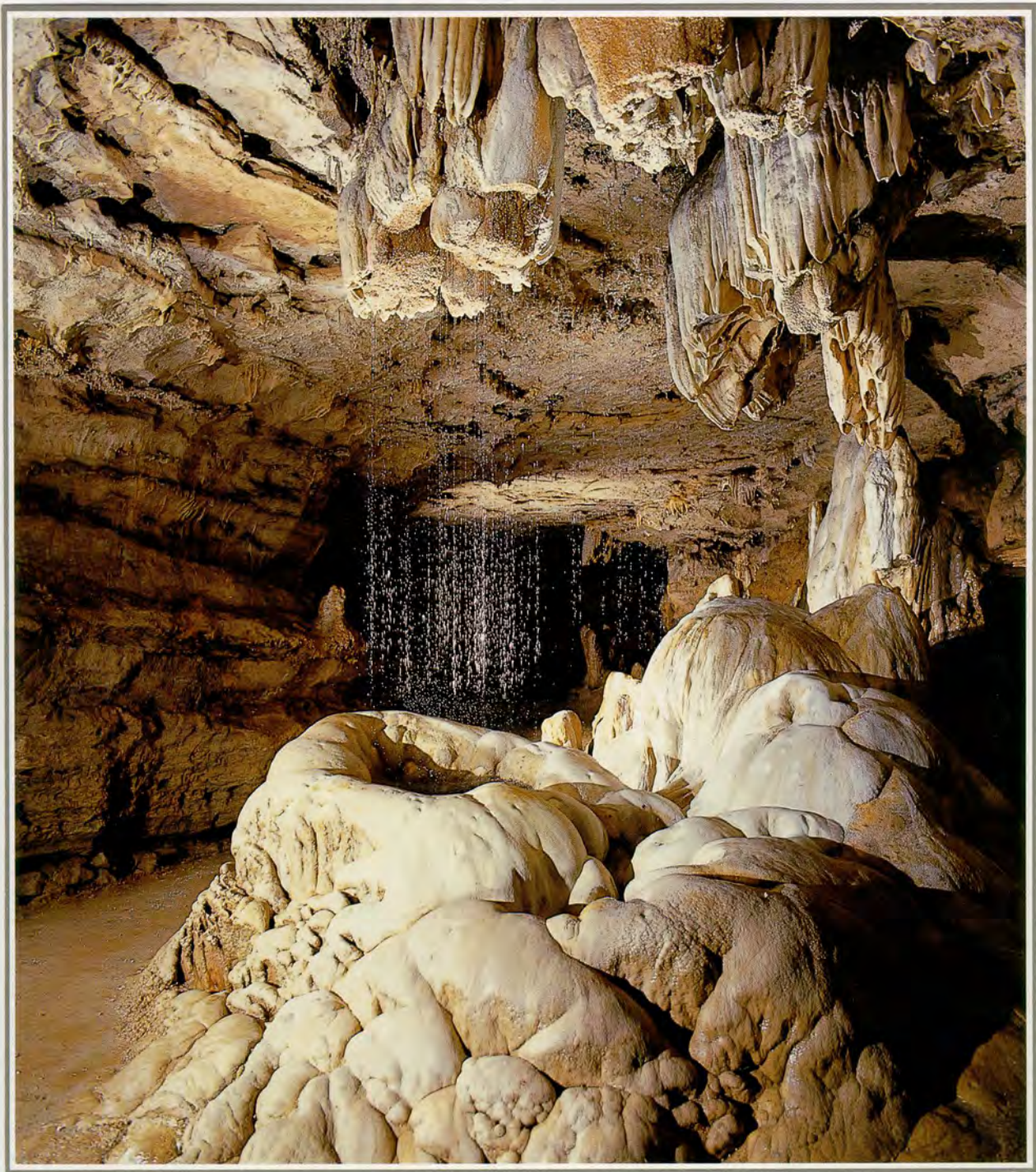

IKC Update

NUMBER 25

June 1992



INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY

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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* * * * * GROTTO LIAISONS * * * * *

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 Northern Indiana Grotto/ Leslie Cunningham (219) 327-3259

Cover - the Angel's Shower in Ozark Caverns, Lake of the Ozark State Park, Missouri.
 Reprinted from the *Missouri Resource Review*, Summer 1990. Photo by Nick Decker.
 Color "bonus" cover generously donated by one of our dedicated members.



Publishing courtesy of **Myotis Press**; Editor and Publisher Keith Dunlap.

QUARTERLY MEETING REMINDER

SATURDAY, JUNE 13th, 7:00 PM

**BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA
IU GEOLOGY BUILDING, ROOM 143
(SAME ROOM AS BIG MEETING)**

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

Preliminary Agenda Items: brief recaps of last quarter's activities; cave patron appointments; closure of Hemlock Cliffs; INDOT projects; bat activities; Coon Cave cleanup; fall activities; '92 NSS Convention; upcoming conferences; and more...

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

EVENTS CALENDAR

- 13 JUN = HANCOCK PROPERTY WORK DAY, Bloomington (see page 3)
- 13 JUN = IKC QUARTERLY MEETING, Bloomington (see above)
- 27 JUN = HNF RARE PLANT WORKSHOP AT HEMLOCK CLIFFS (see page 4)
- 27 JUN = GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT, Indpls (see page 7)
- 19-31 JUN = INDIANA CAVE CAPERS, Bedford (contact Scott Fee)
- 03-07 AUG = 1992 NSS CONVENTION, Salem (contact Scott Fee)
- 29 AUG = COON CAVE CLEANUP, Bloomington (see page 10)
- ?? SEP = IKC QUARTERLY MEETING/COOKOUT, Indianapolis
- 27-30 OCT = NATIONAL NATURAL AREAS CONFERENCE, Bloomington (see News Briefs)

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...

It seems the more I deal with our state government, the more of a cynic I become. My latest episode again involves our wonderful Department of Transportation, this time with the SR 37 four-laning project starting just south of SR 50 near Bedford. The construction company doing the initial drainage work for the road was digging in a sinkhole preparing to "stabilize" it. Well low and behold, they dug deep enough that water came running out from under a ledge, and with the water came *Amblyopsis spelaea* (Northern Blind cavefish). They stopped digging and collected the cavefish in a bucket. Logically, they called the DNR, but ironically it was the Fisheries Division. Fisheries called the Non-game Section, and Scott Johnson (their non-game mammalogist from Bloomington) went out to the site. He transported the fish over to Blue Spring Cave and released them. Returning to the sinkhole site, the INDOT project engineer asked for his opinion on what to do. Scott said he wasn't qualified to give any recommendation and suggested that they contact a specialist. He also informed them that the cavefish is a state listed endangered species and they should not continue until a plan was devised to minimize their impact. Scott called me later that day and asked for my input (I also suggested they hire a specialist such as Horton Hobbs). He described the "ledge" as a possible cave opening with minimal air space above the water.

Several days later (on the Sunday before Memorial Day), I stopped at the sinkhole to have a look for myself. Apparently they ignored Scott's recommendation to stop construction, as they had poured a concrete retaining wall 8' high by 6' wide by 12" thick across the "cave" entrance, but about six feet in front of it. The next day, I talked with Sam Frushour who confirmed my speculations that this sinkhole drains directly into Blue Spring (less than a half-mile away). On Tuesday, I called the Environmental Section of INDOT and talked to several people. I expressed my main concerns: 1) if the sinkhole is artificially plugged, needed nutrient inputs would be blocked; or 2) if the road drainage was funneled directly into the sinkhole, road oil and winter salt could poison Blue Spring's eco-system. While they assured me that I need not be concerned, they could not tell me what their environmental plans were. I also asked several general questions about the exact placement of the road relative to the sinkhole which they also could not answer, instead referring me to the on-site project engineer.

The next day, Scott, his supervisor (Katie Smith), and her supervisor (Dave Turner) visited the sinkhole. By then, it had been completely filled with large rock, except for a completed concrete structure over the entrance. They were told that drainage from the road would be dumped directly into the structure (and directly into the cave system). When INDOT was questioned about the impact this might have, their only response was that this was an "accepted" procedure, and it was done all the time in karst areas. When asked if they had discussed this with a specialist such as Hobbs, INDOT said that wasn't necessary because Jim Keith (a former DNR biologist) was the project's environmental consultant. When asked what Keith's recommendations were, INDOT confessed that they had not yet contacted him on this matter!

The battle has just begun as there are eleven other sinkholes INDOT plans to "stabilize" and use for drainage. The DNR is considering having the project halted under the Endangered Species Act. The IKC, allied with other environmental groups, could bring legal actions against INDOT, or perhaps more effectively, use the media to wage this war (the governor doesn't need further environmental problems surfacing during an election year).

- Keith Dunlap

JUNE 13th WORKDAY

Prior to the IKC Quarterly Meeting in Bloomington on Saturday, June 13th, the IKC will be working on the Hancock property, starting at noon (we will finish up around five). Several projects are scheduled which could use your participation. The first includes some maintenance on the Grotto Cave fence. At least two barb wire supports need to be replaced, requiring the removal of the top support rail. This will take three or four people (if you can bring a 6' or 8' step ladder, please call Keith Dunlap). Other minor fence repairs are also needed. A second task is some minor graffiti removal in Grotto's main passage. This will be a very easy trip for anyone who wishes to visit this cave. The third task to be performed is general litter pickup on the property, along the trails and Spicer Lane, and at the parking areas for Grotto and Coon caves.

Anyone needing more information or directions, please contact Keith Dunlap.

HNF WORKSHOP ON PLANTS OF CLIFF COMMUNITIES

by Ellen Jacquart

On Saturday, June 27 there will be a workshop sponsored by the Hoosier National Forest at Hemlock Cliffs on the identification of cliff plant species and cliff communities. The workshop - which will be led by Ellen Jacquart and Steve Olsen, botanists for the HNF - has two objectives. First, to inform rappellers (and cavers) of the plants and plant communities found on and around the cliffs, particularly the unusual plants and communities the Forest Service is working on inventorying and protecting. The second objective is to actually inventory some rappelling areas around Hemlock Cliffs for unusual species and communities, and determine whether rappelling use has had an adverse impact on them. Everyone interested should meet at Hemlock Cliffs' parking lot by 10 AM. The workshop should end by 2 PM, so bring a lunch and beverage. If you have rappelling equipment, please bring it along - we'd like to have demonstrations of its use and may use it to get closer to some plants on cliff faces. For more information or directions, contact Ellen at the Bedford office at (812) 275-5987.

Editor's note: *Hemlock Cliffs was the last public owned, above ground place in Indiana that one could rappel a 100' drop until the HNF decided to CLOSE it. While their concerns are valid about wanting to protect the cliff dwelling plants, some feel their actions were extreme and a possible indication of the HNF management returning to their old habits of unilateral decisions. This workshop is to help explain their decision. I strongly encourage all interested to attend, listen, and form your own conclusion on this action. Please voice your concerns to the Tell City District Ranger and the Forest Supervisor (either for or against the closure). If you disagree with the closure, please suggest viable alternatives which would protect the plants, yet continue to provide recreational opportunities for the forest user.*

HNF AND MSS TEAM UP FOR CARTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

by James Adams

The Hoosier National Forest and the Missouri Speleological Survey recently sponsored a two-day surveying and cartography workshop at the HNF office in Bedford.

The first session was held on Saturday, May 16 at the crack of dawn (OK, it was only eight o'clock). Saturday was spent in the classroom. Ron Jones and Pam Saberton, active cave mappers in the St. Louis area, led the discussions with Larry Mullins of the HNF adding local color. Ron devoted the morning to topographic maps including Federal Land Survey, Longitude and Latitude, and the UTM methods of cave locating.

Pam took the podium in the afternoon for a discussion of cave reports, survey equipment, and a general explanation of how the survey team works together. Everyone was also treated to a fantastic slide show about Fisher Cave, one of several caves located in Meramec State Park in Missouri.

After the Saturday session, the participants and professors were invited to the Mullins Ranch for burgers, potato salad, chips, beverages, and a roaring fire under the stars. A few other area cavers stopped by to visit the always hospitable Mullins household and to enliven the campfire stories.

Sunday came all too soon (again) and everyone was off to the karstlands for some actual survey work. Larry Mullins had chosen Valley Cathedral Cave (Lawrence County) as the test subject. After some basic instruction, demonstration and actual surveying, it was back to the Hoosier National Forest office for a primer on drafting skills and a course review.

For the \$10 material fee, the participants came away with some basic tools, lots of added knowledge, and some valuable experience which should come in handy during their next survey trip.

NEWS BRIEFS...

- Election results did not produce any surprises again this year. Keith Dunlap and Jane Miller remain President and Treasurer, respectively. Jim Adams was added as Secretary, replacing Bill Tozer who subsequently was elected as a Director. Jeff Cody, Ernie Payne, and Tom Rea were all re-elected as Directors.
- Jeff Cody has volunteered to serve as the new patron for Shaft Cave (Monroe Co). He will check on the cave periodically and maintain the fence and signs. A new warning/information sign has been designed and will be fabricated and installed in the near future. Visitation to the cave may be arranged through Jeff, or one of the grotto liaisons listed on page 1.
- The lease on the Quarry Entrance to Shiloh Cave (Lawrence Co) was renewed for another five years. Jim Adams is serving as patron and the liaison with the owners (Elliott Stone Company). Access is currently not available, but that hopefully will change in the future. Our goal is to work with the landowner to implement a management plan that will protect the cave and also allow limited visitation. Please contact Jim for further details.
- Suicide Cave in Washington County has been sold. The cave will be available for the NSS Convention, but it is unsure what the access will be during other times. Please contact Scott Fee for more details.
- There continues to be considerable traffic to Salamander Cave from Spicer Lane. The cave should be considered closed, and under NO circumstance should you cross the Hancock Property. The tenant that lives on the property has reported to me several occurrences of IKC and various grotto members not respecting the landowners request. Mr. Hancock has been very explicit on this issue, PLEASE DON'T CROSS HIS PROPERTY TO VISIT SALAMANDER.
- The fence around Twin Domes Cave (Harrison Co) will be replaced later this summer. The cave is Indiana's largest hibernacula for Indiana bats with approximately 50% of Indiana's winter population. The old fence had been poorly maintained with extensive damage from numerous fallen trees. The new fence will be have a larger perimeter to decrease the possibility of interfering with the bats' flight patterns in and out of the cave. Primary funding for the fence will be from the US Fish & Wildlife Service, with the DNR Non-game Section coordinating the replacement.
- A previously unknown Indiana bat hibernacula was discovered in March by Scott Fee and Eric Higbie in Nichols Cave. The species was verified by Scott Johnson and Keith Dunlap several days later. While the colony is a small one (approximately 200 bats), it is significant because it is the only known hibernacula in Orange County and the Lost River area.
- The DNR Non-game Section is conducting a population survey of the Eastern Woodrat, a State Endangered Species. Known only to exist in Harrison and Crawford County, primarily along the Ohio River. Their habitat includes rocky cliff faces and some caves. Our request for known sites yielded seven potential cave sites suggested by Dave Black. At least two of the sites (Potato Run Cave and P.P. Pot) checked are still active. The rats builds a very distinctive nests of shredded sticks and leaves. Undeserving of their stereotyped image, these rats are very clean with beautiful grayish-brown upper fur and soft white bellies.
- Our general information/membership brochure has finally been updated. While only minor revisions were made to the text contents and photos, the tri-folded pamphlet was re-typeset giving it a more professional look. Our attractive new logo (designed by Tom Nugent) was also added.



- ❑ The IKC participated in three different Earth Day events this year, displaying our portable exhibit and related posters. While the attention is often just the curiosity of caves, it is always rewarding when someone stops and asks questions about groundwater pollution in karst areas, or a parent teaches their children about bats or blind cave fish. Brochures about the IKC, NSS, ACCA, BCI, and the CIG are distributed to those interested. Volunteers this year included Tom Rea, Jim Adams, Eric Higbie, and Keith Dunlap at Salem; Jane Miller, Keith Dunlap, Bruce Bowman, and Kevin Strunk at Indianapolis; and Lynn Miller at Noblesville.
- ❑ During the NSS Convention, the IKC will be sponsoring the recycling "center" at the campground. A local recycler is handling most of the effort by supplying the recycling bins and transporting the collected materials. The main responsibilities for the IKC are to promote the recycling (fliers to be included in the attendee's packet) and to "maintain" the area around the bins during the week. Current plans are to collect beverage cans, steel (tin) food cans, #1 plastic (2 liter soda bottles), #2 plastic (milk and OJ jugs), and glass (clear, green, and brown). Contact Keith Dunlap for more details.
- ❑ The IKC also needs one or two volunteers during Convention to work consignment sales (two to four hours total). We will be selling our remaining copies of Blatchley's reprint as an IKC fund raiser. We will also be promoting the IDNR's cave habitat poster, asking for a \$2 donation per poster with proceeds going to the Indiana non-game fund. Please contact Keith Dunlap if you can help.

- ❑ On a related topic, in the last *Update* it was mentioned that our poster distribution resulted in several members displaying their posters in schools. Director Bill Tozer reports that he placed his on a hallway bulletin board in Pendleton High School. Then as part of an environmental science class lesson, the students studied the posters, with topics of discussion including karst hydrology, groundwater pollution, cave habitat adaptation, and endangered species.



Photo by Bill Tozer.

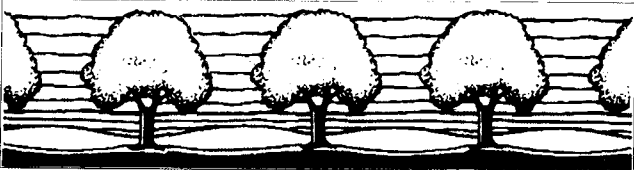
- ❑ The 19th Annual National Natural Areas Conference is being held this year in Bloomington Indiana, October 27-30th. The Conference "provides an opportunity for biologists, ecologists, natural resource managers, naturalists, and volunteers to come together and exchange ideas on protecting, preserving, and managing rare species and significant habitats. Participants will have a chance to interact with others through presented papers, posters, field trips, and workshops." Horton Hobbs III is organizing an entire session on caves and has lined up some excellent presenters on the topic. A more detailed article will be included in the next *Update*, but pre-registration is suggested as attendance is being limited to the first five hundred. For more information write to NAC Registration, IU Conference Bureau, IMU Room 677, Bloomington, IN 47405.

- If you are an NSS member and you have not already read the article in the May 1992 *NSS News* entitled "Caves in Magazines, Caves on Television: Mass Publicity and the Growth of Caving", it is strongly encouraged that you do so. This extensive commentary by John Ganter discusses the positive and negative aspects of publicizing caves and caving, be it for entertainment or educational purposes. While not everyone will agree with his observations, opinions, and conclusions, the article definitely serves up food for thought.
- No news to report out of Washington on the Federal Resource Protection Act since the comment period deadline. The FCRPA appears to have fallen into a black hole - perhaps the world's largest cave (is this why there are so many DC-based cavers?).
- The IKC would like to welcome five new members: Troy Dunnavant, Mark Laing, Joe Norris, Mitchell Norris, and the Central Ohio Grotto.

INDIANA GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE

Governor Evan Bayh has scheduled his first conference on Indiana's environment. It is to be held on June 27th in the Indiana Convention Center. Co-sponsors include the IDEM, IDNR, the Indiana Recycling Coalition, and the Environmental Education Association of Indiana.

INDIANA GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE



—E N V I R O N M E N T—

June 27, 1992

Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis

Featuring: Governor Evan Bayh; Denis Hayes, Earth Day and Green Seal; and W. William Weeks, The Nature Conservancy

Wetlands • Recycling • Public Lands and Waters • Pollution Prevention • Out-of State Trash • Energy Conservation • Land Acquisition

For more information call: 317/232-8863
Sponsored by: Office of the Governor, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana Recycling Coalition, and Environmental Educational Association of Indiana

"This historic conference will bring together hundreds of people who can, and will, make a positive difference in our environment," Bayh said. "It's an opportunity for concerned citizens, business leaders, public officials, and national experts to share knowledge about how to protect our resources and preserve our Hoosier heritage."

The one-day conference, from 8 AM to 5:15 PM, will include national, state, and local environmental leaders. Featured speakers will include Denise Hayes (President of Green Seal), Williams Weeks (CEO of The Nature Conservancy), Phil Sharp (US Representative), and Richard Denison (Environmental Defense Fund).

The conference will have nine break-out sessions on topics including industrial pollution prevention, public water access and protection, out-of-state waste, eco-system approaches to land management, energy conservation and policy, wetlands protection, municipal waste reduction and recycling, and public land acquisition.

Registration is \$30, including lunch.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD SHOTS

by James Adams

The IKC is putting the finishing touches on a slide show about caves, karst and conservation. We still have a few holes in our slide tray, but you may be able to plug them.

The rewards are small, only the satisfaction of possibly seeing your work in the show for a fleeting moment. Here's what we're looking for:

- ☞ A BIG PIT. . .maybe Jug Hole. We need a caver or two in the shot to show scale but we'd prefer the people not be "on rope".
- ☞ A dark or MYSTERIOUS PASSAGE. Perhaps a caver poking his head around a bend in a crawlway. We're asking the question, "What's next?"
- ☞ A DEAD END passage. A caver looking at a mud fill or a breakdown choke might "fill the bill". This could answer the question "What's next."
- ☞ A SURVEY TEAM in action. A close up of each instrument would be nice.
- ☞ ROAD CONSTRUCTION, preferably in a karst area. . .any shots of work on State Road 37 between Bloomington and Bedford? The heavier the equipment, the better.
- ☞ BROKEN FORMATIONS. This is something we generally wouldn't want to photograph. A caver with a sad or angry look might be nice.
- ☞ An obvious COMMERCIAL CAVE. . .perhaps a tour guide and a small group around a formation. There is a bonus for hand rails and/or colored lights.

That's our wish list. Can you help?

Of course, we'd like to feature only Indiana scenes in the show and we want your original work. Please don't suggest a copy shot out of a brochure or something used in someone else's show that we can't secure permission to use.

If you think you have something that we could use, please contact Jim Adams at 251-7743 or via the NSS BBS.

Thanks and good shooting!

BOTTOMLESS PIT - TAX DOLLARS THROWN INTO LOST RIVER SINKHOLES

Congressman Frank McCloskey has requested \$400,000 for a flood control study on the Lost River Watershed by the US Army Corps of Engineers. This study was prompted by the Orange County drainage

Board's proposal to revive the old Lost River Watershed dams defeated by landowners and conservationists in the 1970's. It is unclear why taxpayers should spend all this money to re-visit an old proposal, since the Soil Conservation Service produced an unfavorable EIS in 1976.

You may recall that McCloskey several years ago spent \$500,000 on the "Southwest Indiana Highway Study" that concluded the highway was not economically feasible. However,

this report has been totally ignored and has not stopped the progress of this billion dollar project. If you are tired of seeing your money wasted on senseless studies and other porkbarrel projects, call McCloskey's office (202-255-4636) and voice your opposition. Or better yet, write him at 116 Cannon House, Washington, DC 20515.

[Adapted from the *Protect Our Woods Newsletter*, Spring 1992.]

A NEW FENCE FOR MRS. WELLS

by James Adams & Bruce Bowman

What do you do when a landowner's fence gets trampled and trash starts to collect in one of your favorite caves?

Sounds like a job for the IKC!

For several weeks, Bill Tozer and Larry Reece had been talking with the landowner of Wells Cave in Valeene, Indiana about some of her concerns regarding the cave and the condition of the fence around her property.

Cavers have been visiting her cave for years, but recently her fence had started to show the wear-and-tear of cavers crossing into her fields. She had also received reports that trash was accumulating in and around the cave, that there was new graffiti on the walls of the cave, and that some of the formations had recently been vandalized. Cavers had also been neglecting to ask permission to visit the cave.

It was clear from Bill and Larry's conversations that something would have to be done or Wells Cave would be a closed cave.

They started with a preliminary trip into the cave to cleanup trash and locate the areas with the worst "art work". Fortunately, the trash and spray paint were minimal.

The fence, however, would need to be repaired. Bill and Larry put together a plan for building a stile over the fence which would give cavers easy access to the property and also protect the fence. The posting of "No Trespassing" signs was also discussed along with further trash and graffiti removal from the cave. Mrs. Wells approved what Bill and Larry had in mind.

At the March 21st IKC meeting, plans for an "official", IKC-sponsored project were announced to the membership. The following Saturday, Bill Tozer and Larry Reece returned to Orange County along with Jim Adams, Bruce Bowman, and Tom Rea.

Repair of the fence progressed quickly with Larry and Bruce adding new wire where the fence had been broken. Jim stood ready with the wire cutters.



Bill and Tom laid out the lumber for the stile and after a couple of holes were sunk into the ground, Tom went to work with a hand brace and auger bit, drilling holes for the 8-inch long bolts which would hold the stile together.

Meanwhile, Jim and Bruce finished putting up two new metal fence posts nearby. Bill started cutting small pieces of treated lumber for spacers between the rungs of the stile while Larry decided to try his hand at a portable electric drill.

Assembling the stile proved to be more work than expected. Fortunately, Larry had remembered to

bring along two clamps and with everyone taking turns holding the steps in place, the new stile was finished and ready to be tested.

We then put away the carpentry tools and gathered up our caving tools. With wire brushes, a couple of small trash sacks and at least two cameras in hand, we tested the stile and found that it did its job quite well.

The entrance is an easy 17-foot chimney directly to the main passage, which is quite free of side passages throughout its length. Despite the comments to Mrs. Wells, the cave was remarkably free of debris; (partially attributable to the continued diligence of Larry and Bill). As we continued, Bill remarked that he was mainly looking for some orange paint on the walls he had heard about. Sure enough, we did find a little paint; primarily arrows on the ceiling. As these were removed, we discussed why someone would see the need to mark the route when the passage didn't even have a branch there: Maybe we should've brought in a ball of string to unroll so we wouldn't get lost.... It would be difficult to imagine a cave that would be easier to find your way out of. Fortunately, most of the paint fell on enough dirt and mud that wire brushing and a little brown-washing proved very effective. We did find a few small spent carbide dumps, which were promptly removed as best we could. There were also some formations that appeared freshly broken, although most of them looked to be old mud-anchored stalagmites. There certainly wasn't the kind of carnage that Mrs. Wells had been told; and, after our efforts were complete, the cave was looking pretty good.

Once we were out of the cave and changed into more respectable clothing, Bill paid a courtesy call on Mrs. Wells to report on our activity. She seemed pleased with the stile and was relieved to hear that the trash wasn't as bad as she thought it originally would be. She remains concerned, however, about people going into the cave without first asking permission. Bill promised to return soon to monitor the cave and install signs if needed.

COON CAVE CLEANUP - AUGUST 29th

The IKC will be sponsoring its 7th annual cleanup into Coon Cave on Saturday, August 29th. As in past years, our main activity will be graffiti removal and/or mud-washing, and of course, having fun.

Coon Cave is approximately 1200 feet long, but has multiple levels which make the cave seem much bigger. There are numerous climbable pits and breakdown crawls, possibly even virgin passage for the more determined. The entrance is a 22 foot pit which will have a cable-ladder rigged for belayed entry (no experience is required). Some may wish to do the entrance "on rope" with their own vertical gear.

Plans are to meet at the westside McDonald's by 9:30, or at the cave by 10 AM. The cave is easy and appropriate for novice and experienced cavers alike. **Everyone must wear a hardhat** and sign a waiver before entering. This will be the last opportunity to visit Coon until May 1st because of the bat hibernacula closure.

Anyone needing more information or directions, please contact Keith Dunlap.

NOTE: In previous years, this cleanup has been a two-day event with the second day devoted to Grotto Cave. Because of heavy caver schedules this year due to the NSS Convention in August, and because Grotto is in pretty good shape, it was decided to limit this year's trip to a single day and concentrate on Coon.

NEW VANDALISM DISCOVERED IN SUICIDE CAVE

by James Adams

On April 18, 1992, Eric Higbie and I entered Suicide Cave in Washington County. Central Indiana Grotto cavers have spent many hours over the past few months cleaning up Suicide for the 1992 NSS Convention (see "CIG Sweeps Suicide", *IKC Update*, September 1991, page 9). Our intent on this particular Saturday was to remove or cover-up some graffiti which had been seen on a previous trip near the back of the cave.

We had traveled less than 200 feet into the cave when Eric spotted some recent spray painted graffiti on two flat breakdown blocks in the main level of the cave.

The larger of the two blocks runs north/south and is approximately three feet high and ten feet long. This block had been painted in black spray paint in letters approximately one foot high. The name "Larry Myers" and the date "3.14.92" were clearly visible. Under this name were the initials "M.H.S.", presumably a local High School, perhaps Mitchell or Medora High School. Beside the first name was a second name "Jeff _____". The last name had been painted out.

The second breakdown block is at a ninety degree angle to the first and runs east/west. This block is also three feet high but not quite as long, perhaps only eight feet in length. The name "Randy Brannon" or perhaps "Randy Brannan" was visible.

INDIANA CAVE PROTECTION LAW

IC 35-43-1-3

A person who knowingly and without the express consent of the cave owner:

(1) disfigures, destroys, or removes any stalagmite, stalactite, or other naturally occurring mineral deposit or formation, or archeological or paleontological artifact in a cave, for other than scientific purposes;

(2) breaks any lock, gate, fence, or other structure designed to control or prevent access to a cave;

(3) deposits trash, rubbish, chemicals, or other litter in a cave; or

(4) destroys, injures, removes, or harasses any cave-dwelling animal for other than scientific purposes; commits a Class A misdemeanor.

I took photographs of the graffiti before Eric "brown washed" it using a mud slurry to cover the spray paint. This has become an accepted method of hiding graffiti in caves and it restores the cave walls (as best it can) to the natural color of the cave.

We then traveled about 100 feet further into the cave to the location where a register had been installed as part of an ongoing cave use study by the National Speleological Society. Each visitor to the cave is asked to "sign-in" and answer a few questions about him/herself. We found the PVC tube which contains the register broken open at one end. The register book and pencils were gone. Before leaving the cave, we removed the register container and returned it to Scott Fee who has been maintaining the project.

A full report and copies of the photos were turned over to both the landowner and to Ronnie Burns, an enthusiastic caver who also works for the Indiana State Police. Since several laws may have been violated by these youths who kindly left their calling card, prosecution seemed possible.

After some clever detective work, Ronnie Burns discovered that one of the "youths" was actually 19-years old and had attended Medora High School. The three are apparently good friends and often visit nearby caves together. Ronnie Burns also filled in the missing last name.

Charges were filed against the three for violating the Indiana Cave Protection Law. This will be the first time that the law has been tested in court.

The three should appear before a Washington County judge sometime this summer, possibly even during the week of the NSS convention.

On April 25, 1992, while on a cave suitability study trip for speleokids, Dave Haun installed a new register. Although several months of data were lost, the cave use study will continue in Suicide Cave.

Eric Higbie brown-washing
new graffiti in Suicide Cave.



Photo by James Adams.

UNDER-EARTH DAY III

by Keith Dunlap

The third mass assault on Sullivan Cave was completed on April 26th. Fifty-three cavers, representing seven grottos and four states participated. Emphasis by most cavers seemed to be in some of the lesser traveled areas, allowing new opportunities to find "virgin" trash. Wire brushing and mud-painting graffiti were also popular activities. Again this year, spring rains had elevated the stream level, thwarting plans for some to make a through-trip out the Speed Hollow exit.

The interest shown by organized cavers at Sullivan has gone a long way to improve the landowner relations. Compared to four years ago, when the cave was basically closed, Mrs. Stewart is pleased with the volunteers who are helping to reverse the past abuse.

Cavers this year included: Travis Alexander, Bruce Bowman, Chris Cahill, George Cesnik, Jeff Cody, Jaime Coffman, Scott Cumming, Mike Dowden, Keith Dunlap, Troy Dunnivant, Ben Dunwoody, Scott Engel, Allison English, Bill English, Scott Fee, Robin Fitch, Sam Frushour, Stephen Greenwood, Jim Hall, Grant Van Hamert, Lynne Hay, Colin Heimann, Don Heimann, Eric Higbie, Mike Hood, Jessica Hoave, Eric Jones, Louie Kitcoff, Jonathan Knott, L. Liebhaber, Mike Lonnis, Steve McKenzie, Rick Mikesell, Jane Miller, Anmar Mirza, Genevieve Mullins, Kristine Mullins, Larry Mullins, Joe Norris, Mitch Norris, Ernie Payne, Tom Rea, Jay Savage, Dave Seng, Robert Sergesketter, Mark Shepherd, Tom Sollman, N. Springer, Annette Summers, Tim Tomes, Richard Vernier, and Steve Weinzapfel.

Grottos represented (and the number of cavers primarily associated with them) include the Central Indiana Grotto (12), Evansville Metro Grotto (11), Mid-Hoosier Grotto (5), Windy City Grotto (5), Wittenberg Univ Speleological Society (5), Northern Indiana Grotto (3), and the Bloomington Indiana Grotto (3). Six other cavers were affiliated only with the IKC, and three cavers were guest of others.

Thanks again to all who participated.

INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY, INC.

Statement of Receipts, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance for the Quarter Ending 03/31/92

GENERAL FUND

RECEIPTS

DUES	428.75
DONATIONS	60.00
PUBLICATION SALES	63.00
INTEREST	0.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS	551.75
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	0.00

EXCESS TO FUND BALANCE	551.75
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FUND BALANCE 12/31/91	2144.51
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FUND BALANCE 03/31/92	2696.26
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HANCOCK PROPERTY

TOTAL RECEIPTS	0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	0.00

EXCESS TO FUND BALANCE	0.00
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FUND BALANCE 12/31/91	298.72
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FUND BALANCE 03/31/92	298.72
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TOTAL BALANCE - ALL FUNDS 03/31/92	2994.98
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Anti-graffiti drive erases ancient art

MONTAUBAN, France (AP) - The idea was to clean up graffiti, but a youth group in southwestern France got carried away and wiped out a bit of prehistory as well, damaging cave paintings 15,000 years old.

French cultural officials are furious, and say they plan to file a complaint against the group.

"Absolutely stupid!" fumed Rene Gachet, director of cultural affairs for the Tran-et Garonne department, 400 miles southwest of Paris.

The damage was done last Sunday when 70 members of Eclaireurs de France, a Protestant youth group, descended on the Mayrieres cave near the village of Brunquiel, armed with steel brushes to clean up graffiti.

Southwest France is dotted with hundred of caves containing paleolithic art, the most famous being the Lascaux caves in the Doorgogne region, discovered by school children in 1941.

Group officials acknowledged Saturday that the youths damaged a portion of the Mayrieres cave's 15,000-year-old bison paintings before realiz-

ing what they were. In a statement, they expressed regret but were also "indignant that the actions of well-meaning youths should be called into question."

The head of the club that arranged the cleanup blamed officials for failing to designate the site a historic treasure and act to protect it.

"We told them that the cave was in danger, that people were writing on the walls," Thierry Montheillet, whose spelunker group discovered the painting 40 years ago, said on France-Info radio. "They did absolutely nothing."

Accounts of the damage vary. Cultural officials said two paintings were severely damaged by vigorous brushing.

"On one bison, the hindquarters have practically disappeared, while on the other animal, there's nothing left but the tail and back legs," said Francois Rouzaud, a state archeologist.

Gachet said the Cultural Ministry will file a civil complaint against the spelunkers club and the youth group.

[Reprinted from the *Chicago Tribune*.]

Showing the Lost

Robert R. Armstrong loves to show people the Lost River.

If that sounds like a contradiction, just join him some Saturday down in Orange County.

Armstrong of Indianapolis is a guiding force in the Lost River Conservation Association. As such, he conducts tours of the Lost River valley, one of Indian's natural wonders.

Remaining tours this year are on June 6, Sept. 26, and Oct. 10, leaving from the town square in Orleans at 8 a.m., rain or shine.

The Lost River got its name because about a quarter of its 85-mile length is underground. The water disappears through a series of sinkholes so numerous that in one square mile, more than 1,000 have been counted. The stream is considered by fans like Armstrong to be one of the nation's rarest natural phenomena, and certainly unparalleled in Indiana.

Armstrong hopes that soon the river's entire karst, or pockmarked limestone region, will be protected.

[Reprinted from the *Indianapolis Star*.]

IKC ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, March 21, 1992

Indianapolis, Indiana

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

James Adams	Keith Dunlap
Glenn Lemasters	Jane Miller
Lynn Miller	Ernie Payne
Tom Rea	Eric Schmidt
Bill Tozer	

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jeff Cody

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 by Keith Dunlap.

The IKC Officer and Director elections were the first items on the agenda. Larry Reece cast the absentee ballots for absent teller, Scott Fee. The slate of Officers consisted of Keith Dunlap for President, James Adams for Secretary, and Jane Miller for Treasurer. The floor was open for nominations for each office. No nominations were offered and the above were elected by acclamation.

Membership size permitted the election of 4 new Directors. The following were slated on the ballot: Jeff Cody, Dave Haun, Larry Mullins, Ernie Payne, Tom Rea, and Bill Tozer. The floor was opened for nominations but no additional names were offered. The result of the elections were Jeff Cody, Ernie Payne, Tom Rea, and Bill Tozer.

Under Earth Day will be at Sullivan Cave on April 26. Contact Keith Dunlap or Bob Vandeventer.

The Earth Day Booth for Indianapolis is April 25. Jane Miller will be organizing our program. She is looking for help with the booth. We were invited to set up a booth at Noblesville on April 26. This conflicts with the Under Earth Day at Sullivan Cave. Any volunteers for Noblesville?

Our HEC membership is up for renewal. There was some discussion regarding the internal personnel problems.

MOTION: The IKC will renew our HEC membership. Eight for, zero against. **MOTION PASSED.**

Announcement of HNF ridgewalks on March 22 (IKC), April 5 (CIG), and May 9 (WCG).

The HNF Cave Management Workshop will be held on April 14 & 15 for members of the HNF staff. This is similar to the workshop held last year which was open to cavers.

The HNF Mapping & Cartography Workshop will be held on May 16 & 17 for cavers. Those wishing to learn mapping techniques are encouraged to attend.

The Lost River system is gaining support for its protection. Friends of the Lost River is working to provide some official recognition of its importance. After many years there is a some hope of success.

Jane Miller announced the Audubon Chapter Effectiveness Retreat. The Retreat helps organizations recruit and utilize volunteers. She suggested this would be good for IKC directors and members. The dates are March 27 & 29.

MOTION: The IKC will pay the \$30 registration for up to four IKC members. Seven for, zero against, one absent. **MOTION PASSED.**

continued...

1992 Convention: The FCRPA Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, August 6. Keith has been talking to a recycler from Salem in an effort to get him to collect at the convention site. Hopefully, he will recycle plastic and glass for the profit of the aluminum. The IKC will set up our display board at the convention. The display does not need anyone on duty. Keith proposed selling our extra copies of the Blatchley Reprints at the convention.

The past IKC projects included the Blatchley Reprints and Posters. Both have been well received and appreciated by the membership. If anyone has ideas for a future project, see Keith.

Cave Patrons are needed for Grotto, Coon, Shiloh, and Shaft caves. Jeff Cody will be the patron for Shaft. Serena Smith is the patron for Wayne Cave. James Adams volunteered to be the patron for Shiloh. Keith Dunlap has been patron for Grotto and Coon Caves.

Cave Status: The Freeman Cave status has not changed. Keith and Kevin Strunk are still trying to arrange a meeting with the owner.

Salamander Cave is at a standstill until the problem of parking can be solved. The Hancock Property is not open for the purpose of crossing the land to get to Salamander. The owner of Salamander has given permission for some work on the cave, however there is no parking on the property.

The Shiloh Cave owner (Church entrance) feels the cave is protected by the gate at this time. He doesn't see the need to work with the IKC. Lynn Miller has offered our help should he have problems with the gate in the future. Perhaps at sometime he will allow us to help with the protection. There was some discussion of possible access through the other entrance. However this entrance is gated with no door at the present.

Wayne Cave has a new owner. Keith contacted him and he is willing to allow us to continue our program with the cave. At present, the cave will continue to be protected.

The owner of Well's Cave is concerned about people going into the cave without permission. She is also concerned about damage to the cave with trash and broken formations. Larry Reece and Bill Tozer talked to her in an effort to keep the cave open. The IKC has authorized money to repair the fence and build a ladder over the fence. From the discussions, it appears the cave will stay open to responsible cavers who ask permission. If the cave is vandalized, she will physically close it.

A landowner near Buckner Cave is upset with the traffic and made some complaints. Please be considerate of the landowner situation in the near vicinity of the Buckner property.

The next meeting is tentatively set for June 13, 7:00 pm in the IU Geology Building, Bloomington. This may be tied into a work session at the Hancock property. Check The Update for details.

Open issues: The question of Cave Preserves was brought up for some clarification. This concept is being developed by the Division of Nature Preserves and Division of Forestry. The intent is 1) To keep caves open to experienced cavers, 2) To establish a registration process 3) To protect endangered species (gating as a last resort), 4) to bring IKC in as a management partner (consultant). The program has not been publicized as the concept is in the formative stages.

The Treasurer (Jane Miller) reminds all that Dues are Due...

Keith suggested that those interested might find a local restaurant for lunch. (Which was done.)

The entire group expressed our appreciation to James Adams for arranging the fine meeting facility.

Meeting adjourned at 12:22

Respectively submitted,

William Tozer, Retiring Secretary



Sharpe Spring origins remain a mystery

The Wyandotte Valley is surrounded by many forested hills that produce converging dry stream beds heading toward Blue River. Occasionally a heavy rain will wet the beds with a few inches of water and it either sinks in the gravelly sand or finds its way to deeper sinks or springs. Blue River gets its blue-green color because of the hundreds of springs that help fill it. But there is a spring in the valley that flows non-stop throughout the year from unknown origins. It is called Wyandotte Spring, but is more commonly known as Sharp's or Sharpe Spring.

Sharpe Spring soon feeds into dry Sharpe's Creek and then the Wyandotte Lake and finally Blue River. Almost as mysterious as the spring itself is the origins of the old settlement by the spring. Named for Sharp (Sharpe) families it is believed that many of the former large structures were built about 1813 with slave labor. Was the settlement somehow connected to the large caves on the hill and mining of saltpeter for the War of 1812?

Sharpe Spring is dwarfed by Harrison Spring near White Cloud, but nonetheless one of only a handful of large permanent springs in Indiana remaining in a reasonably natural condition. Water

flows average about two cubic feet per second as it arises from the base of a limestone bluff. A few explorers have tried to penetrate the dangerous spring in search of a larger cave system with only limited success. Experienced scuba divers in 1962 1976 and 1977 have pushed past three death-defying sumps and tight squeezes that would barely accept the smallest man or necessary equipment.

In 1952 when Wyandotte Lake was constructed at the lower end of the spring by private landowners for fee paying fishermen, dozers were instructed by Frank Rothrock and others to plow away at the mouth of the spring in hopes of finding a large cave. The damage has started to heal by regrowth of moss and lichens, but the resulting steep cliff of 350 million year old fragile limestone being exposed to freeze-thaw cycles has made exploration more dangerous and difficult. The cliff face is still covered by large loose boulders waiting to fall. State regulations prohibit rock climbing and cave exploring without permission.

Local grottoes have mapped 850 feet of submerged cave. Dyes put into caves to the north have surfaced at the spring. There could be a large cave system hidden deep in the hillside, but cave explorers

say it is impossible to get past rock boulders and solid rock walls in the spring. Perhaps one day the mystery of the origin of Sharpe Spring will be solved.

There are several way to get to the spring. The easiest way is to park at Wyandotte Lake and hike the Buckeye Trail to the cedar bridges over the spring and turn right to the base of the hill. There is a new pine log cabin near the spring for overnight hikers on the 25-mile adventure trail. Hikers can take the trail from near the old Breeden Bridge east of Leavenworth or can head west on the trail off Wyandotte Cave Road one mile from its State Road 62 junction. Caution: do not drink any spring water before testing or treating it.

[Reprinted from *The Clarion*]



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

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

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

\$ _____ donation to the general IKC fund.

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

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

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

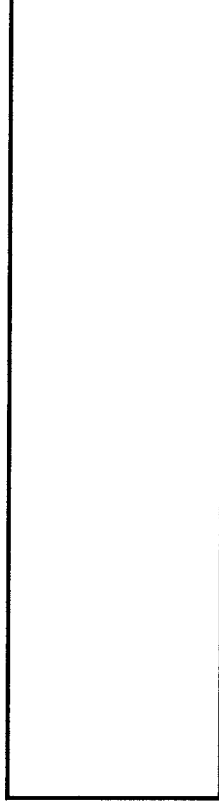
CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE # _____

Make checks payable to the Indiana Karst Conservancy, Inc. and mail to the IKC Treasurer, c/o Indiana Karst Conservancy, PO Box 2401, Indianapolis, IN 46206-2401. The IKC is an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with membership dues and donations fully tax deductible. A canceled check is considered an acceptable receipt, but if you wish a separate receipt, please check here .

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