



TKC

UPDATE

No. 22

September 1991

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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Cover photo by Scott Fee & Jaime Coffman.

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QUARTERLY MEETING / COOKOUT REMINDER

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21th, 5:00 PM

**INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
MILLER'S ACRES, 4020 SOUTH RURAL**

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. The President has promised to keep the meeting length to a minimum.

Following the meeting (approximately 6:30), the Officers will be hosting a cookout. This will hopefully allow members and their families to become better acquainted with others interested in cave/karst conservation. The cookout will be held rain or shine; please bring lawn chairs. Additional salads or desserts would be appreciated, but are strictly optional. Probably a few of our members will entertain us with their musical abilities.

Preliminary Agenda Items: Brief recaps of summer restoration activities; Committee reports; NSS/ACCA Hidden River Cave (Horse Cave, KY) restoration project; grant request discussion; 1991 Cave Management Symposium; discussion of co-hosting a FCRPA implementation workshop during the 1992 Convention; potential hosting of the 1993 Cave Management Symposium; potential IKC involvement with another bat cave; HNF Karst inventory plans; HEC Congress and HEC business meeting; and more!

Meeting directions: See inside back cover.

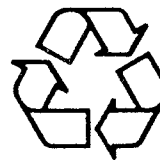
EVENTS CALENDAR

- 21 SEP = CIG VERTICAL TRAINING CLASS, Indpls 8am-2pm (Contact Dean Myer).
- 21 SEP = IKC QUARTERLY MEETING / COOKOUT, Indianapolis (see above).
- 28-29 SEP = NSS/ACCA HIDDEN RIVER CAVE RESTORATION PROJECT, KY (see p 8).
- 05-06 OCT = MAMMOTH CAVE RESTORATION WEEKEND (Contact Scott Fee).
- 23-26 OCT = 1991 NATIONAL CAVE MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM, Bowling Green KY
- 02-03 NOV = HEC CONGRESS & ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, Indianapolis (see p 7)
- 07 DEC = IKC QUARTERLY MEETING, Bloomington (tentative)
- 08 DEC = CIG/IKC WAYNE'S RESTORATION TRIP (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...

PREFACE: For this issue's "Ramblings", I had three related topics pertaining to Indiana's environmental philosophies and natural resource management practices that I had wanted to blend together into a consistent article. However, by the time I got off my soapbox on just the first item, the article was already too long, so the others will have to wait for another day.

The government of the State of Indiana should be ashamed of and embarrassed by its failure to properly fund and staff the Department of Natural Resources. While I realize Indiana currently has some financial troubles, this is no excuse for allowing **our** public treasures to be ignored and neglected; some lost forever because our State leaders are too busy playing politics. Approximately one year ago, the State imposed a hiring freeze. Because the State pays so poorly relative to other states and the private sector, the number of IDNR employees leaving during the freeze has been significant and replacements could not be hired. Thus the IDNR has become grossly understaffed.

One example familiar to cavers working on the Spring Mill Surveying Project is in that park. Spring Mill is one of our best and busiest state parks offering unique caves and karst, virgin forests, scenic hiking trails, and an extensive pioneer village. But the park has lost many of its employees including the key positions of historian and head naturalist. The historian's responsibilities are to assist with research and other historical inquiries, and to officially record current events that may be historically significant for the future. Fifty years from now, someone researching 1991's history (a year of ever-increasing discoveries in the park's cave systems) may find the only entry in the park's historic journal to be "no information due to a hiring freeze". As for the naturalist, Mike Ellis (the State's chief naturalist for the **entire** park system) has been filling in part-time, but he is still burdened with all his other responsibilities (he was absent from the park most of the month of July because he was organizing the IDNR's State Fair exhibits). The naturalist's role is supposed to be to oversee and protect the park's natural resources, and to serve as an interpreter of nature. This is more than a full time job at Spring Mill. To make matters worse, visitation to the park this year is up considerably (more Indiana families are taking less expensive, local vacations). The State has lost the opportunity to educate and cultivate an appreciation of nature in many of these visitors who were therefore cheated out of a positive experience, and the park's resources have been ignored and abused.

Several of the non-game programs have also been seriously and unnecessarily impacted by the State's restrictions and mandates despite the fact that most, if not all, of the funding for these projects comes from donations or grants, **not** tax dollars. The much publicized, promoted, and elaborately planned peregrine falcon reintroduction project was held up for months. It was only after negative news stories, the threat of legal action, and considerable public outcry, that the Governor back pedaled, stating that it was all "just a misunderstanding."

The biennial *Myotis sodalis* bat count is another example. Normally this minimally funded project is contracted out to experienced bat biologists to conduct (this year it was Dr. Virgil Brack & Karen Tyrell). The contract is to cover travel and other out-of-pocket expenses. However, the State's upper pinheads interpreted the project as hiring, and would not authorize the contract at the last minute. Indiana's population count is coordinated and synchronized with all the other states with the censuses performed within a three week "window". Skipping the census in Indiana would have jeopardized the integrity of the entire effort and missed an opportunity to collect valuable data needed to monitor the recovery of this species. Luckily, funding was not a motivating factor for those involved in the census, and they proceeded anyway. The point in all this is, however, that the State should have been ecstatic to be receiving hundreds of **free** manhours of expert professional services (typically at \$50-\$100 per hour), but instead showed its appreciation by sticking these two experts with their expenses, while the non-game fund sits in limbo.

A final example of the State's senseless bureaucracy was related to the replacement of the Wyandotte Cave gate (see page 14). The project was funded completely by a US Fish & Wildlife grant and the IDNR non-game fund, but all materials still had to be purchased through

the regular "channels". Scott Johnson, the IDNR biologist in charge of the project started planning almost a year in advance. He had worked out all the details many months in advance, including coordinating the project with the gate designer's busy schedule, arranging for volunteers, arranging for camping and housing for all involved, making arrangements and scheduling with Wyandotte Cave, contracting and assisting with the archeological study, and soliciting multiple bids for all the materials to be purchased. However, at the eleventh hour, the State decided to freeze all Purchase Orders including the one for the steel for this project. Furthermore, even though the selected vendor might have been willing to deliver anyway, the State would not allow it without a PO. Scott had to do a lot of hoop jumping to finally get a verbal PO approved and allow the project to proceed -- just two days before it was scheduled to start.

One wonders why we lose so many good IDNR employees. Could it be their lousy pay and minuscule raises, their lack of appreciation from upper governmental leadership, or the bureaucratic system that obstructs and frustrates them every step of the way, keeping them from being able to practice their professional skills to manage and protect the natural resources we have entrusted them with?

Next time you meet an IDNR employee, show them your appreciation; it may be the only reward they get to keep them from jumping ship.

- Keith Dunlap

EASTERN WOODRAT SURVEY

The eastern woodrat is listed as a threatened species in Indiana and as a federal candidate species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Populations have been extirpated from New York and Connecticut and are declining or restricted in five other states including Indiana. Reasons for the decline are unknown, but possible causes include severe winter weather, food shortages due to gypsy moth invasion, infection from the parasitic raccoon roundworm, and human disturbance. The Indiana Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program is initiating a survey of the eastern woodrat in southern Indiana during autumn 1991. The purpose of the study is to determine the present status, distribution, and relative abundance of the species using a standardized live-trapping program at known sites. Woodrat populations in Indiana were last surveyed about ten years ago, at which time evidence of the species was found at only twenty-four sites, mostly limestone cliffs bordering the Ohio River in Harrison and Crawford counties.

Eastern woodrats are grayish-brown above with white or grayish undersides. They are about the same size as typical house rats reaching twelve to eighteen inches in total length including a six to eight inch haired tail. They are considerably larger (three to four times larger) than the common woodland mice and similar mouse species. Woodrats are also known as "pack-rats" or "trade-rats" because of their tendency to collect sticks, small rocks, bones, and other debris. They are nocturnal and are rarely seen during the day. Their presence, however, is easily detected by stick nests in rocky crevices, piles of fecal pellets, bones, sticks, snail shells, leaves, cedar or other plant cuttings on ledges.

The 1980 survey found evidence of eastern woodrat in only three caves in southern Indiana (Wyandotte Cave, Rat Cave, and Potato Run Cave). Cavers with any knowledge of recent woodrat activities in other caves or other observed locations are encouraged to contact the Nongame Program. Woodrat droppings are dark brown when fresh and become lighter (grayish) with age. Active sites can also be identified by maintained stick nests and fresh (green) plant cuttings. Information should be forwarded to: Scott Johnson, Division of Fish & Wildlife, 300 West First Street, Bloomington, IN 47403; (812) 334-1137.

NEWS BRIEFS...

- ❑ Prior to the June Quarterly meeting, several IKC members met at the Hancock Property for several above ground work projects. First we "replanted" one of our signs for about the sixth time. Next we picked up trash along Spicer Lane and our parking area, and the trails leading to Grotto, Shaft, Salamander, and Coon caves. We talked with several groups going to Salamander (coming in from Garrison Chapel Road) and to the pastor of the Chapel. He is a very friendly man, but reiterated the numerous problems that they have had with "caver" parking at the church, necessitating the posting of the "NO PARKING" signs. IKC participants included Bruce Bowman, Keith Dunlap, Dan Lucas, Ernie Payne, Eric Schmidt, Bill Tozer, and John Vargo.
- ❑ In addition to the I-64 weigh stations and the Indianapolis to Evansville highway, the Indiana Department of Transportation is also planning to widen SR 37 to four lane from SR 50 south to SR 64. This action will cross over Blue Spring Cave and rip through the Lost River karst area and probably affect many unknown caves and karst drainage feature.
- ❑ The USDA Soil Conservation Service was proposing to demonstrate the effectiveness of using "conservation" practices to reduce erosion and groundwater pollution problems from nonpoint sources by plugging sinkholes in Indiana's limestone regions, use techniques developed in Pennsylvania. The proposed method included clearing out the sinkholes, backfilling them with riprap, and then covering them with soil that filters out sediment. Farmers are then encouraged to cultivate this newly created "cropland" rather than controlling the problems naturally by utilizing buffer zones around the sinkholes. The proposed demonstration site was to be an area that drains into Mosquito Creek near Spring Mill State Park. This site was selected because of the sediment problem facing the lakes in Spring Mill. Unfortunately, this demonstration project could seriously affect Upper Twin, Lower Twin, Bronson, and Donaldson caves, and the *amblyopsis spelaeus* that live there. Doug Mason of the HEC has discussed the obvious concerns with the SCS and the whole project will hopefully be scrapped.
- ❑ The ACCA contacted the IKC to solicit an article for their newsletter, *American Caves*. They have started a feature series profiling various organizations throughout the United States dealing with cave conservation issues. The first in the series focused on the Richmond Area Speleological Society (RASS). Assuming our manuscript meet their needs, we should be in the next issue to be published in early October. Thanks should go the Jane Miller for volunteering to write the article.
- ❑ The IKC received funds from two "recycling" projects at Capers. As in past years, the IKC sponsored the collection of aluminum cans, yielding about 35 pounds that were taken to a recycling center. Also, Kent Wilson donated proceeds from "Kento's Slightly Used Clothing Store". Our thanks to those that helped with these efforts.
- ❑ The 1992 NSS Convention Committee is still looking for a few good volunteers to help organize next year's convention in Salem, IN. Meetings will be held approximately once a month with the next several scheduled for Sept 22, Oct 20, and Dec 1. Contact Scott Fee (317) 291-7807 for more details.
- ❑ One of our reader mailed the IKC an interesting excerpt from the book entitled *EARTH TREASURES - Where to Collect Mineral, Rocks, and Fossils in the United States, Vol. 1*. The book's back cover boasts accurate maps where collecting site can be found, which mineral, rock, or fossils are most likely to be found, tips for preparing for collecting trips, and other information. What is of interest, under sites listed for Crawford County: Aragonite, Calcite, Travertine; found county-wide in noncommercial caves.
- ❑ By now, all members should have received their copy of Blatchley's *Gleanings from Nature* (if you have not, contact Keith Dunlap). Response has been very favorable with numerous positive comments. Speleobooks and the NSS Bookstore have purchased additional copies (40 total) to retail. This will help to offset our expenses for publishing this caving classic.

- ☐ The editor has also had numerous enquiries as to what were the other IKC Special Publications in our Reprint Series. They were as follows: #? - *Winter 1986-1987 Census of Non-Priority / Hibernacula in Indiana* by Dr. Virgil Brack, et al; #? - *A Summer Survey for a Maternity Colony of Bats in Clyffy Cave, Green County, Indiana* by Dr. Virgil Brack, et al; #2 - *The Indiana Bat - Audubon Wildlife Report 1988/1989* by Dr. Virgil Brack; #3 - *Bibliography of Indiana Karst and Karst-Related Literature* by Thomas Walden and Thomas Miller. The first two publications were un-numbered, and don't ask why the third publication was labeled #2. A limited number of some of the publications are still available.
- ☐ A final reminder to anyone interested in attending the 1991 National Cave Management Symposium. The symposium, scheduled for October 23-26 in Bowling Green Kentucky, is directed towards cave managers, scientists, and anyone interested in cave conservation. Two days of the conference will be dedicated to presentations on various topics related to caves, cave management, and cave conservation. The other two days will involve field trips to numerous sites of interest around central Kentucky. Several IKC members are planning to attend and present papers. Registration is \$100 (if this fee is a major concern for a member wanting to attend, an IKC stipend may be available). For more information on the symposium, contact Dave Foster (502) 786-1466.
- ☐ A representative from the IKC has been invited to participate in the IDNR's Division of Fish & Wildlife strategic planning process that will guide the Division for the next five years and beyond. The Division has put together a draft plan that will be presented at three meeting through out the state (the central Indiana meeting is September 14th). Comments will be solicited on the draft plan, and a final plan will be prepared for implementation.
- ☐ Word is that the IDNR "cave ecosystem" poster is very close to being printed. If this rumor is true, the IKC's poster project might be distributed before the end of the year.
- ☐ The editor would like to apologize to Bill Tozer for leaving his name off the list (in the last *Update*) of attendees to the Natural Areas Conference. This is particularly embarrassing because the editor and Bill spent the whole afternoon together on the field trip to Carnes Mill.
- ☐ A special thanks to Larry Reece for donating the "recycled" envelopes that will be used for mailing our next several newsletters. It seems that his employer, Xerox, was going to throw out several cases of the envelopes because of an outdated return address. Hopefully the newsletters will arrive in better condition after surviving the bulk rate handling system.
- ☐ The IKC would like to welcome Al Abel and Jeff Snow as new members, as well as the Evansville Metro Grotto, joining as an organizational member.

HIBERNACULA CLOSURE REMINDER

Summer is about over and the state and federally endangered Indiana bats will soon be returning to their hibernacula for a hopefully undisturbed winter. As a reminder, several caves in Indiana are voluntarily closed from September 1st until April 1st including Parker's Pit (Crawford), Jug Hole (Harrison), Coon (Monroe), and Grotto (Monroe) [note: Coon & Grotto have extended closures until May 1st]. Other hibernacula that should be considered closed year around (at the owners' request) are Twin Domes (Harrison), Batwing (Crawford), Clyffy (Green), and Ray's (Green). Each of the above eight caves are posted with signs authorizing protection under the Federal Endangered Species Act, the Indiana Endangered Species Act, and the Indiana Cave Law.

Other caves that have not been "officially" closed for the bats, but should be avoided, because they have sizable bat populations include Saltpeter (Crawford), Saltpeter (Monroe), Leonard Springs (Monroe), Robinson Ladder (Crawford), Brinegar (Monroe),

HEC CONGRESS 1991: TOWN AND COUNTRY

by Alicia Craig & Denise Baker

Solid waste issues that affect both town and country are the focus of the ninth annual HEC Congress, to be held Saturday, November 2nd from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.. It will be held at the Athenaeum Turners, 401 East Michigan Street, in Indianapolis. The Congress will feature technical workshops led by experienced environmental leaders, a children's workshop, guest speakers, an all-day environmental fair, and an awards ceremony dinner with entertainment.

The Congress coincides with the crucial stage in the solid waste district planning process. Since all districts' 20-year plans are due by July 1992, citizens will still have time to get involved. There might still be room on some district advisory committees. Many districts will have already hired consultants to draft plans, and public meetings will be held to solicit citizens input. "This is the biggest environmental initiative the state has embarked upon," says Jeffrey Stant, HEC Executive Director, "It could be extremely good or extremely bad for Indiana's environment."

Congress workshops are designed to help **you** get involved in your district's solid waste planning process. Everyone should attend, from the average citizen to the district planner. Workshops will be led by environmental leaders who are known to make things happen. "There is not one community in the state that is not part of one of the solid waste plans. You must attend to equip yourself to participate in the process," says Stant.

Major public officials have been invited. Among them are Senator Dan Coats, author of federal legislation to curb out-of-state waste, Governor Evan Bayh, and all Indianapolis mayoral candidates. Attendance of mayoral candidates is of utmost importance to Indianapolis citizens for two reasons. First, the Congress is just **one week** before the election. Second, legislators exempted Marion County from the solid waste district planning process, making for ineffectual solid waste management and reliance upon Ogden-Martin System's mass-burn incinerator. By attending workshops and gaining insight on mayoral candidates' solid waste views, Indianapolis citizens can help turn the city's solid waste management around.

Registration for the Entire Congress is \$35 in advance, \$45 at the door. There are discounts for children, as well as daytime only or evening only registrations.

The Annual Business HEC Meeting is Sunday, November 3rd, 9 a.m., at the Holcomb Garden House at Butler University. Member groups and individual member delegates will help adopt HEC's 1992 Action Plan and Budget, elect a new Board of Directors, and amend HEC's bylaws. Registration for the Business Meeting is \$15 and includes lunch.

For additional information, contact Alicia Craig at (317) 254-0639.

1991 HEC CONGRESS *Tentative Agenda*

WELCOME:

Thomas Dustin,
HEC President

MORNING KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Armen Stepanian,
HEC Solid Waste/Recycling
Policy Coordinator
*The "Soft Path" Approach to
Managing Solid Waste*

MORNING WORKSHOPS:

- Marketing recyclable materials
- Reduction and reuse of solid waste
- Citizen action
- Children's workshop

LUNCH

SPEAKER:

Indianapolis Mayoral Candidate
Steven Goldsmith
(*invited*)
or U.S. Sen. Dan Coats
(*invited*)

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS:

- Designing successful recycling and composting programs
- Environmental strategies for solid waste disposal
- Citizen Participation in Solid Waste Planning
- Children's Workshop

HAPPY TIME!

DINNER

AWARDS

SPEAKER:

Indianapolis Mayoral Candidate
Louis Mahern
(*invited*)

EVENING KEYNOTE:

Gov. Evan Bayh
(*invited*)

NSS/ACCA HIDDEN RIVER CAVE PROJECT

by Keith Dunlap/Mark Laing

The National Speleological Society and the American Cave Conservation Association have common goals of protecting caves and karst. In the past there have been some rivalries between the two organizations, but on the whole, the two organization complement each other. In order to build a stronger relationship between the NSS and the ACCA, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed in March of 1990. In November, the NSS Board of Governors visited the ACCA headquarters and their Cave and Karst Center in Horse Cave, KY. At that meeting, Mark Laing, the NSS Conservation Chair, was appointed as the NSS liaison to help organize joint conservation projects.

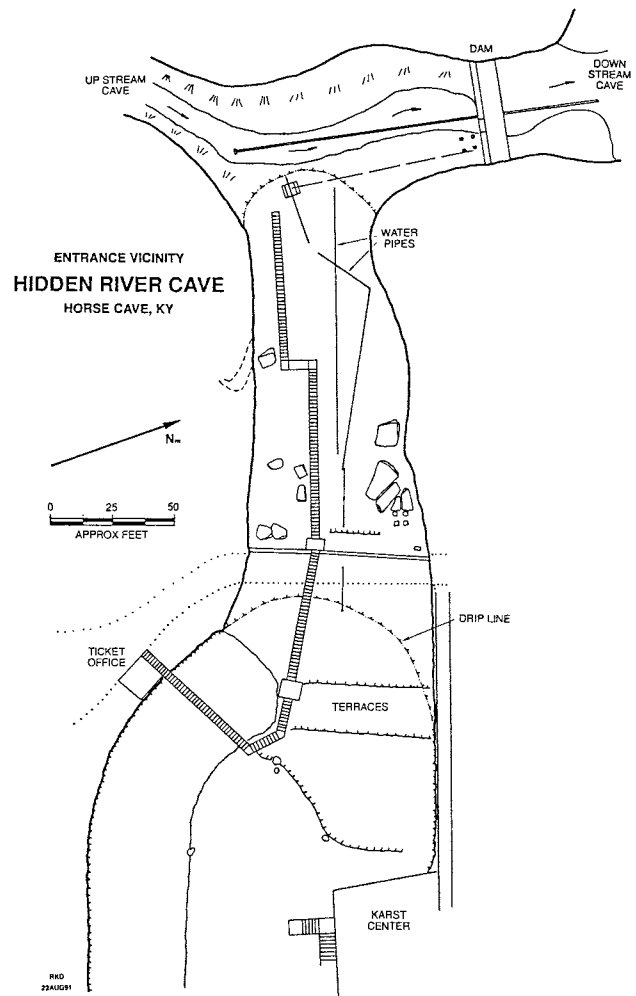
Mark and Dave Foster, the ACCA Executive Director, decided that focusing on Hidden River Cave would be beneficial to both organizations. The ACCA's Karst Center over looks this magnificent sinkhole entrance. The cave has a long history of commercialization, industrialization, pollution, and neglect. Proper restoration would be difficult, but not impossible. However, the main concern of both organizations is that the restoration should be done correctly, paying special attention to historic and pre-historic artifacts.

The first joint project planned, and completed in April was to remove the old cast iron fence that spanned the cave's entrance. This had little historic value and detracted considerably from the appearance of the cave entrance.

Before any further work could be done, it was felt by all involved that an environmental assessment should be conducted to list the concerns for the various alternative actions that could be performed. In August, Mark, Larry Mullins, Ruth Brinker, Bugs Armstrong, and Keith Dunlap met with Dave to discussion preliminary alternatives and their potential impacts. The entrance area was surveyed and a cursory archeological investigation made. From this information, the assessment could be formulated and decisions made on what restoration work would should be performed.

On September 28th, the second joint workday will take place at Hidden River Cave (starting at 10 AM local time). While the final decision on which projects to be accomplished has not been determined when this article was written, the list of possibilities include: general litter removal, a systematic archeological survey, photo-documentation of the historic industrial remains, removal of selected debris, and/or building a walkway from the karst center to the edge of the sinkhole.

If you have not seen this impressive entrance, it is worth the trip just for that. You will also be able to visit the Karst Center. Your assistance is needed to make this a successful and enjoyable day. Camping will be available nearby. For further information, contact Mark (317) 357-6399, or Dave (502) 786-1466.



CIG SWEEPS SUICIDE

by James Adams

Twenty-one cavers turned out in July for the Central Indiana Grotto's cleanup and restoration trip to Suicide cave in Washington County. The 2,000-foot-long cave is located near Salem Indiana, the site of the 1992 NSS Convention. Since many cavers may be visiting Suicide Cave during the convention, the grotto wanted to "spruce-up" the place a bit.

Activities got underway on Saturday, July 13. Scott Fee, Chairman of the CIG, led a group in for a "recon" trip and some survey work. They spent some time taking "before" pictures of spray painted areas that would need the most work. A re-survey of the cave was also begun to provide a more detailed map of the cave.

NSS group wipes graffiti from cave

A group of 21 cavers from Indianapolis, who are members of the National Speleological Society (NSS), restored a private Washington County cave over the weekend.

Scott Fee, leader of the Indianapolis group, would not disclose the location of the cave to protect its owner. However, he said the 2,000-foot long structure was littered with graffiti such as satanic symbols. Apparently, the culprits were mischievous kids.

"Somebody has gone in there and newly discovered it," Fee said. "Anytime I've ever seen this type of graffiti it looks like kids have done it. It doesn't look like anyone is serious. It's something to do when you're in a cave and you have a spray can."

Fee and his colleagues documented the damage Saturday. The following day they refurbished the cave with two procedures: Using mud to "paint" over the graffiti and scraping it off with wire brushes.

According to Fee, the cleaning project fits with his organization's economical (sic) message of "take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints, and kill nothing but time."

About 98 percent of the graffiti was cleaned up, Fee said. Afterward, the group explored and surveyed the cave. The NSS will be hosting its national convention at Salem in 1992.

On Sunday morning, July 14, everyone met at Delaney Park as military jets flew low overhead. The participants included: James Adams, Steve Cahill, Jaime Coffman, Scott Fee, Cindy Horn, Dick Horn, Kim Kinker, Mark Laing, Brad Lunsford, Missy Lunsford, Willie Lunsford, Barb Metcalf, Jason Purdy, Gale Schreiber, Jonathan Schwer, Dave Seng, Walt Serabian, Dave Strickland, Susan Sweeney, Bob Vandevener, and Barry Welling. Several NSS groups were represented by the cavers including the CIG, BIG, EIG, NIG, and IKC.

Work was concentrated in the first 700 feet of the cave. The cavers split-up to work in several areas. One group worked their way from the entrance through the main borehole passage scraping with wire brushes and mud painting.

A second group spent their time in a nearly square room with a six to seven foot ceiling. This easily reached, overhead canvas had produced many multi-colored works of "art". The wire brushes worked wonders on the flat ceiling while some of the walls were being touched-up with a fresh coat of mud.

The third group began their work less than a hundred feet up the passage from this low-ceiling room. "Brown washing" seemed to do the most good in this area. After things began to look better, a few cavers grabbed their buckets and went to the back of the cave, removing and covering spray paint as they traveled.

Trash was removed from "nooks and crannies" throughout Suicide Cave but, fortunately, the trash collectors did not make a big haul. After less than two hours of work, Scott and his camera once again went into action for the "after" shots. The difference was truly remarkable.

The work of the day finished, the entire group went exploring. Suicide Cave is an easy cave that has remained in very good condition. It consists of mostly walking passage with some crawling and climbing. The rear of the cave is filled with formations and well worth the last bit of squeezing and climbing necessary to get to the last area.

There is also a very good population of salamanders throughout the cave. The crew had to step gently in several areas to avoid dozens of babies in the shallow pools.

A month after the cleanup, the survey work was still continuing. According to Scott, "the cleanup effort was overwhelming. You'd have to know exactly where the graffiti was to find where we had worked." Hopefully, the cleanup effort will continue to deter the spray paint artists and Suicide Cave will leave convention attendees with a good impression in 1992.

The cave can be visited by responsible groups if prior permission is obtained from the land owner. Contact Scott Fee for more information.

[Editor's note: Scott has been in contact with the land owner on several occasions since this cleanup trip. The owner was very impressed with the improvements made, as illustrated with the "before" and "after" photos. He is also trying to track down some of the more recent graffiti "artists" since they were kind enough to sign their artwork.]



Two "Before" shots in Suicide Cave, Washington County.

Photos by Scott Fee

HOOSIER NATIONAL FOREST PLAN SIGNED

by Larry Mullins

Your response was phenomenal! When the Draft Management Plan for the Hoosier National Forest was released, we asked for your comments. We never expected the interest and support that was forthcoming. It was gratifying, and indicates without question that Indiana cavers are a responsible, participative group of environmentalists.

Fifty-two letters were received from cavers writing to comment on the draft plan. To put this into perspective, letters were received from almost 20% of the NSS members in Indiana. We also received comments from cavers in Illinois, Michigan, and Kentucky. In addition, letters were received from: the Indiana Karst Conservancy (Keith Dunlap), the IKC's Hoosier Forests Project Committee (Kevin Komisarick), the Indiana Cave Survey (Bill Baus), the Central Indiana Grotto (Kevin Bruno), the National Speleological Society (Janet Thorne, conservation committee), the National Speleological Society (Kathy Franklin, Admin Vice-Pres), The Nature Conservancy (Les Zimmer), Wabash Consulting and Wabash Resources (Kevin Strunk), and many other organizations.

The comments were overwhelmingly supportive of the cave management as proposed in the plan. Furthermore, they made a difference. Several changes were made between the draft and the final plan as a result of the comments that were received, most warranted a written response in the Final Environmental Impact Statement. Each comment was helpful and we in the Forest Service are very appreciative of the time and effort cavers put into developing and critiquing the Forest Plan.

In total, the Draft Plan received 2,363 letters (including those from cavers) and 4,797 form letters. The Hoosier Environmental Council's petition included over 120,000 signatures. One of the letters received was signed by 11 of the 12 Indiana Congressional delegation, and another was from the Governor of Indiana.

The Hoosier National Forest Plan (in final form) was approved April 8, 1991, by Regional Forester, Floyd J. Marita. The decisions made in the plan are already being implemented. The final plan was developed from several alternatives discussed in the draft and compared favorably with the environmentalist's alternative. In its final form, the Plan allocated land by Management Areas as follows:

<u>Management Areas</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Change from Draft</u>
MA 2.4 (Rivers and lakes)	8%	13,972	+5,875
MA 2.8 (Timber)	52%	97,232	-6,797
MA 5.1 (Deam Wilderness)	7%	12,953	0
MA 6.2 (Back country)	10%	19,303	+3,939
MA 6.4 (Back country w/ some roads)	13%	24,563	+16,642
MA 7.1 (Developed recreation)	3%	6,150	+842
MA 8.1 (Research Natural Areas)	-	88	0
MA 8.2 (Special Interest Areas)	6%	11,415	+11,415
MA 8.3 (Experimental Forest)	-	630	0
MA 9.2 (Candidate RNAs/SIAs)	1%	<u>1,586</u>	-4,461
Total		187,892	

The allowable average annual timber sale quantity was set at 4.4 million boardfeet -- down from the 7.7 mbf in the Draft proposal. Oil and gas leasing will not occur on the HNF except on a case-by-case basis where oil and gas is being developed on adjacent private lands.

Highlights of particular interest to cavers are:

The entire 78.5 miles of the Lost River has been determined eligible for Wild and Scenic River Status (the Suitability stage of planning must be completed before recommendation can be made to Congress for Designation).

Tincher Hollow, 1535 acres, and Tincher Pond, 2170 acres, are designated as MA 8.2 -- Special Interest Areas, *specifically* to protect the karst geology.

Danner Cemetary, 2270 acres, and Lick Creek (Little Africa), 2803 acres, have both been designated MA 6.2 and will be managed as roadless backcountry.

The Tincher Hollow/Pond and Danner/Lick Creek areas are the two best karst areas on the Forest. Neither areas will be available for timber management.

Not only caves, but karst areas are to be managed with special consideration on the Forest. Currently the HNF Plan is the most complete, the most sensitive to caves/karst, and the most sensitive to cavers of any National Forest in the nation. On the HNF, we will be treating cave/karst management with the same level of intensity and professionalism as biology, forestry, archaeology, recreation, or any other disciplines.

We have a good cave management plan. The plan is a result of a true partnership between cavers and the Forest Service. We certainly appreciate all the time and effort everyone has put into it. However, a plan, any plan, is just a piece of paper unless it is put into action. It's no more than a starting point. There is a lot left to do. It will take all of the time, effort, and sweat we can muster to make it work.

Cave management is a partnership. The backbone of the plan are the volunteers whose participation is critical to assist with the inventory, evaluation, planning, and monitoring required to insure success and bring cave management to it's rightful place in the management of Federal lands.

The importance of this plan goes beyond simply managing caves and karst on the Hoosier. Implementation of this plan will elevate the awareness for cave conservation and involve cavers in a meaningful role as partners in the management of caves. The HNF Plan is the first Forest Plan to address the National Cave Resource Protection Act of 1988 and the question of cave significance. Already, it is breaking new ground for other Forests across the nation, as they are studying our cave management policies.

We're really proud of our Plan, and think you should all share in our pride for making it happen.

[Editor's note: The HNF Final Management Plan and related documentation is available for review at many public libraries. Furthermore, the IKC and CIG library has copies available.]

HNF APPEAL COULD MODIFY CAVE MANAGEMENT POLICY

by Larry Mullins/Keith Dunlap

The period for which appeals to the Final Plan were accepted ended on July 8, 1991. At that time, six appellants had filed objections. One, a local environmental organization, appealed two points related to the cave management sections.

The first objection was to the wording pertaining to the protection of endangered bats which states, "Access to caves found containing gray or Indiana bats may be restricted after coordination with the US Fish & Wildlife Service and other appropriate groups or agencies." This sentence was revised from the Draft Plan which required mandatory closure. It was changed because of several comments from cavers that though the wording should be "soften" to a more reasonable protection policy that would solicit various input (including cavers) prior to a cave closure. The objection comes from this "subjectiveness" of the closure policy. The appellant wants a more stringent policy.

The second objection is similar in nature, with the appellant wanting more specific language on the protection of cave vertebrates and invertebrates, rather than relying on the case-by-case protection policies that would be determined after a careful evaluation of each specific cave.

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These two objections, if implemented, could threaten to undermine the cooperative efforts of the cavers and Forest Service in developing specific management plan by mandating certain management policies regardless of the situation. The merits of the appeals will be evaluated and decided at the USDA Forest Service Washington Office. If the appeals are upheld, the Plan sections pertaining to cave management could be remanded. This could mean that some, if not all, of the cave management provisions of the plan would have to be reanalyzed and rewritten according to the requirements handed down from the Washington Office. The role of the HNF in this appeal process is restricted to indexing the references in the plan that addresses the appellant's concerns. Furthermore, other comments from the public are not allowed. We feel we have a good plan that will stand up to the appeal; all we can do now is wait and see what happens.

COON & GROTTA RESTORATION PROJECT

by Keith Dunlap

For the sixth time, the IKC sponsored its annual Coon & Grotto cave restoration weekend to commemorate the end of summer and the beginning of the bat hibernation season. As in the past, those that participate, get to do a little conservation work while having fun caving.

On August 24th, sixteen cavers gathered at the end of Spicer Lane to visit Coon Cave. Most descended the twenty-two foot entrance pit with a cable ladder and safety belay, but two or three demonstrated their vertical skill by rappelling on a rope rigged from the high side of the pit. Once inside, the cavers broke into several groups and headed for various places to work. The main agenda was to mud paint graffiti. Our group selected the area of the lower pits. Bill Tozer and Larry Reece both had cameras, so we spent time taking "before" and "after" shots on several vandalized walls. After painting several buckets worth of mud, we proceeded farther into the cave. Several of us descended down to the Column Room for more photos. Continuing, we met up with the rest of the groups near the back of the cave. We spent some time in the Bat Room observing a bachelor colony of 200 or so *Myotis* that were cluster in the same spot as always. On the way out, we picked up what little trash we could find in the cracks and crevices (only about a quarter of a trash bag). I lagged behind the group and did some more mud painting while the rest started to be belayed out (by Bill who claims to be the world's second best belayer). After all but two remained on the bottom, we rigged a haul line and pulley system and hosted out the year's accumulation of speleo-logs. Several of us then reconvened at Pizza Hut to end the day.

On Sunday, seven of us met to visit Grotto Cave. We stayed as one group and quickly made our way back to the stream crossing where we mixed up two buckets of mud-wash. Our goal was to mud paint on the other side of the short crawlway, but when we got there, we discovered that John Vargo & Company had completed that task last year. Thus we were mandated to proceed farther into the breakdown area, mud painting and collecting miscellaneous trash along the way. The breakdown crawls are tough enough by themselves, but attempting them with a bucket full of mud adds another dimension to caving. Jeff Cody had been in this section of the cave several times and lead the way to a fairly sizable room. Jeff and several others took another crawlway back towards the entrance, while the rest of us returned the way we had come. We mud painted all the graffiti in this section of the cave. We all exited together after about five hours of caving.

Coon Cave still needs more graffiti removal in the lower sections of the cave, but is progressing nicely. We will plan to return next year. Grotto Cave on the other hand, is essentially done in all of the "know" sections of the cave. However, the map would indicate and several people have told me that there is another "walking" section of the cave beyond the breakdown. If we can locate this "lost" section, then we will have more to do. If anyone can confirm that this missing passage exists, please contact me.

Participants of this year included Jim Adams, J. Buckley, Chris Carpenter, Tom Crismore, Jeff Cody, S. Damascus, Keith Dunlap, T. Grantz, Jonathan Knott, Dan Lucas, Anmar Mirza, Leon Nowlin, Larry Reece, Jay Savage, Eric Schmidt, Serena Smith, T. Spinner, and Bill Tozer.

GATE REPLACEMENT FOR WYANDOTTE CAVE

by Keith Dunlap

Ever since the 1850's when Henry Rothrock started the commercialization of Wyandotte, the cave has had a gate on its entrance. Over the past 140 years, as many as six different gates in different locations have guarded its alluring passages. Coincidentally over the past 140 years, the bats that frequent Wyandotte in the winter have been affected by these intervening structures. While much has been written about Wyandotte (Angelo George's recently published bibliography listing over 900 entries), very little is known historically about the bat populations and their relationship with the various gates. It appears that all of the gates provided a means for bats to enter, but it wasn't until the mid-1970's that the importance of unrestricted air flow into the cave was determined to be an important factor in maintaining a viable population.

Blatchley in 1899 wrote of tens of thousands of bats in the Odd Fellow Hall and even a sizable population in the Senate Chamber (at the far end of the Old Cave). This is a curious observation, because today the bats hibernate much closer to the entrance in Washington's Avenue, with almost no bats found beyond that point in the Old Cave because it is thought to be too warm. More recent observations during hibernation estimated 10,000 bats in 1953, but the population dropped to less than 1000 only a couple of years later and remained at that level until the mid-seventies. It is suspected that the drastic population drop was due to the installation of a solid stone wall gate that blocked most of the air flow. Some time around 1978, the stone wall gate was removed and a metal gate installed. This appears to have increased the habitability of the cave, as the population has slowly recovered to over 10,000 bats by 1989.

So with the apparent "recovery" of the Wyandotte population, one might ask why would you want to replace a successful gate design. There were basically two reasons. First the "old" metal gate was logically constructed at the narrowest passage cross section. While the bars did not obstruct a large percentage of the area, a new gate positioned at a wider section could provide maximum air flow and thus maximize the "natural" conditions for the bats. The second reason for the gate replacement was due to the bar spacing of the old gate which had openings about 8" wide by 12" tall. Research has shown that bats prefer wide, horizontal openings. While the bats were obviously going through the old gate, it was observed that they would often slow down and circle once or twice prior to passing. This hesitation would allow predators (domestic cats, raccoons, opossums) a better chance to snare their prey. Hopefully the new gate will allow the bats to quickly pass unobstructed on their way in or out of the cave.

The replacement of the Wyandotte gate was recommended several years ago by the USFWS sponsored Indiana Bat Recovery Team. Scott Johnson, the IDNR non-game biologist responsible for endangered mammals species, started to organize the project about a year ago. Funding was provided by the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the Indiana non-game fund.

The new gate is located approximately 30 feet in front of the old gate where the passage is slightly higher and almost twice as wide (12' X 25'). The design is similar to the gate that was installed at Batwing Cave in 1988, using four inch angle iron oriented with the point facing up. However, several modifications have been incorporated to allow for quicker construction. Prior to the installation, an archeological survey was completed and the foundation trench was excavated across the passage. On July 2nd, prisoners unloaded the steel in the large entrance hall, approximately 100 feet in front of the construction site.

On July 4th, Scott Johnson, Roy Powers (the gate designer), and cavers Kenney Carrigan, Dave Doolin, Tom Reynolds, Clyde Simmerman, and myself met for a brief discussion of the plans and assignments. The portable welder and generator were positioned outside the entrance, and the torching station was set up near the steel. A large tarp was stretched over the old gate to prevent welding smoke from being sucked into the rest of the cave.

The initial task was to place a six inch angle iron base plate horizontally in the trench to serve as the foundation for the rest of the gate. Next, two six inch angles were boxed together to form

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the center column that was pinned into the roof. We then started building the left half of the gate from the bottom up. We were making great progress and stopped for a late lunch about 2 PM. This proved to be a mistake as we could not get the welder restarted. After cleaning filters, changing fuel, rebuilding the carburetor, dissecting the electrical system, and verbally abusing the welder, it was pronounced DOA. We had made arrangements for a backup welder in Corydon, but we couldn't locate the owner; so Roy, Scott, Kenney, and Roger Gleitz (the cave property manager) took off on an unsuccessful scavenger hunt over to the Wyandotte Woods maintenance shop to see what they could find. The rest of us killed time by filling in the left hand half of the trench. As the last tour was exiting, the guide told us that he had left the old gate unlock, so we interpreted that as an open invitation to take a quick self-guided tour of the cave.

Early Friday morning, Scott picked up a new welder and we completed the remainder of the left side by lunch. Dave Black showed up to help and to add his encouraging commentary on the various ways the gate could be breached. The right side of the gate would be more difficult because we had to build a full size door. Usually the door and frame are build integral to the structure and cut loose only after the entire gate is completed. This prevents warping and out-of-squareness from occurring. However, because we had to provide access at all times for tours, we build the door & frame integral, but left the right most section open. By the end of the day, the door was operational. Dave & Dave had plans for Saturday so we bid them goodbye.

Saturday, we had planned to get an extra early start, but Scott lock his keys in his truck which also had the welder in the back. Travis Reynolds volunteered to smash out a window, but we finally got a door open with a coat hanger after an hour of trying. Back at the cave, we started on the far right section of the gate. This section took more time as we had to build around a ledge and offset the right end support. As we reached the top of the door frame, we started spanning from the center post to the right wall. The long 20' lengths were about all we could handle to lift into place. To slow our progress, every half hour or so we had to break down our scaffolding that now extended across the door to allow tours to enter or exit. We topped off the gate about six o'clock, but we still had a lot of work ahead of us. Kenney continued welding in "stiffener plates", Tom and Roy worked on fabricating the door's latching brackets, I started torching out the old gate, while Clyde and Scott started cleaning up our three day mess. We finished up very late, but the gate was finished except for painting (which Scott completed several weeks later).

After the project was over, Scott corresponded to the volunteers involved with the following excerpted from his letter. He wrote, "I want to express my sincere thanks for all your involvement during the gate construction last month. I realize this may have not have been everyone's ideal way to spend a holiday weekend, but your dedication is truly appreciated. As you know, many of the projects initiated by the Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program depend upon volunteer assistance. In this manner, we can conduct projects at much lower cost and also get people directly involved in wildlife conservation in Indiana."

I would like to respond for the IKC and Indiana caver to express our appreciation to Scott for his diligence (see Ramblings on page 3), support, and enthusiasm for initiating this project as well as the many other bat and cave replated projects in the past.

I-64 WEIGH STATION UPDATE

by Keith Dunlap

In the last *UPDATE* I expounded upon the proposal by the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) to install two weigh stations on I-64 northeast of Wyandotte Cave. The proposed site sits high on top of the ridge that contains numerous caves that potentially could be impacted. Within a two mile radius, over fifty known caves exist including five that contain the federally endangered Indiana bat and several that harbor the state endangered northern blind cavefish.

An initial letter of concern was drafted and sent to INDOT's Public Hearing Examiner's Office. They in turn replied, but for the most part, their response, in our opinion, was inadequate. The IKC drafted another letter, again addressing the initial concerns and new concerns raised by the obvious shortcomings in the INDOT's response. While I won't go into specifics, it was apparent that INDOT's environmental awareness is lacking and their appreciation for natural resources is limited.

Also responding to our concerns was the Federal Highway Administration since the proposed project utilizes federal funds. Their letter contained little substance and further evidence that they too do not understand the environmental ramification of this construction in a highly karst area.

Both INDOT's and the FHA's main emphasis has been on addressing the concerns over endangered species because they are aware that this could be a major road block (excuse the pun). Unfortunately, both IDNR's Fish & Wildlife and USFWS have gone on record that the proposed project should not significantly affect the nearby bat hibernacula, and they have side stepped the issue of the impact on the bats that may be foraging near the proposed site (especially during their vulnerable transition periods before and after hibernation). These "official" opinions will essentially allow INDOT to weasel out of their responsibilities to investigate their potential impact on the bats.

The USFWS did recommend several precautions to be implemented to mitigate potential impacts to the northern blind cavefish, including specific precautions to control erosion and runoff during and after construction.

It remains to be seen what further action INDOT will take to assure the IKC membership that all reasonable precautions will be taken, and that unforeseen karst related problems encountered with this project will be handle appropriately.

The pork in a highway funding bill

Early in August the federal highway bill was sent back to committee in the House to be revised. This is the bill that contained funding for the proposed Evansville to Indianapolis highway.

On National Public Radio a reporter explained the failed bill this way: Many representatives did not want to return to their districts and have to explain why they voted to raise the gasoline tax 5 cents a gallon to pay for \$6.3 billion of pork barrel projects.

The Evansville to Indianapolis highway is a classic example of such a pork barrel item - politicians spending our tax money to satisfy special interests in their districts and help themselves get re-elected. Several independent economic feasibility studies have failed to find enough justification to recommend building this highway.

Using mostly new terrain, it would devastate sensitive environmental areas along its entire route and damage the economies and integrity of many rural areas. Thousands of acres of land

would be condemned and numerous local roads cut off.

The Indiana Limestone Institute estimates it could lose up to \$1 billion of limestone reserves if currently proposed routes are used.

Proponents claim this highway would be one leg of a Canada to Gulf of Mexico interstate, and as such would have national significance. A quick glance at an atlas will disclose that several such interstates already exist, including through Indianapolis.

To argue that another north-south highway, one that of course has to go to Evansville, has national significance clearly is self-serving and misleading. The Indiana Department of Transportation estimates the proposed highway would save 15 minutes of travel time over existing routes between Indianapolis and Evansville.

The final cost of this project will be over \$1 billion. Reps. Lee Hamilton and Frank McCloskey, both Indiana

Democrats, sponsored legislation to include \$50 million in the failed highway bill to help fund this "special project." Gov. Evan Bayh has promised \$230 million of lottery money.

Meanwhile, educational, social and health programs across the state are being cut. This highway would be an environmental and social disaster if it were free; to ask taxpayers to pay for it with increased taxes while neglecting other needed programs is irresponsible leadership.

Existing bridges and roads throughout Indiana are badly in need of repair. Making these repairs and upgrading the roads throughout southwest Indiana would do more good for more people than one massively expensive limited access freeway.

Thomas R. Tokarski
Bloomington

Reprinted from
The Indianapolis Star

INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY, INC.
Statement of Receipts, Expenditures, and Changes in
Fund Balance for the Quarter Ending 06/30/91

GENERAL FUND**RECEIPTS**

DUES	555.00	
DONATIONS	107.44	
INTEREST	28.74	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		691.18

EXPENDITURES

UPDATE	32.54	
POSTAGE, GENERAL	65.98	
WOODARD LEASE	1.00	
CAPER'S DOORPRIZE	13.99	
KEYS (Grotto)	5.99	
PRINTING/XEROXING	51.90	
SLIDE DUPLICATION	99.60	
CAVE MGMT SYMPOSIUM	200.00	
SULLIVAN'S SIGN etc	81.83	
BLATCHLEY REPRINT	210.37	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		763.20

EXCESS TO FUND BALANCE	-72.02
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FUND BALANCE 03-31-91	2365.90
FUND BALANCE 06-30-91	2293.88

HANCOCK PROPERTY

RECEIPTS	0.00	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		0.00

EXPENDITURES	0.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		0.00

EXCESS TO FUND BALANCE	0.00
------------------------	------

FUND BALANCE 03-31-91	336.52
FUND BALANCE 06-30-91	336.52

TOTAL ALL FUNDS 06-30-91	2630.40
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IKC QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, June 29th, 1991
Bloomington, Indiana

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Keith Dunlap
Jeff Cody
Ernie Payne
Bill Tozer

Jane Miller
Lynn Miller
Eric Schmidt

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mike Miessen
Tom Rea
Glenn Lemasters

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. Introductions were made. Eleven members and two visitors were present.

I-64 Weight Station - The State of Indiana is planning to construct a weight station on I 64 near the Wyandotte area. The potential for impact to hydrology of the area should be examined. The proximity to major cave systems is significant.

Cave Capers - The IKC will donate a framed picture and two or three Blatchley reprints for door prizes. We will also collect Aluminum cans as a conservation statement.

Coon & Grotto Cleanup - The annual cleanup will be scheduled for August 24 and 25, with one cave each day. This is the last weekend before closing the caves for the winter hibernation period.

Hidden River Cave Cleanup, September 28-29 - The IKC will support and encourage its members to participate.

Cave Management Symposium, October 23-26 - The Symposium will be held in Bowling Green, Ky. The program consists of paper sessions with field trips following. The IKC will be a co-sponsor of the event.

Sullivan's Cleanup - Over eighty cavers attended the Sullivan Cave cleanup on Earth Day. A lot of graffiti was removed from the backbreaker and mountain room area. One group worked in the Spiral room area. The owner is happy that people are taking an interest restoring the cave. They are also appreciate being in control of the entrance. The gate has reduced the large volume of traffic.

Natural Areas Conference - The IDNR Division of Natural Preserves sponsored the Tenth Indiana Natural Areas Conference at Corydon, IN on May 18th. The IKC co-sponsored the event and presented a slide show after the banquet. About 50 people attended the slide show which describes the Caves, Karst, and the IKC.

Directors were polled by Keith Dunlap (by telephone) to approve the duplication of the slide program. Cost about \$100.00. At this meeting the Board passed the following two motions:

(1) "The slide show will not be copied other than for IKC purposes. "

(2) "The slide show will be loaned to IKC members only."

Contact Keith Dunlap to borrow the slide show.

Hoosier National Forest Management Plan Announcements - There were no appeals, so the plan stands. Cave inventorying has continued to find interesting new karst features. The program is on hold for the summer but will pick up this fall.

Tillery Hill Comments - The proposed project is expected to be rejected. The project would then most likely return to the original plan.

continued...

Problems at Salt Creek & No Sweat Cave - A strong kerosene smell is evident in the caves. Jeff Cody and Eric Schmidt have been in contact with IDEM authorities. A first suspect is the State Highway Garage.

Bat Activities - The State of Indiana is considering the purchase of Parker's Pit to protect the bats. A new bat friendly gate is being placed at Wyandotte. The gate will permit better air circulation and improve the bat habit temperature.

Spring Mill "MOU" for SMP data - A memorandum of understanding has been drafted between the IKC and State to retain the survey data from the Spring Mill survey projects. This would offer some protection of the data from general circulation of the information. No final action has been taken.

Membership perks - A copy of the Blatchley reprint and three posters will be mailed to all members. The Blatchley reprint will be ready in July with the posters in September.

IKC information brochure revision - Comments are still welcome. Jeff Cody is working to arrange new art work for the brochure.

Revise/expand IKC display - The current display has been around to the various meetings and needs some new photos for variety. All agreed the current display is excellent.

Update comments, recycled paper - All comments were positive. The cost is 20-30 % higher. Bright white is becoming more available in Indianapolis. This should help with the pricing of the paper.

Mud Sprayer status - The mud sprayer was tested by Tom Rea and works well. However, it requires 20-30 psi with 2-3 cubic feet of air per minute. Tom used an air compressor. The air source is the major problem for caves. Ideas tossed out ranged from a big billows, bicycle powered air pumps, and SCUBA tanks. Anyone got any ideas???

HEC benefit concert - The concert is (was) June 30.

New Projects - No new projects were suggested. General discussion centered on continuing with current work. New project ideas are always welcome.

Next Meeting - picnic - Scheduled for September 21 at the Miller's home. Tentative time is 5:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05.

Respectively submitted, William Tozer, Secretary

NEW MEMBERS

(as of September 6th)

Albert E. Abel
2917 North Star Rd.
Columbus, OH 43221

Jeffrey M. Snow
3519 Westminster Way
Bloomington, IN 47401

Evansville Metro Grotto
c/o Ernie Payne
6131 Holly Berry Dr.
Evansville, IN 47715-1679

ADDRESS CHANGES

David M. Doolin
927 Cerritos Way #F
Louisville, TN 37777

Ernie Payne
6131 Holly Berry Dr.
Evansville, IN 47715-1679

Mid-Hoosier Grotto
P. O. Box 632
Franklin, IN 46131-0632

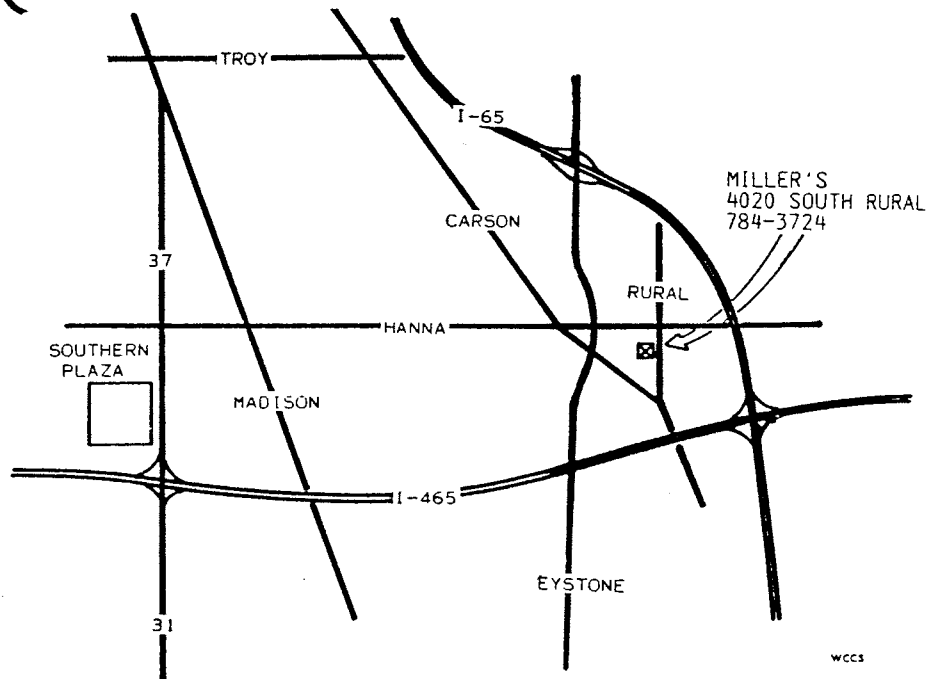
DIRECTIONS TO THE IKC QUARTERLY MEETING / COOKOUT

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21th, 5:00 PM

LYNN & JANE MILLER'S
4020 SOUTH RURAL, INDIANAPOLIS
(317) 784-3724



South of downtown Indianapolis on I-65 to Keystone Exit (one exit north of I-465). South on Keystone to Hanna (the first traffic light). East (left) on Hanna to Rural (the first cross street). South (right) on Rural 1/2 block, 2nd house on west (right) side of road.



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 _____

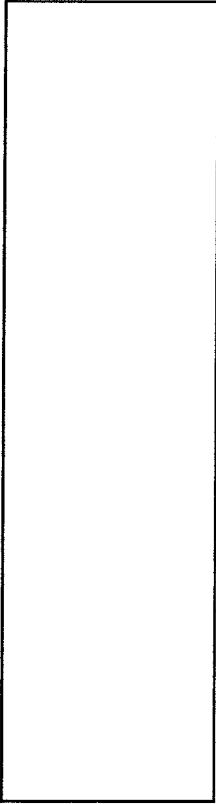
CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE #(s) _____

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 46204-2401. The IKC is an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with membership dues and donations fully tax deductible. A canceled check is considered an acceptable receipt, but if you wish a separate receipt, please check here ☐.

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

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