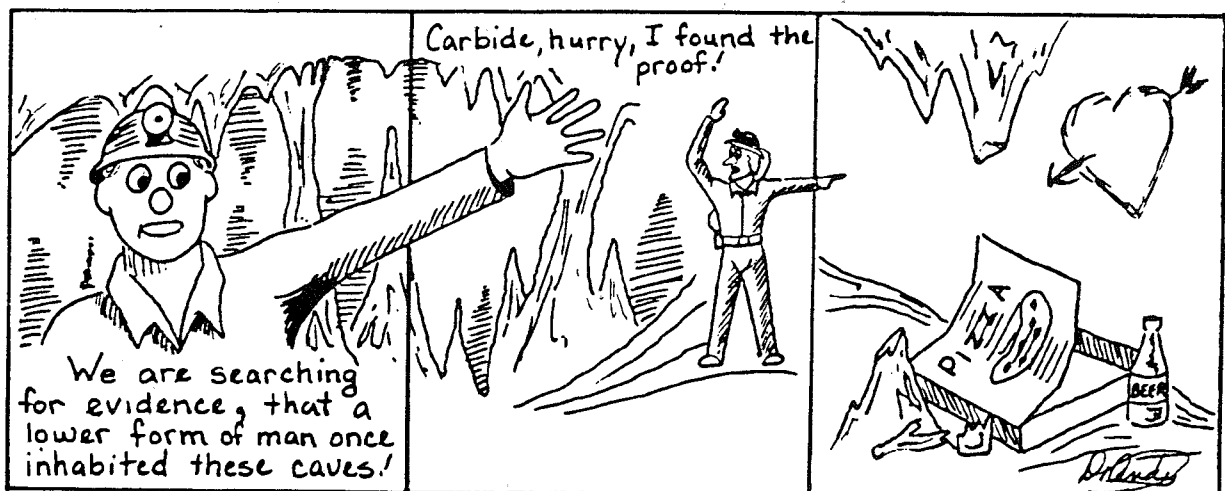
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Indiana Division, Izaak Walton League of America, in convention assembled this 3rd day of June, 1990, in South Bend, Indiana, that we request the governmental bodies of Indiana to enact legislation that would prohibit the intentional damage or destruction of cavern formations, ecosystems, and the unique wildlife resources that live in these habitats.

Nothing in this resolution is intended to discourage scientific or biological research.

Needless to say, I was pleased that others are concerned about caves and yet surprised to see this resolution. My first reaction was that this call for legislation to protect caves and cave life was a bit late considering the passage of Senate Bill 254 in 1984. At least I think (thought) Indiana has (had) a cave protection law.

Then my second reaction was to wonder if the appropriate Indiana Codes had expired due to some Sunset provision. If "sunset" has happened, then this is a call to action. If instead the IWL member are not up to date, then we can at least know that caves have more friends and be thankful for the efforts of our environmental friends of the Izaak Walton League to help protect caves.

[Editor's note - As far as I know, the Indiana cave resource protection law (IC 35-43-1-3) is still active. The text of this code was printed in the December 1989 issue on page 10.]



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Here's some information on Citizen's for Appropriate Rural Roads's (CARR) attempt to get the proposed Bloomington to Evansville highway off the fast track. Whether you are for or against this highway, we believe it will be of such major proportions, and will have such significant impacts, not only in SW Indiana but throughout the state as well, that all aspects of it should be open to public discussion and review. This discussion and review should take place now. We want to be able to do more than comment on a specific route somebody else has chosen. Our questions encompass much broader areas of concern. For example:

- ☐ Why are the conclusions of the Donahue study, done at great public expense, being ignored? *[ed - Donahue was the consulting company hired by the state to study the feasibility of the proposed road; their conclusion was that the project was not cost justifiable.]*
- ☐ What will be the financial impact on public programs throughout the state of attempts to finance this massively expensive highway?
- ☐ If sufficient funds to actually build this highway are not available, why is this study being done now? Is taxpayer's money being spent on a wish-and-a-prayer or does someone know more than we have been told? To be blunt, have public officials been cutting deals to fund a pork barrel project favoring special interests? And this an example of their concern for fiscal responsibility?
- ☐ Why was a route chosen that will require a new roadway through one of the most environmentally sensitive areas in the state?

I should stress here that we are not opposed to improving roads in SW Indiana. We are opposed to governmental secrecy when the homes and property of its citizens are at stake. And we are opposed to spending massive amounts of our money on one, limited access highway that may cause as many, or more problems, than it solves. Our immediate goal is simple. We want to stop the expenditure of any more public funds until the public is heard.

If you have any questions, or if you have any information that you feel might be helpful to us, don't hesitate to call me. We realize we are probably fighting a losing battle, but we intend to go down kicking and screaming.

Sincerely Yours,

Thomas R. Tokarski, CARR member
8485 W. Evans Road
Bloomington, IN 47403

Mr. Tokarski sent along supporting materials including a copy of the major conclusions of the Donahue & Associates report and the flyer reprinted on the facing page. As IKC members may recall, Kevin Strunk acted on our behalf in communicating with Donahue during their study. Furthermore, the consultants performing the current phase of this project have been in contact with the IKC and the Indiana Cave Survey to obtain information on cave and karst features that might be impacted by the proposed routes.

THE HIGHWAY IS COMING! THE HIGHWAY IS COMING!



A 1990 federal feasibility study concluded once again that an Evansville to Indianapolis highway is not economically feasible. In spite of this and with disregard for fiscal responsibility, a major topographical, social, and environmental survey for a four lane, limited access highway, *using all new roadways*, is now underway in Monroe, Greene, and counties south. Although this study is funded by Indiana taxpayers, no public hearings for this route have been held in Monroe or Green counties, nor are any planned until the study is well under way. We feel the property owners who will lose their land, homes, and farms, as well as other Indiana citizens with an interest in this project, have a right to be heard. We have been refused access to maps showing specific routes, we have not been told who authorized the study, or why this corridor was chosen. Decisions that have a major impact on citizen's lives and land should not be made behind closed doors. We are afraid that once this study is done our input will be limited to meaningless discussions on an issue that has already been decided. Help us preserve the democratic process. **CALL or WRITE to your public officials today.** Ask them to support immediate public hearings on the Bloomington to Newberry to Evansville highway. Not only your taxes are at stake but the homes, land, farms, and futures of thousands of Indiana citizens.

Congressman Frank McCloskey
501 S. Madison
Bloomington, IN 47403
phone 812-334-1111
or
Federal Bldg., rm. 124
101 N.W. Seventh St.
Evansville, IN
phone 812-465-6484

Congressman Lee Hamilton
107 Federal Center Bldg.66
1201 E. 10th St.
Jeffersonville, IN 47130
phone 1-800-892-3232
or
2187 Rayburn H.O.B.
Wash. D.C. 20515
phone (202) 225-5315

Gov. Evan Bayh
The Statehouse Rm. 206
Indianapolis, IN 46204
phone (317) 232-4567
Senator Richard Lugar
Rm. 447 Old Federal Bldg.
46 E. Ohio St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
phone (317) 226-5555

For further information contact

C.A.R.R.

Citizens for Appropriate Rural Roads
P.O. Box 54
Stanford, IN 47463
phone 825-9553

THEN AND NOW...

The following two newspaper articles illustrate that not much changes in fifty years as far as how the Indiana Department of Transportation responds to caves.

MISUNDERSTANDING MADE 6-FOOT STALAGMITE'S CAVE A TOMB

An unusual Indiana artifact that might have become a tourist attraction is instead buried forever beneath Ind. 62 at Leavenworth, much to the regret of former highway engineer Fred Ashbaucher.

The mix-up was due to a misunderstanding, but also illustrates a case of an environmental objection 50 years before that became popular.

Ashbaucher, 88, retired and living on Indianapolis' Northside, was among the Indiana State Highway Department planners involved in the rerouting of Ind. 62 after the 1937 flood. Much of the town of Leavenworth was relocated to higher ground away from the Ohio River, and the road was shifted to go through the new town.

A major hazard to road building in that area was, and is sinkholes. They must be sealed to prevent later roadbed problems. When Ashbaucher spotted a small opening with a tree growing out of it, he suspected it was a sinkhole and, over some objections, ordered it investigated.

"It opened into a cave," recalls Ashbaucher.

Not only was the cave extensive and big enough for adults to stand upright, it was dotted with magnificent stalagmites. One was about 6 feet tall and unusually formed.

"It looked like a castle," Ashbaucher said.

The highway department was going to establish a three-acre roadside park to provide a panoramic view of the river. Ashbaucher thought the stalagmite would make an unusual centerpiece for the park, an artifact associated with the town and road relocation.

He had the stalagmite padded, surrounded by a crate and cut off in preparation for removal by a crane. Meanwhile he sent an aide to tell the plans to

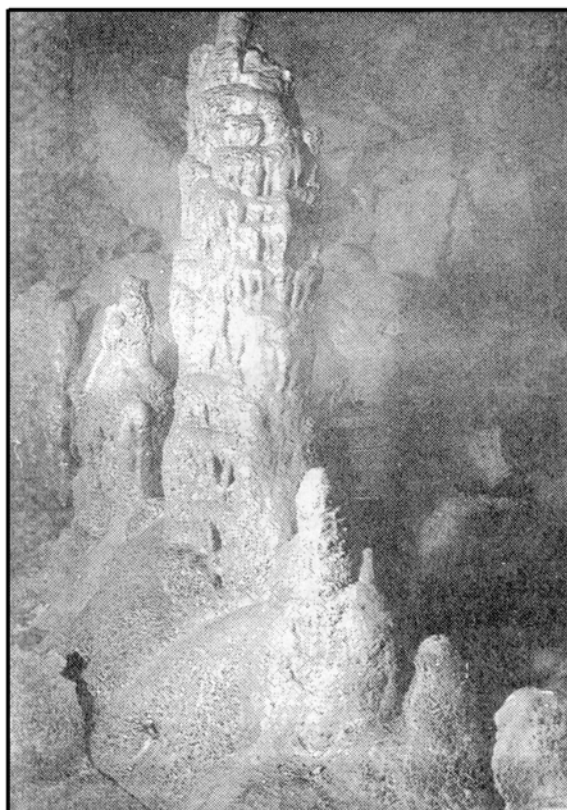
the two women who had owned the new road right of way. Their cries rose higher than the stalagmite.

Nothing must be touched in the cave; it would damage its natural features and, besides, they intended to open the cave as a tourist attraction, the women said. The stalagmite in the roadside park also would be a tourist attraction, Ashbaucher pleaded, and the cave entrance under the road would have to be sealed to preserve the highway.

"They wouldn't budge," he remembers.

Only later did Ashbaucher learn the state had condemned land that included the cave site and had complete rights to everything from the road surface on down.

"Those women didn't have rights, but I didn't know that," he said.



So the cave, stalagmite and all, was sealed.

"It's right under the highway concrete. It was ready to move out of there," Ashbaucher said.

Since then, nobody has ever been inside the cave to see the castlelike stalagmite, which, if Ashbaucher had gotten his way, would have stood as the centerpiece in the nearby roadside park these past 50 years.

*Reprinted from
The Indianapolis Star*

CAVE UNEARTHED AT HIGHWAY WORK SITE

Backhoe operator Mark Skirvin got a surprise Thursday when he punched his hydraulic ram through the roof of a cave at the site of the half-cloverleaf interchange under construction at the intersection of Ind. 45 and Ind. 37.

"It kind of excited me," American Utilities co-worker Gary Goodpaster, a 30-veteran of heavy equipment work, said Friday. "I've never dug into one before. We're thinking it goes down west underneath Ind. 37 and also east toward the base of this hill."

The two workers were relocating a 475-foot section of underground telephone cable running parallel to Ind. 37 from its old location to a spot 20 feet closer to the highway.

Earthmovers had already shaved a 15-foot wide swath about 20 feet deep off the top of the hill to create a drainage basin near the cloverleaf site. Skirvin and Goodpaster were digging a 3-foot-wide trench at the new depth about 25 feet below the intact section of hilltop where the unearthed cable lay.

Skirvin was sitting atop his backhoe knocking at a limestone formation with the hoe's ram.

"The ram went through and it was a black hole," Skirvin said.

Skirvin said cool air flowed out of the opening, providing air conditioning for the men while they studied the cave's configuration to determine how to cap it so work could proceed.

The subterranean cavern had four branching passages, each about 6 feet high and 10 feet wide. "There's a room down there big enough for 12 men," said Skirvin.

Skirvin and Goodpaster used a logging chain hooked to a backhoe to remove from the entrance several chunks of limestone the ram had broken up. Then they filled the opening with about two tons of sand and gravel to form a base upon which they poured 10 by 10 foot, 18-inch thick slab of concrete re-enforced by iron bars Friday afternoon.

Skirvin said the sand and gravel will wash away as the cavern fulfills its function as a natural drain, but that the concrete cap will remain as a stable base for the cable to lie on top of.

Goodpaster said the cave's discovery delayed their progress with re-routing the cable by about a day and a half while they capped the new entrance.

*Reprinted from
Bloomington Herald-Times*



PIG DIGGERS BRAVE CAVE FOR BONES

(AP) Taswell, IN - About 30,000 years ago, an ancient pig took shelter in a cool cave. It slipped at the mouth of a 20 foot pit, teetered briefly on the brink of history, then slid in.

Today, Indiana State Museum workers and volunteers are following the pig and others like it into the damp, chilly southern Indiana cave. They crawl through muddy tunnels and climb down ladders to reach two cave rooms full of history.

They are the pig diggers.

Their week-long "pig digs" have unearthed bones of more than 106 extinct pigs, called flat-headed peccaries, at Mengenity Peccary Cave. That's the largest peccary find in North America.

Yet they returned for their fourth year to continue rooting shards of pre-history out of the sloppy cave floor. the dig ends Sunday.

"It gives us sort of a history of life in southern Indiana over the last 30,000 years," said Ron Richards, curator of paleobiology. "Every 10 centimeters we dig in on cave room takes us back into time as much as 900 years."

The cave allows scientists to study whole populations of peccaries. Alongside the pigs are buried the bones of other animals that lived from 14,000 to 30,000 years ago.

Richards didn't relish his week in the cave, however.

"For the most part it's cold and damp," he said. Even when the temperature outside nears 100 degrees, the temperature inside seldom climbs above the upper 50s.

Museum employees and volunteers work by kerosene lamps. A half-dozen people can crowd into the largest room. A smaller one holds two or three.

"Everything you have on is permeated with moisture. We're standing in a couple of inches of water with steam pouring off our bodies," Richards complained.

But he beamed enthusiasm when he talked of the luck of finding a cave where conditions came together to create such a valuable find.

"It's probably the best single time line for Ice Age life in Indiana," Richards said.

The diggers have found the skull of a dire wolf, now extinct, and a piece of shell from an ancient tortoise.

The cave also holds bones of animals that once lived in southern Indiana and are now found elsewhere in the United States, to the north or the west: arctic shrew, plains pocket gopher, yellow-cheeked vole (a type of rodent). The peccaries are related to other types of peccary that live on in the Southwest.

"That shows that it was once a fair amount cooler here," he said. "And it shows that at different times there would have been grasslands in Indiana, and prairie."

Richard still hopes to dig up a bone from a jaguar or sabre tooth tiger.

It will take the museum about a year to identify, preserve and catalog the treasures found during a week in the cave. Some of them will be displayed at the Indianapolis museum in February, Richards said.

The diggers carefully trowel mud from numbered, 20-inch squares, placing it in a plastic bucket, the contents of which are washed over a screen. Sometimes they find a big bone as they dig.

They believe the dire wolf jawbone found this year matches another piece of jawbone and skull found last year.

They still talk about how Chip Bickley hooted and hollered when he found that skull.

*Reprinted from
The Republic, Columbus, IN*



INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY, INC.
Statement of Receipts, Expenditures, and Changes in
Fund Balance for the Quarter Ending 09/30/90

GENERAL FUND**RECEIPTS**

DUES	165.00
DONATIONS	0.00
INTEREST	36.57

TOTAL RECEIPTS	201.57
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EXPENDITURES

UPDATE SUPPLIES	170.87
POSTAGE, GENERAL	53.94
COMPUTER PAPER	14.65

TOTAL EXPENDITURES	239.46
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EXCESS TO FUND BALANCE	-37.89
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FUND BALANCE 6/30/90	2597.03
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FUND BALANCE 9/30/90	2559.14
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HANCOCK PROPERTY

RECEIPTS	0.00
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EXPENDITURES	0.00
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EXCESS TO FUND BALANCE	0.00
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FUND BALANCE 6/30/90	336.52
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FUND BALANCE 9/30/90	336.52
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TOTAL BALANCE - ALL FUNDS 9/30/90	2895.66
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IKC QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, September 29th, 1990
Indianapolis, Indiana

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Keith Dunlap
Mike Miessen

Lynn Miller
Jane Miller

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Tom Rea Ernie Payne
Jeff Cody Glenn Lemasters

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. Introductions were made. Nine members and one visitor were present.

COON AND GROTTO CLEAN UPS - There was a record turn out for this work weekend. We will certainly continue this annual project.

HANCOCK PROPERTY WORK AFTERNOON - Volunteers are being sought to travel to Bloomington this afternoon (after the meeting and cookout) to repair and replace fence posts at the Hancock property.

HEC CONGRESS/BUSINESS MEETING - The annual HEC Congress will be held Saturday October 20th in Indianapolis. The program this year promises to be another very good one with quality speakers and concurrent workshops offered. HEC's Annual Business Meeting will be held at Holliday Park on Sunday, October 21st. Susie Sweeney will attend the Congress on Saturday and person the IKC display booth. We need a volunteer to attend the Business Meeting on Sunday to represent the IKC and vote on our behalf. If you are interested, contact Keith Dunlap or Jane Miller.

HOOSIER NATIONAL FOREST ACTIVITIES: MOU and ICS Agreements are enforce with the Forest Service and the Indiana Cave Survey, respectively. The Memorandum of Understanding between the IKC and the Forest Service outlines responsibilities of each party with respect to karst features on the HNF. The Agreement between the IKC and the ICS outlines data management and information flow procedures between the ICS, IKC, and the Forest Service. (See the September *Update* for the text of these agreements.)

HNF Management Plan - the comment period for responding to the various management plans closed July 30th. Several thousand letters were received by the FS. We understand that the overwhelming majority of letters were in favor of the Conservationist Alternative or the "No-Cut" proposal. (*Secretary's Note: While the Cave Management language we have worked so hard on is in the Forest Service Plan, we are confident this section of the plan can be incorporated into the Conservationist Alternative.*)

Inventorying Plans are being worked on. Two meetings have been held to date. Many volunteers are needed for this KARST Project. Contact Tom Rea or Larry Mullins. Each volunteer must receive an orientation to safety and the rules of Forest Service property before beginning work. Keith Dunlap and Larry Mullins will organize an IKC Inventory weekend.

Ron Richards and Ruth Brinker will conduct a workshop on archeology and paleontology on Saturday, October 6th at the State Museum.

BY-LAWS REVISIONS - The By-Laws Committee has met and reviewed the by-laws. Copies of proposed changes were distributed at this meeting. Copies will be mailed to Directors not present. There will likely be a special Director's meeting to discuss these proposed revisions prior to the December quarterly meeting. Proposed changes focus primarily on class(es) of membership, the responsibilities of Directors, and clarification of duration of terms of office.

NSS BOARD OF GOVERNOR'S MEETING - BOG meeting will be held on Saturday, November 10, 1990 at the War Memorial building downtown. The meeting will be hosted by the CIG and will begin at 9:00 a.m. Refer to the September *Update* for the schedule of activities. Please contact Scott Fee or Keith Dunlap if you are willing to accommodate out of town BOG attendees that weekend.

We encourage member participation in this meeting.

DEVIL'S GRAVEYARD GATE - The Eastern Indiana Grotto is sponsoring this project with the help of the Harrison-Crawford, Northern Indiana, and Central Indiana grottoes as well as the IKC. Keith is building the gate (who else?). The OVR has contributed \$100 to fund the project. An NSS grant in the amount of \$150 has been applied for. Keith proposed that the IKC fund any remaining cost of this project. Lynn concurred. No action was taken as a quorum was not present.

There will be a site prep workday on Saturday, October 6. Installation of the gate is scheduled for Saturday, October 20. The project is similar to that at Sullivan's with the tenant maintaining control of access.

SULLIVAN'S SIGN - Tim McLain has volunteered to route a sign for the Sullivan property. Keith anticipates \$30-\$40 to fund this project. Mrs. Wells will be provided with IKC brochures for distribution.

CAVE MANAGEMENT - Shiloh Lease will expire soon. After discussion, the consensus of those present was to maintain the lease even if this is not a very active project currently. We may be in need of a new patron for Shiloh. We would be particularly interested in finding someone willing to pursue a more favorable lease situation.

The Cave Patron system generally seems to be working. The addition of grotto liaisons has eased the burden on individual patrons. If anyone is interested in becoming a cave patron, contact Keith.

General discussion was held of other caves we could consider as potential management sites.

IDNR ACTIVITIES - Bat Over-Winter Weight Loss Project is beginning its second fall field season. Scott Johnson and volunteers are sampling bat populations and weights at three caves this weekend.

Summer Habitat Studies are proceeding. The number of Indiana bats netted in the two study areas has been disappointing to date.

Wyandotte gate - The existing Wyandotte gate will probably be replaced next summer with a more "bat-friendly" design (i.e., similar to the Batwing gate). Volunteers may be needed.

Bat Banding - John Whitaker has continued to band bats this summer and is interested in receiving reports from cavers who observe banded bats.

Steve Wilson had requested information/help. Apparently a church in Steve's area has bats which the pastor would like excluded from services. Lynn will provide Steve with the name of a man in Speedway who is known for his ability to "bat proof" buildings.

1992 NSS CONVENTION - Will be hosted by Indiana cavers. The organizers are seeking volunteers. There will be a planning meeting on October 28, 1990. Contact Scott Fee. There was general discussion of what the IKC's role should be.

IKC POST OFFICE BOX - There have been suggestions over the past several months about moving the PO box from Plainfield to (downtown) Indianapolis. Pros and cons were discussed. No consensus reached.

GLEANINGS FROM NATURE - Blatchley's definitive chapter on caves will be reprinted by the IKC. Keith's publication goal is "before Christmas".

DNR HABITAT POSTER - The DNR Non-Game Wildlife program is preparing a series of habitat posters, this first of which will be on cave fauna. It should be available for distribution in November. DNR will distribute it to all Project Wild classes throughout the state. Keith raised the possibility of distribution to IKC members. Jane wondered if we could cooperate with the DNR in its Project Wild distribution and include (at IKC expense) the Virginia Cave Board poster. Both possibilities will be explored. Costs may be prohibitive.

FEDERAL CAVE RESOURCES PROTECTION ACT - No news.

NEXT MEETING - Saturday, December 8, 1990 in Bloomington, Indiana. Specific location and time to be announced (it will be an evening meeting).

WAYNE'S CLEAN UP TRIP - This annual clean up will be held on Sunday, December 9, 1990. Plan to attend the quarterly meeting on Saturday evening, and stay in town for the Sunday clean up. Overnight accommodations (floor space) should not be difficult to arrange.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m. *(Secretary's Note: Participants adjourned to Miller's patio for the cookout. Those in attendance enjoyed, while those not present missed out on, a pleasant afternoon, complete with live music!)*

Submitted by Jane E. Miller, Secretary.

NEW MEMBERS

(as of 25NOV90)

Stephen T. Cahill
1713 Centurian Parkway
Indianapolis, IN 46260

Dr. Thomas Miller
6464 Harden Ridge
Heltonville, IN 47436

Marcella Larch Chastain
196 E. Clinton
Danville, IN 46122

Eric Newlon
82 South 8th Ave.
Beech Grove, IN 46107

Ronald H. Jones
2851 A Victor St.
St. Louis, MO 63104

Steve Ragsdale
5460 Shawkoto Trail
Belmont, MI 49306

CHANGE OF ADDRESSES

Jeff Cody
7818 Venitian Way
Indianapolis, IN 46217
317-888-9898

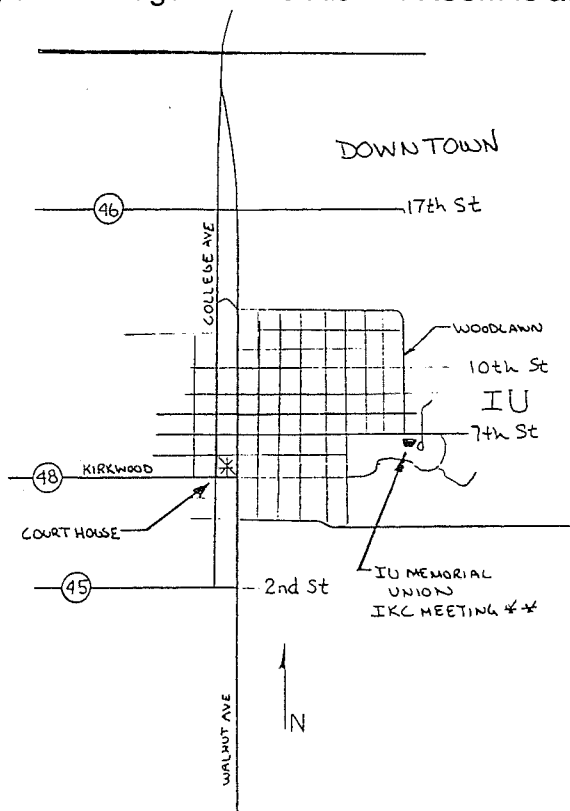
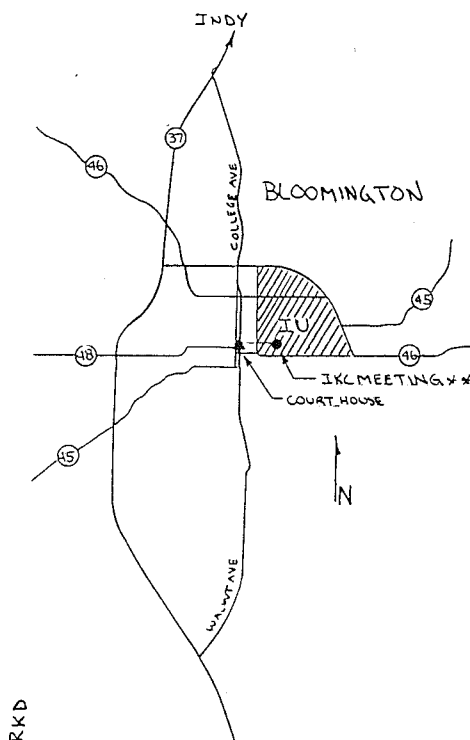
Great Lakes Adventure Club
c/o Mark Reisch
3621 Stewart Drive
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

DIRECTIONS TO THE IKC QUARTERLY MEETING

SATURDAY DECEMBER 8th, 7:00 PM

BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA
IU STUDENT UNION, ALUMNI ROOM

Head towards downtown Bloomington to the courthouse. Take Walnut one block north to 7th Street. Head east on 7th for approximately eight blocks. Just past Woodlawn Avenue (a four way stop), turn south (right) into the Memorial Union's circle drive and parking lot. Enter the Union through the revolving door on circle drive. Proceed up the stairs one floor, turn left past the elevators, and left again. The Alumni Room is at the end of the hallway on the left.



INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY, INC: PO Box 461, Plainfield, IN 46168

I would like to help the IKC conserve Indiana's unique cave and other karst features.

Enclosed is:

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

\$ _____ donation to the general IKC fund.

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

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

_____ I would like to volunteer to help.

Name _____

Address _____

City/state/zip _____

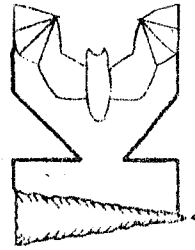
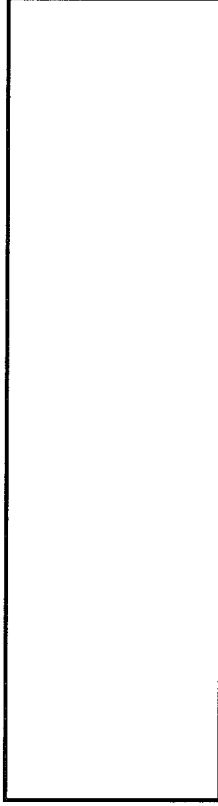
Make checks payable to the INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY and mail to the IKC TREASURER, PO Box 461, Plainfield, IN 46168. The IKC is an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with membership dues and donations tax deductible. A cancelled check is considered an acceptable receipt, but if you wish a separate receipt, check here ☐

Suggestions for other interested persons (names and addresses please):

Indiana Karst Conservancy
PO Box 2401
Indianapolis, IN 46206-2401

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