IKC Update

Number 27

DECEMBER 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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President Keith Dunlap . (1993) (317) 242-2505(W)/(317) 882-5420(H)
Secretary James Adams (1993)(317) 263-1611(W)/(317) 251-7743(H)
Treasurer Jane Miller (1993) (317) 784-3724(H)
Director Jeff Cody (1994) (317) 882-1414(W)/(317) 888-9898(H)
Director Glenn Lemasters (1993) (317) 786-8433(H)
Director Lynn Miller (1993) (317) 784-3724(H)
Director Ernie Payne (1994) (812) 424-4473(W)/(812) 477-7043(H)
Director Tom Rea (1994) (317) 745-4115(H)
Director Eric Schmidt (1993) (317) 745-6739(H)
Director Bill Tozer (1994) (317) 778-3259(H)
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
Cave Management & Landowner Relations/ Keith Dunlap (317) 882-5420
Membership/ James Adams (317) 251-7743
Publications/ Keith Dunlap (317) 882-5420
Environmental Concerns, HEC Liaison/ Lynn Miller (317) 784-3724
Hoosier Forests Project/ Kevin Komisarcik (812) 339-2394
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
Coon Cave/ Keith Dunlap (317) 882-5420
Grotto Cave/ Keith Dunlap (317) 882-5420
Shaft Cave/ Jeff Cody
Shiloh Cave/ James Adams (317) 251-7743
Wayne's Cave/ Serena Smith (812) 339-2394
Woodard Cave (TN)/ NIG - contact Leslie Cunningham (219) 327-3259
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * GROTTOS/LIAISONS * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
Bloomington Indiana Grotto/ Anmar Mirza (812) 339-1506
Central Indiana Grotto/ Keith Dunlap (317) 882-5420
Eastern Indiana Grotto/ Brian Leavell (317) 552-7619
Evansville Metropolitan Grotto/ Ernie Payne (812) 477-7043
Mid-Hoosier Grotto/ Jeff Cody (317) 882-1414
Northern Indiana Grotto/ Leslie Cunningham (219) 327-3259
Windy City Grotto/ Jay Savage (708) 885-1165

Cover - Cave Cricket (*Ceuthophilus stygius*) by Indiana artist and caver Christine Gerace, copyrighted 1980. Used with her permission.

Myotis Press

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

QUARTERLY MEETING REMINDER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5th, 7:00 PM

BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA 1U 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; SR 37 4-laning project status; cave management signs; Ray's Cave; Wayne's Cave cleanup; Non-game donation; Membership/donation solicitation letter; and more...

Meeting directions: The Geology Building is located at 10th and Walnut Grove. Tenth Street runs east / west and is one of the major streets that 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-

05 DEC = IKC QUARTERLY MEETING, Bloomington (see above)

06 DEC = ANNUAL WAYNE'S CLEANUP TRIP, Bloomington (see page 14)

14 DEC = INDIANA CAVE SURVEY MEETING, Bloomington (contact Scott Fee)

19-20 DEC = HNF KARST FALL RENDEZVOUS, Springs Valley Lake (see page 9)

09-10 JAN = MARENGO CAVE RESTORATION WEEKEND (contact Gary Roberson,

PO Box 217, Marengo, IN 47140; 812-365-2058)

23-30 OCT = NATIONAL CAVE MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM, Carlsbad, NM (see page 9)

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 and caving community informed of IKC activities and other news related to cave/karst conservation. Submission of original or reprinted articles for publication is encouraged. Materials should be forwarded to the *IKC Update*, PO Box 2401, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

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RAMBLINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT ...

This issue's ramblings could be entitled "INDOT's Saga, Part III" as I plan to update the membership on recent activities related to the IKC's "disagreement" with the Indiana Department of Transportation and their SR 37 widening project south of Bedford in Lawrence County.

To briefly recap the events over the past six months, INDOT ignored advice from the USFWS, IDNR, and others by designing the road drainage to directly funnel into sinkholes in an area known to be a habitat for Northern cavefish, a state listed endangered species. After INDOT was notified of the "errors of their ways," they continued anyway, hoping to pacify the objectors by proposing questionable filter traps on the drain inlets. Because USFWS does not have direct jurisdiction and IDNR is restricted politically from enforcing the state law, a coalition involving the IKC, the Hoosier Environmental Council, Protect Our Woods, and Bob Armstrong (co-owner of Bluesprings Caverns) filed a citizen's suit under Indiana Code 13-6 on July 23.

On October 14, representatives from the coalition met with IDNR and INDOT to review the proposed recommendations to be made to the Natural Resource Commission, the "ultimate authority" in this matter. After reviewing the proposal, the coalition expressed concerns that the recommendations did not address the concerns of the suit adequately.

On October 21, the IDNR presented their revised recommendations at the public hearing in front of the NRC. While IDNR had addressed some of the concerns discussed at the October 14th meeting, the recommendation still did not require INDOT to correct the problems even though IDNR concluded that INDOT had indeed violated the state Endangered Species Act. Numerous people, including Scott Pruitt from the USFWS, spoke on behalf of the coalition. But as expected, the NRC accepted the IDNR's recommendation as presented.

On November 5th, the coalition filed an appeal of the NRC's decision, allowing concerns to be argued and expert witnesses to be called in front of an administrative

judge who will make a Recommended Order to be presented back to the NRC for a final ruling. Prior to the actual administrative hearing though, a prehearing conference will be held to provide another opportunity for both sides to get together and settle the dispute. This conference has been set for December 11th.

Thus far all this legal maneuvering is working completely within the "system" set up for just such a situation and costs have been minimal. If we do have to proceed to the point of a civil suit after all the administrative avenues have been exhausted, the coalition is in good shape to fund such a battle. The IKC, CIG, and NIG have all pledged funds. Also the NSS and HEC have recently established "legal defense funds" that could be used. There are also a number of environmental attorneys who might take the case pro bono.

It is too early to tell what the ultimate outcome from this will be. However, we have already made significant gains on several fronts. First, INDOT has been sensitized to the problem and appears willing to seek assistance from experts on future projects in karst areas rather than designing road systems on their own without regards for the environmental impacts (INDOT has agreed to delay construction on the next section of SR 37 until it can figure out how to reduce their impact - see new article on page 5). Second, INDOT is being forced to pay more than just lip service to IDNR, whose input previously was often ignored. Finally, the negative publicity from this mess (and other INDOT projects) has gained the attention of Governor Bayh to the point that at the HEC Congress he announced the reorganization of INDOT's Environmental Section (see page 15).

Unfortunately, the one thing we haven't gotten is a written commitment from INDOT to correct the deficiencies on the current project which is jeopardizing the cavefish. They have said they would review the design, but seem reluctant to have it critiqued by an expert or change completed work.

State agency draws fire for road work that violates endangered species act

by Kyle Niederpruem

The Indiana Department of Transportation violated the state's endangered species act by expanding Ind. 37, potentially damaging the habitat of the nation's largest population of blind cavefish.

Indiana Department of Natural Resources staff reported Wednesday that the highway construction expanding lanes between Mitchell and Bedford is a "taking" of a state endangered species. In this instance, officials define taking as "habitat degradation."

Three blind cavefish discovered in Lawrence County sinkholes earlier this summer abruptly halted the \$10.2 million project until the small fish were relocated.

The Hoosier Environmental Council, the Indiana Karst Conservancy, and Protect Our Woods filed a notice of intent to sue the state transportation department for failing to protect the species.

On Wednesday, the Natural Resource Commission unanimously accepted the written response to that threat, reporting that highway construction "did result in a significant amount of sediment washing into the sinkholes and created direct conduit for contaminants to enter the karst (cave) system."

"It obviously isn't pleasant to be at the end of criticism by another agency," said Larry Reuben, the transportation department's general counsel. "We're not overjoyed about it or think we did anything onerous." Environmentalists, using a state law allowing citizen lawsuits to be filed for the "taking" of an endangered species, contend that drainage of metals, oils, and salt into the 16 or more sinkholes along the project's path could wipe out one of the nation's largest populations of cavefish, numbering several thousands.

Tim Maloney, representing the environmental council, said the action by the commission still does not preclude a lawsuit. He said the groups have 15 days to decide whether to file an administrative appeal to the response before filing litigation.

"This is still an experiment on cavefish," he said of the Ind. 37 project after the commission meeting. The northern blind cavefish has been on the state's protected list since 1987.

Maloney's group has asked the commission to consider recommending other protective measures: a biological inventory of the cave systems; banning the use of road salt on sections of Ind. 37; and hydrological studies of the cave systems, using tracing dyes, so emergency plans could be drafted in the event of a significant highway spill.

These were matters, commission members felt, that could be better addressed in a memo of understanding between the transportation, natural resources, and US Fish and Wildlife agencies. Those negotiations are ongoing to establish certain guidelines before building or expanding highways in southern Indiana where cave systems are prevalent.

But Reuben said the memo of understanding could not address specific needs of individual projects.

"These documents have to have a degree of latitude. That's what makes it difficult to say it's a binding contract," he said later. Highway officials, in the meantime, have suspended construction bids on other southern Indiana projects until next spring.

But Maloney, and several others who testified Wednesday, worried that enough safeguards aren't in place now to measure the potential damage to the cavefish, which live as long as 20 years and have somewhat erratic reproductive cycles.

"There is every incentive to do the right thing," said Kathy Davis, the transportation department's deputy commissioner for development. As an example, she said her department is already investigating environmentally sound deicers that can be used to thaw roadway ice.

"We didn't have the best plan we could have," she said of the controversial construction. "We learned a lot from this process... We recognize we've got to do it right."

Gary D. Doxtater, deputy director of the department of natural resources, said the document accepted Wednesday will also force transportation officials to take immediate remedial action if current sinkhole protections are found to be inadequate.

Reprinted from the Indianapolis Star, October 22, 1992

IKC EXECUTIVE BOARD NOMINATIONS

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

INDOT cancels hearing

by Mary G. Johnson

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) has canceled its Nov. 17 public hearing at Mitchell on the lower leg of the Ind. 37 four-lane project.

Don Shields, INDOT hearing officer, said complete environmental information will not be available in time to hold the public hearing Nov. 17.

"As many people down there are no doubt aware the Indiana Department of Natural Resources is concerned about sinkholes in the area. Our environmental people are currently working with the Department of Natural Resources to work through these problems. I discussed it with our engineers. They said by Nov. 17 we would not have the full information on how we are going to proceed with mitigating the sinkholes," said Shields.

Less than a week ago the Natural Resources Commission ruled INDOT had violated the state endangered species law over the way it is handling drainage into sinkholes along the corridor of the highway. Blind fish, a state endangered species, were discovered in one of the sinks in May.

But that's not why the Mitchell hearing was canceled Shields said.

When he announced the Mitchell hearing, Shields believed full environmental information would be available by Nov. 17, but has since learned all the information will not be available by then.

"Hopefully we should have it in December or early next year. We determined there was no reason to hold a public hearing when the full information wasn't available to the public. We want to be able to present to the people of Mitchell a complete plan on how we intend to handle the sinkhole problem," said Shields.

The hearing will be rescheduled within one month of the time all environmental information is available, he said.

INDOT has hired an out-ofstate firm, Ozark Underground [Laboratories], to study extending Ind. 145 through Orange County. "We hired a specialist in karst topography who will be studying the area we are looking at for placing the road," said Shields. The Ind. 45 extension through Orange County is not expected to be ready for construction until 1998.

As for the Ind. 37 project, local people may not have to wait until the Mitchell public hearing is rescheduled to hear Shields talk about the road project.

He is attempting to schedule a speaking meeting with the Ind. 37/145 Association. Shields hopes to address the group either in November or December.

In the meantime, environmental groups held a press conference in Evansville over the proposed Evansville-to-Washington, Ind. leg of Interstate 69, the Evansville-to-Indianapolis highway.

Two of the groups taking part in Monday's press conference—the Hoosier Environmental Council and Protect Our Woods—earlier notified INDOT they will sue the state over violating the state endangered species act on Ind. 37 four-lane project in Lawrence County. They don't feel INDOT has taken proper steps to safeguard the underground ecology.

The Evansville press conference came less than a week after Indiana Governor Bayh and Congressman Frank McCloskey, DSmithville, held a press conference in Evansville to announce construction on the new Evansville-to-Indianapolis highway would begin in Evansville.

Responding to recent developments, Bedford Businessman Al Walker, who is chairman of the Ind. 37/145 Association, said "This makes you just a little bit paranoid. And when you read some organizations fighting this (Ind. 37) are also fighting the Interstate 69 highway between Bloomington and Newberry and now between Evansville and Washington, my conclusion is they aren't just picking on us. They are apparently opposed to any new highway construction and, in fact, have said the only thing that should be done is to improve existing highways. Can you both build highways and protect the environment? That's the question. We believe there is a compromise."

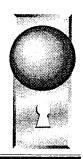
[Reprinted from the Bedford Times-Mail , October 27, 1992]

Tony Rainbolt mud painting in Coon Cave during the annual workday.



photo by Larry Reece

Behind Closed Doors



State DOT chief gets cavernous honor

The commissioner of the Indiana Department of Transportation has been awarded a dubious bonor

And it's all about a cave, er, lack of a cave, er, no cave.

In a recent update published by the Indiana Karst Conservancy, John J. Dillon's moniker was borrowed for -- Dillon's Dozer Cave (No More).

At issue: continuing debate about the state's treatment of delicate karst (caves, underground streams, etc.) topography as Ind. 37 is widened in Lawrence County.

As the Conservancy tells it, the state DOT blasted into a small cave due east of Bluesprings Cav-

No life forms were found, unlike previous run-ins with the endangered blind cavefish discovered along the same route.

Karst Conservancy President Keith Dunlap wrote to his members that the underground area -about 10 feet long, two feet wide, and five feet high -- would be filled in.

"It was only fitting to name the former cave in honor of Indiana Department of Transportation's Commissioner John J. Dillon," Dunlap wrote.

Good news follows bad news, naturally

Barely a day after the state was hit with the bad news that it violated the endangered species act, the state churned out three press releases touting THREE -count 'em THREE -- different environmental initiatives.

The bad new came Wednes-day.

In response to the threat of a lawsuit, the Natural Resource Commission approved a written response indicating highway officials had degradated the habitat of the Northern blind cavefish in southern Indiana.

The tiny, eyeless, white fish living in underground cave systems are believed to represent the nation's largest population.

Transportation Commissioner John J. Dillon personally contacted an *Indianapolis Star* reporter Wednesday shortly before deadline to say there was good news coming from his department -- a statewide litter cleanup program.

The timing of it, he said, was strictly coincidental and not meant to offset the bad news that his department was a scofflaw.

Dillon usually relies on his department media flacks to make such calls, or churn out press releases.

The above two articles appeared in the Sunday *Indianapolis Star*'s political gossip column. The first appeared on September 20th, the second on October 25th. Both were probably effective in embarrassing INDOT, Commissioner Dillon, and Gov. Bayh over their irresponsible environmental actions on the SR 37 four-laning project (and other lesser publicized highway construction projects in the past).

OTHER CLIPPINGS...

Flood study needs OK from Bush

A request by Rep. Frank Mc-Closkey for \$200,000 to do a comprehensive study of flooding in Orange County is on its way to the White House where President Bush is expected to sign it.

If Bush says yes, the US Army Corps of Engineers will review the earlier Orange County 2000 flood study and do its own countywide flood study...

Earlier this year the corps discussed preliminary findings of a pre-reconnaissance study it had done on flooding in Orleans and review of the proposed multipurpose structure at Prospect which was proposed in the Orange County 2000 study.

The Army engineers determined what needs to be done far exceeds their \$5 million limit. Estimates of cost were reaching \$18 million, Divine said...

Looking at the problem countywide is the only way to find a solution, Divine believes. "It is all interrelated. They learned in the Orleans study anything you do there affects downstream. It is not cost-effective to do something to Orleans alone. It needs to be tied together countywide"....

The study will will evaluate any flood control options to ensure the unique ecosysten and karst topography of the area will not be harmed, McCloskey said.

All but one of the 66 would be dry-drain structures. That means they would hold back the water, then release all of it slowly. The one exception was a multi-purpose structure at Prospect that would be used for flood control, water supply, and recreations.

[Excerpted from the Bedford Times-Mail, September 28, 1992]

[Editor's note: Another example of Porkbarrel spending at its best. This proposal has been studied numerous times over the past 30 years with the same conclusions... flood control won't work in this karst area and the proposal is not cost effective. The argument for this misguided project literally won't hold water.]

NEWS BRIEFS...

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Nature Preserves, recently received as a gift a ten acre tract around Big Springs in Washington County. This class sic karst feature, approximately five miles south of Salem, is speculated to be the resurgence of a significant cave system which has thus far eluded explorers. Surrounded by nice old-growth woods, this picturesque dedicated preserve will remain essentially "unimproved". Exact plans for the property will be developed over the next year and reported in the <i>Update</i> when available.
The Department of Natural Resources literally inherited a significant cave in Greene County. The deceased owner of Ashcraft Cave willed several hundred acres to the DNR His family contested the will, and after some legal maneuvering, a compromise was struck, with the DNR ending up with the cave and a couple of acres surrounding its entrance (for some reason the family didn't want the cave!). A biological inventory will be conducted in the cave prior to deciding what management plans will be appropriate The 6000+ foot cave is typical for Greene County, formed in beechcreek limestone with level stream passages of constant cross section.
Because of heavier than normal traffic this past year and a couple of recent incidents the owner of Sullivan Cave has temporarily "closed" the cave until after the holiday season. Please respect her wishes and do not request to visit. Direct any questions you may have to Bob Vandeventer at (317) 888-4501.
The IKC has also been notified of an access change at the popular Sloans Valley Cave System in Kentucky. The owners have closed the Garbage Pit entrance because of heavy vandalism and general uncontrolled use and abuse. In order to use one of the other entrances, you MUST make arrangements in advance with the owners and have a Miami Valley Grotto member on the trip.
In spite of physical evidence and a confession by one of the participants, the Monroe County Prosecutor would not prosecute the three offenders who trespassed in Grotte Cave in November of 1990. Their visit during the hibernacula closure also violated the state and federal Endangered Species Acts. The Prosecutor offered the three pre-trial diversions (basically an agreement to perform community service) despite significant past criminal records which should have excluded them from that option. To date, none of the restitution has yet been served (and probably none will be!).
IDNR non-game biologists Scott Johnson and Bob Madej have wrapped up their Eastern Woodrat (Neotoma floridana) study for the year. Populations appear to be down compared to a similar study done in 1980. The state-listed Woodrats are only found in Harrison and Crawford Counties, primarily on cliff faces along the Ohio River, although several have been documented using "inland" caves. Suspected cave sites, distinguishable by nests and pellet droppings, should be reported to Scott at (812) 334-1137.
The IDNR is also looking for new Indiana bat (Myotis sodalis) hibernacula to include in their biennial population census to be conducted this winter. This census helps monitor the status and health of this state and federally listed endangered species. The majority of new hibernacula documented in the last ten years have been turned in by organized cavers. Indiana bats are characteristically identified by their tight clustering on the ceiling, often in caves that tend to trap cold air (i.e., many have pit or steeply sloping entrances that funnel cold air into the caves). Suspected hibernacula should be reported to Keith Dunlap or Scott Johnson.
Another researcher doing work in Indiana caves is Dr. Julian Lewis of Louisville. Dr. Lewis obtained a small non-game grant to investigate and document the habitat range of a rare troglobitic small (Antroselates spiralias) known to exist only in a few caves. Dr.

Lewis has re-confirmed the snail's presence in Sibert's Well (Crawford County) and will be investigating other area caves that meet the criteria needed by this critter. A full report will be published when the investigation is complete. On a broader basis, Dr. Horton Hobbs III of Wittenberg University is working with the Hoosier National Forest to conduct a preliminary biological inventory of all the caves on the forest. This information will be used to document and serve as a baseline for monitoring long term biota population trends. To date, Dr. Hobbs has surveyed seven caves and will be doing more work over the Christmas break. Cavers participating in the HNF's KARST inventorying project and have expressed an interest in biology will be contacted to participate and assist Dr. Hobbs. Para-biologist cavers will be trained to follow up with monitoring, and to conduct scheduled inventorying tasks for specific objectives as they are developed. ☐ Finally, not to be out done by all the other biological work being done, caver Dave Black is putting together a database of caves that contain the Northern cavefish (Amblyopsis spelaea). Several cavers and the IDNR have partial lists, but no one has recently attempted to compile a complete list. This information will be useful in protecting this state listed endangered species' habitat. The information can also be used in the process to have the cavefish federally listed (currently being pursued by the IDNR). Anyone having knowledge of a cave with "blind fish" should contact Dave at (812) 951-3886 or PO Box 147, Georgetown, IN 47122. ☐ Nine cavers turned out for the Coon Cave cleanup on August 29th. Considerable mud washing was performed, primarily in the area of the lower level pits (see photo on page 5). Except for this area, the rest of the cave is in good shape and is remaining that way thanks to managed access. Participants included Keith Dunlap, Mike Hood, Eric Kott, Mike Lennis, Doug Mayes, Mike Mayes, Tony Rainbolt, Larry Reece, and Walt Serabian. ☐ Signs for Shaft Cave are being made for posting at the cave's entrance. The purpose of the signs are to warn visitors/trespassers who may not be aware that Shaft is a pit. The IKC is having 25 signs screened to have a good supply in anticipation of vandalism. Larry Mullins, coordinator of the HNF KARST program, is currently working out of the Brownstown District Office. Please direct your cave related questions pertaining to the HNF to him at (812) 358-2675, or c/o Brownstown Range District, 608 W. Commerce Street, Brownstown, IN. A special thanks should go to the Northern Indiana Grotto for a \$100 donation to help with our Citizen's Action Suit against INDOT. The Central Indiana Grotto has also pledged \$1000 should the need arise. Another special thanks should go to Gary Roberson and Gordon Smith, owners of Marengo Cave, for their donation of \$50 to the IKC. They should also be recognized for their long term commitments to cave conservation and for being leaders in providing educational messages to the general public who visit Marengo Cave.

Gary R. Casady 9053 Pettysville Road Pinckney, MI 48169

last three months:

Brian Goss Route 1, Box 162 Vallonia, IN 47281 Duke Hopper 1593 Deer Lake Drive Lexington, KY 40515

☐ The IKC would like to welcome the following new members who have joined during the

Gary Roberson PO Box 217 Marengo, IN 47140 Mark C. Sheehan 1115 Longwood Drive Bloomington, IN 47401

John Wilkerson 2011 Suffolk Lane Indianapolis, IN 46260

HNF KARST FALL RENDEZVOUS

by Larry Mullins

The Hoosier National Forest (HNF) invites you to help us kick off this season's Karst Analysis, Research, and Survey Team (KARST) inventorying project. The KARST Rendezvous will be at Springs Valley [Tucker] Lake campground on December 19 and 20. Help us welcome winter on the last weekend of fall. We will have all-you-caneat chili and cornbread on Saturday night at the bonfire, and sourdough pancakes on Sunday morning. Bring your lawn chairs and guitars, as we will be sitting around the fire, sipping hot cider, telling stories, and listening to cave ballads. This event is being held to honor and show appreciation for all the hard work the KARST members have accomplished in helping us inventory the caves/karst features on the HNF. Everyone is welcome, and best of all, ITS ALL FREE!

Saturday and Sunday morning will see teams following up on discoveries around Springs Valley Lake (bring your canoe). Plan to start out at about 9 AM each day. In addition to cave and karst mapping at Springs Valley, teams will be sent out to field locate reported, but unchecked, cave locations in the Lost River and Patoka Units of the HNF. In addition, we have two new surprise parcels of land, recently purchased, which have never been ridgewalked before for karst features! Both have serious potential for new caves (one has a rumored cave on it!).

So come and join us for some winter fun. Plan to dress warm [the editor remembers last year]. Bring a very warm sleeping bag. This event will not be canceled due to cold weather (steaming caves show up better when its cold), but it will be called off in the unlikely event of recent heavy snow (4" or more) or icy roads to the south of Bedford (we don't want any hurt on slick roads).

Because we are providing food Saturday night and Sunday morning, please RSVP to Larry Mullins a week or so in advance (work: 812-358-2675/ home: 812-824-2192).

1993 NATIONAL CAVE MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM OCTOBER 27-30; CARLSBAD, NEW MEXICO

The cave rich area of Carlsbad, NM will be the location of the 1993 National Cave Management Symposium (NCMS). The area contains some of the nation's finest examples of limestone caves including the world famous Carlsbad Caverns and Lechuguilla Cave. In addition, it contains the nation's largest expanse of gypsum karst. A wide variety of cave management conflict use resolution situations exist, from show cave operation, use, maintenance, to oil and gas development, livestock grazing, and recreational use.

The biennial NCMS provides an excellent opportunity to interact with others who share the same concerns and problems and discuss new approaches to challenges in cave management and conservation. The theme for this symposium will be "Cave Management Into the Twenty-First Century." Since the turn of the century is coming soon, let's discuss the situations and solutions now.

The Symposium will emphasize the regulations and implementation of the Federal Cave Resource Protection Act which should be finalized shortly.

A variety of field trips will be scheduled during the Symposium including Carlsbad and several back county caves. Attendees will be able to choose which field trips they would like to participate in based upon the type of management concerns they have.

The registration fee is \$100 with a \$20 discount before August 15th. Hosts for the Symposium will be the NPS, USFS, BLM, NSS, and CRF. Questions may be directed to Jim Goodbar (505) 887-6544 or Dale Pate (505) 785-2232.

[Editor's note: This would be a good excuse to visit the area and take in a few other area caves prior to the Symposium. There will probably be several cavers from Indiana in attendance.]

NATIONAL NATURAL AREAS CONFERENCE

by Keith Dunlap

The National Natural Areas Conference is the annual meeting of the Natural Areas Association, an organization of private and public groups dedicated to the conservation/preservation of natural areas within the United States. This year's conference was held in Bloomington on October 27-30th. The conference primarily consists of the presentation of papers on various topics, but one entire day is dedicated to a wide variety of field trips. This year there were over 130 papers presented and a selection of eleven field trips.

Of interest to IKC members was a complete session on cave biology and conservation, moderated by Dr. Horton Hobbs III. Eleven papers dealing with various conservation/management topics where given by many of the nation's top experts. The paper I found most interesting was presented by Dr. Tom Poulson dealing with monitoring water quality in caves by examining the change in its aquatic bio-diversity. Different species react differently to various pollutants; some species die off, while other species will actually thrive. By establishing a baseline biota inventory, long term low level pollution can be quantified by the changing composition of the cave's fauna.

Other papers of note were Dr. Hobbs overview of cave/karst impacts and the necessity for protection; John McGregor's presentation on various bat protection techniques (including several innovative ideas, such as building "tank" traps on 4-wheel-drive trails that lead to bat caves); Larry Mullin's paper on cave management by prescription used on the HNF; and David Foster's discussion on the necessity of cave/karst educational programs in schools located in the karst regions of the United States.

One thing I noted from all the talks was that "organized cavers" were presented in a very favorable light, being cooperative and supportive of the projects being conducted by the various presenters. In the past, some of these "experts" have painted a less than positive image of cavers, grouping "us" with weekend speleo-boppers.

Four of the eleven field trips involved caves/karst. There was a Lost River tour, a "commercial" trip to Wyandotte Cave, a

"commercial" trip to Bluesprings Caverns, and a "wild" trip to Sullivan Cave. Worth noting was that of the eleven trips, the Sullivan trip filled first during pre-registration.

The trip was limited to twenty-five participants and five leaders (Larry Mullins, Tom Rea, Horton Hobbs, Jim Nieland, and myself). Most of the participants represented organizations that dealt with caves in one way or another (state TNC offices, various states and federal land/resource managers, etc...). About half of the group had never been in a "wild" cave before, a third of the group would venture into caves occasionally as part of their job, and the remaining participants were cavers, lucky enough to be working for organizations/agencies involved in natural resource management.

All the participants were outfitted with hardhats and helmet mounted lights. We spent almost an hour at the entrance discussing various topics including safety, cave management techniques, landowner relations, and participant's expectations of the trip.

I was originally quite apprehensive of this many novices in a cave like Sullivan, but was amazed at the ease everyone handled the entrance dome area and backbreaker section. We regrouped at "Camp I" and had a fairly long discussion about the exploration of the cave and the three week long Sullivan Expedition. The group then split, with half the group taking the "back way" into the Mountain Room, while the rest taking the traditional way. After visiting the formation room at the top of the Mountain Room, we descended the breakdown and proceeded downstream to the South-Y area. Horton discussed the biology of the cave including the aquatic species and bats. The trip back out was uneventful.

Everyone seemed to have a good time. I was particularly impressed at the quality of questions asked during the trip and the participant's genuine concerned about the various impacts that are destroying our caves. Hopefully they will take back with them a much better appreciation for cave and karst management and apply what they have learned within their own organizations.

KAREN'S PIT CLEANUP REPORT

by Bruce Bowman

One of the "lowlights" of the 1992 NSS Convention in Salem was the lack of respect conventioneers displayed for a pit near the convention site. Karen's Pit (Washington County) is a 37' drop to a small but nicely decorated area of about 200' in extent. The fifty visitors did indeed honor the creed to "leave nothing but footprints;" unfortunately, they left those footprints all over a pristine flowstone and rimstone area, despite the guidebook's instructions to "please remove your boots to traverse the flowstone and view the final chamber."

Rather than just lament this situation, a group of Indiana cavers convened at the site on October 17th to demonstrate to the landowners, Marce and Sharon Lee, that many cavers are willing to follow up on their talk of cave conservation. These good people had displayed a remarkable amount of hospitality, and we felt it only right that we clean up as best we could and construct a fence in order to keep their cattle from straying into the vicinity of the pit. To this end, Tony Cunningham, Keith Dunlap, Scott and Jaime Fee, Dave Hibbard, Steve Lockwood, Tom Rea, and I arrived at the site at about 10 AM.

It soon became apparent that Mr. Lee planned to erect a fence around Pike's Peak Pit as well. This small pit is closer to the place where he keeps his cattle, and he'd had a previous adverse experience with a calf falling into this pit (luckily it survived). It would have been the height of rudeness to refuse to help, particularly when Mr. Lee was supplying all the materials and both he and his son, Brian, were providing a lot of muscle-power! With the help of his tractor, they had the debris removed from atop the pit in a heartbeat, and those present immediately set about sinking the posts.

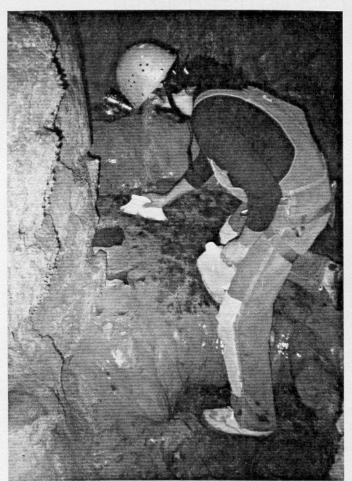
Things proceeded rather slowly at first, primarily because there was very little soil and it proved necessary to remove chunks of limestone to get more than 6 inches below the surface. Since we had insufficient tools to outfit everyone, Dave, the Fees, and I went back to rig Karen's Pit

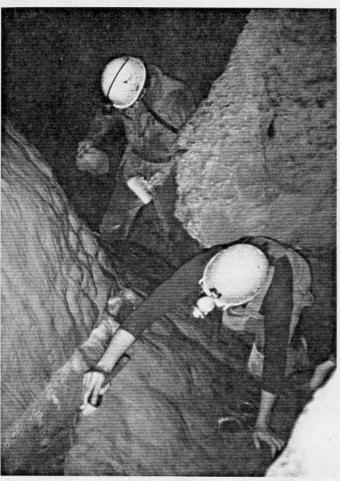
and begin the cleanup operation while the others worked on the fence. Before long I was at the bottom and Jaime was lowering jugs of water and soft-bristled brushes on a rope and pulley, while the others cleared away debris above.

After Dave and Scott joined me, we began to brush away the accumulation of mud. Dave had not seen the final chamber, so he went back to clean up the minor problem back there. Scott worked on the rimstone while I began to wash the larger flowstone mass, working back towards the entrance. Dave soon joined me in this effort. We also tried a biodegradable soap solution that Tom had brought, which gave marginally better results. The final product was substantially better, but due to the porous nature of the rock couldn't be completely returned to its previous condition. Before leaving, we piled rocks to build a low fence that will hopefully suggest to visitors that this is the place to remove their footwear in the future.

On ascending, I was flabbergasted by the job everyone else had done on the Karen's Pit fence. It was already complete, and they had even constructed a stile between two trees to make it easier to get over the fence. The posts that couldn't be sunk to an adequate depth were guyed to adjacent trees. It was a remarkable effort. After a couple more guys checked out Karen's Pit, we returned to Pikes Peak Pit to find they had done a great job on this fence as well. It's this kind of effort that shows landowners how sincere cavers can be -- more than any amount of talking can possibly convey. We quickly bopped the 22' drop (with nothing below), then went our separate ways.

All in all, this trip was both uplifting and disheartening. The worst aspect was that this trip had to be performed at all; although only muddied, it will be many years before Karen's Pit completely repairs itself. Fortunately, we have a contingent of Indiana cavers who practice what they preach, and are willing to make the additional effort to compensate as much as they can for the indiscretions of others.





Bruce Bowman (above left and foreground right) and Dave Hibbard (above background right) work on cleaning off mud tracked onto flowstone in Karen's Pit (Washington County). Below is the new fence erected around the entrance to keep livestock from falling into the 37' pit.

Photos by Scott Fee and Bruce Bowman



CAVERS DON'T LET CAVERS DO BUCKNER

by James Adams

It had been over a year since I had experienced Buckner Cave in Monroe County. Although I was aware that this cave has been billed "the most trashed-out cave in the United States," after a year or so, I had forgotten how bad it was.

A few month earlier, Tom Rea and I had taken a group of cavers and Boy Scouts from Michigan on a culvert-to-boat club trip through Doghill-Donnehue. Since they had seen one of the prettier popular caves in the area, I thought it might be good to give them a taste of what can happen if good conservation measures are not practiced.

It was a Saturday and there were already several groups getting "geared-up" in the parking area. I use the term "gear" very loosely. Our group consisted of a Michigan caver, an anonymous CIG caver, a first-time adult leader, six teenagers and myself.

We stopped at the Entrance Room where I gave them a short speech and told them a little about the good and bad history of the cave. Then it was off through the crawlway and into the "T" Room where we regrouped. We passed the usual trashed batteries, combs, buttons, candy wrappers, cans, bottles and other assorted trash. However, I didn't spot any human fecal material on this trip through the crawlway.

From the "T" Room, we headed towards the Volcano Room. In my five trips to Buckner, I had never been to the pit at the end of the Volcano Passage and this trip I was determined to see this area.

Just outside the "slot" entrance to the upper-level room we passed a mountain of soft drink cans, beer cans, pudding cans and other aluminum treasurers. I think there must have been some dirt or rock under the pile, but I couldn't see it. This is a new trash collection area which I hadn't spotted before.

There was another oddity in this area which I hadn't seen in a cave before. A soiled diaper complete with "Muppet Babies" around the waist band. I guess if you're going to be irresponsible, you might as well be totally stupid and carry your infant son or daughter along too. That way the irresponsible can pass along their stupidity to their kids. I wondered if the baby was wearing a helmet and had his three light sources.

At least I had found some human fecal material. What would a trip into Buckner be

without it? We found two other diapers before we completed out trip.

We all got into the Volcano Room except the first-time adult leader who couldn't make his body fit through the slot. Evidently, I was not clear in my explanation of what would happen next. I had wanted the firsttimer to wait for us to return through the slot so that we could continue on in the circle route. He misunderstood our plan and when we returned, he was no where to be found.

A large group of kids was coming up to the Volcano Room as we were leaving and they told us they had seen our missing first-timer heading back to the "T" Room. My immediate thought was that he would probably miss the climb-up at the Signature Room and end up heading towards the Waterfall Passage. I later found out that he had done just that.

We all headed back to try to find him. Of course, I also missed the climb-up to the Signature Room and continued toward the Waterfall Passage. After discovering my error, we finally found our missing member sitting in the "T" Room waiting for us to return from the other direction after completing the circle route.

By this time, the Michigan folks had decided that a bathroom break and some lunch were more important than seeing any more of the trash dump called Buckner Cave. They left under the watchful eye of the Michigan caver while the other CIGer and I went North to explore some more passages away from the traditional circle route.

We found some really foul smells in the Big Room near the Calcite Falls formation. There was also a disgusting odor in the Formation Room near Keen's Grotto Passage. We never discovered the source of these smells. That may be a blessing.

After returning to the Big Room we encountered the large group which we had seen near the Volcano Room heading toward the crawlway. We sprinted ahead in an attempt to make it out of the cave before they were ready to exit.

Our plan was foiled at the "T" Room by another large group waiting to exit. This group was well organized into small groups identified as "A" through "F". We also discovered that there was a group of 40, a group

of 53, a group of 14 plus the other CIGer and I, all moving down the crawlway in one snake-like mass. There were probably some other smaller groups mixed in which I never had a chance to add to the inventory.

Back at the Entrance Room, the group of 53 had a support team waiting with coolers and sandwiches.

I must add that all of the groups that we saw on this particular Saturday in October were well supervised. Although we didn't see any real caving gear outside of our group, the adults seemed to have things under control. We didn't see any beer or spray paint cans and no one appeared to be intoxicated.

But of course, we were on our way by 5:00 PM and the real crazies hadn't arrived yet.

By the way, the group from Michigan left the cave, ate at McD's and returned for more caving adventures at Trap Door. They seemed to enjoy themselves, even the first-time adult leader waiting in the "T" Room.

Finally, I have one request. If anyone ever hears me say that I'm going to the Hoosier SpeleoSpot, please remember that cavers don't let cavers do Buckner.

[Editor's note: It is more than just unfortunate that the owner of Buckner allows his cave to be abused and vandalized like this. His apathy, also encourages these types of activities to spill over to other area caves, needlessly impacting them too.]

IKC/CIG/WCG CLEANUP TRIP - WAYNE'S CAVE DECEMBER 6th

The IKC, the Central Indiana Grotto, and the Windy City Grotto are co-sponsoring the seventh annual cleanup trip into Wayne's Cave on Sunday, December 6th. Our intentions are to have a little fun while performing some much needed conservation /restoration work.

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

The cleanup effort this year will concentrate on the crawlway, but some of the group will probably make a quick trip to Camp II. Haul bags will be provided by the IKC, but only minimal trash still exists because of our past efforts. There will be wire brushes available for graffiti removal, and we will continue to do some "brown-washing" where wire brushing is ineffective or impractical. We will also direct our efforts on spent carbide collection.

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

NOTE: As with any IKC sponsored cave trip, you must have a helmet and three sources of reliable light. If you are new to caving or have not been to Wayne's before, <u>please</u> contact Keith Dunlap prior to the trip.

We will be meeting at the Bloomington westside McDonalds and leaving by 9:15 AM. Because parking is limited, please carpool to the cave.

1992 HOOSIER ENVIRONMENTAL CONGRESS

by Keith Dunlap

This year's Congress, held on October 10th, focused on improving the environment by using the political and legislative systems to our advantage. This was an appropriate topic since the Hoosier Environmental Council (HEC) has formed a 501(c)(4) organization (HECAF) that allows much greater involvement in the legislative process without jeopardizing HEC's tax exempt status.

The keynote speaker for the Congress was David Brower, often referred to as the "Father of America's Environmental Movement." Mr. Brower, long time Executive Director of the Sierra Club, and the founder of several other environmental organizations dealing with problems on a global scale, gave a compelling speech. To put things into perspective, he used the biblical analogy of the earth taking seven days to create. Man's ability to influence and degrade the environment has been less than a second of that week, with almost all the damage done in the last 1/20th of a second. His conclusion was that at the rate we are using up our natural resources, polluting our air, water, and soil, and generally not controlling population growth, the earth does not have much hope for survival. A rather sobering thought.

The other presentations and workshops primarily dealt with understanding the legislative process, especially at the state level since this is where the most progress can be made in the short term.

Being an election year, both gubernatorial candidates spoke to the audience. Linley Pierson was less than dynamic and seemed rather uninformed on the issues. Governor Bayh was just the opposite, touting his environmental accomplishments during the last four years and even addressing two items he acknowledged were environmental problems. The first was the Gary Airport, and the second was the Indiana Department of Transportation. Excerpting from his speech, he made the following statements, "...I think it is important to be candid and up front and to just say to all of you here that the Department of Transportation has not always

been the most environmentally sensitive agency in state government. I think that is probably a fair statement. But I want you to know that in talking to [Commissionerl John Dillon and the other folks over there, I think that there is a new awareness and a new appreciation of the importance of reaching out to those of you here today and the people you represent across the state in making sure your views are reflected and your input is obtained in the kind of road development that does come before the state. You will be very pleased to know that in the budget submitted by the Department of Transportation for the next year, for the first time in the state's history it contains a \$4 million appropriation to establish a Division for Environmental Compliance and Planning within the Department of Transportation. So there will be a unit within that Department whose sole responsibility is to deal with environmental problems that come before that agency, to seek your input and seek your advice, and to make sure that the Department and the state government as a whole are reflective of the policies....[and that] the Department [is] environmentally sensitive and informed, and I hope that is a step in the right direc-

While Governor Bayh is a skilled politician and knows how to stroke a crowd, he also has a respectable record of following through on promises when it meets his agenda. I think the important thing to note is that he is at least aware that a serious problem exists and corrective actions are needed.

Following the speeches was the banquet after which the annual environmental awards were given.

HEC's Annual Business Meeting was held the next day. That meeting primarily dealt with the adoption of the 1993 Action Plan which defines the priorities and directions for the HEC staff to follow.

[Editor's note: The IKC is a member organization of the HEC. Their support and guidance with the INDOT situation has been invaluable.]

INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY, INC.

Statement of Receipts, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance for the Quarter Ending 09/30/92

GENERAL FUND

RECEIPTS

 DUES
 97.50

 DONATIONS
 65.50

 PUBLICATIONS
 138.20

TOTAL RECEIPTS

301.20

EXPENDITURES

UPDATE 158.85
POSTAGE, GENERAL 57.39
BROCHURES 41.09
CAPERS' DOORPRIZE 19.50
ANNUAL MEETING/CO 111.21
FCRCA MAILING 71.00
BANK SERVICE CHAR 0.11

TOTAL EXPENDITURES

459.15

EXCESS TO FUND BALANCE

-157.95

FUND BALANCE 6/30/92 FUND BALANCE 9/30/92 2729.15 2571.20

HANCOCK PROPERTY

RECEIPTS

0.00

EXPENDITURES

0.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURES

0.00

EXCESS TO FUND BALANCE

0.00

FUND BALANCE 6/30/92 FUND BALANCE 6/30/92

326.22

326.22

TOTAL BALANCE - ALL FUNDS 09/30/92

2897.42

Lost River water quality to be monitored

Lost River is one of 12 bodies of water in Indiana which has been chosen as part of a National Water Quality Assessment Project, Orange County Commissioners learned Tuesday. Representatives from the US Geological Survey, Water Resource Division at Indianapolis, attended the

meeting to request permission to place a stream flow gauging station on Lost River by the Potato Creek Bridge, on Tater Road near Leipsic.

The men said that the gauging station would include instruments to measure the water level of the river and the gallons per minute of water flowing down the river. Purpose of the National Water Quality Assessment Project is to

assess the status and trends of water quality in the US, they reported, and to provide that information to Congress to use in making decisions. The water quality at the gauging will be tested at various times, they said.

Approval was given for the station to be located at the site...

[Reprinted from the News, October 29, 1992]

IKC QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, September 12, 1992 Indianapolis, Indiana

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

James Adams Keith Dunlap Jane Miller Lvnn Miller Eric Schmidt Jeff Cody

Bill Tozer

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ernie Payne Glenn Lemasters Tom Rea

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 PM by IKC President, Keith Dunlap at the home of Jane and Lynn Miller. Introductions were made.

Keith reported on the work which took place at the Hancock property on August 29th. Work centered on Coon Cave which is looking pretty good. There was apparently no new vandalism.

Keith reported on the construction work on State Road 37 South of Bedford. The IKC, along with HEC, Protect Our Woods and Bob Armstrong have filed a notice of intent to sue INDOT. Information was published in the IKC Update (September 1992, Number 26, Page 3).

Keith introduced two motions. The first sets aside \$500 for preparing our case. This might include hiring an environmental consultant. Motion passed: 7-0.

The second motion sets aside an additional \$500 to be used if the case actually goes to court. Motion passed: 7-0.

Keith briefly mentioned the SR 145 Extension from Mitchell to French Lick. More information may be found in the IKC Update (September 1992, Number 26, Page 13).

Jim Adams told about the IKC's progress in Shiloh Cave, Lawrence County. Several IKC members plus some others worked most of the day [September 12th] at the Elliott Stone Quarry entrance.

The water level around the existing dam/gate was lowered to allow inspection of the base of the old dam. Keith took measurements and will design a gate. We will then discuss the plan with the owner.

An NSS Contemporary Cave Use Study Register was placed in the cave and over 90 feet of unmapped passage near the quarry entrance was surveyed.

A motion was made for the IKC to continue work at Shiloh and support the project. No funds would be specifically allocated at this time. Motion passed: 7-0.

Ray's Cave in Green County recently changed owners. It is the second largest Indiana Bat hibernacula in the state. The Nature Conservancy and the IDNR have been discussing management alternatives with the new owners. The IKC may be asked to help with a gate although US Fish & Wildlife and/or DNR may be able to pay for it.

Some cavers have asked for funds to pay for trash hauling at Heavenly Hole. A motion was made to assist however, since no one in attendance, especially no Director had been to the site, and those cavers requesting the funds were not at the meeting, the motion was tabled until such time as a Director can evaluate the site and/or the cavers involved can give us more information.

The IKC raised \$138 for the DNR Non-Game fund through DNR poster sales at the recent NSS Convention in Salem, Indiana. A motion was made to set aside a donation to be used in addition to the \$138 to by the DNR needed equipment. Much discussion followed centering on the fact that the IKC has just announced its intent to sue INDOT which will also involve the DNR. The motion was tabled until the December meeting. The IKC Treasurer will hold the \$138.

New signs are needed at the entrance to Shaft Cave on the Hancock property. Keith made a motion to have 25 signs screened for \$100. Motion passed: 7-0.

Minutes continued...

Larry Mullins of the HNF assured everyone that there were no hard feelings about recent negative comments concerning Hemlock Cliffs. He urged everyone to express their opinions via their letters.

The HEC Congress and Business meeting is coming up. Keith plans to attend. A motion was made for the IKC to pay Keith's registration fees. The motion was amended to pay the registration fees of up to three members for the Saturday session and one member for the Sunday meeting. Motion passed: 6-0. Keith Dunlap abstained.

Hank Huffman of the DNR has urged the IKC to set up our display at the upcoming Natural Areas Conference. Hank volunteered to take care of it for us. A motion was made to pay \$20 for the booth space if we decide to send the display. Motion passed: 7-0.

A new group, Environmental Funds For Indiana, has asked the IKC to participate for \$2,000. It was discussed but decided that the amount is too large for us at this time.

Several awards were won by Indiana cavers and organizations at the recent NSS Convention. An IKC Update cover photo by Scott Fee (June 1991, Number 21) won the Graphics Arts Medal. The award was presented to and accepted by Scott.

Larry Mullins is moving to the HNF Brownstown office for four months. The HNF is working with several interested landowners to buy properties in the Lost River area which someday could develop into an interpretive

program. If anyone has anything neat to report on any Lost River area karst features, please contact Larry.

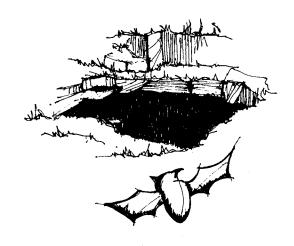
Larry is also looking for information about the Hoosier National Forest Swallow Hole Cave. Has anyone mapped the lower level?

There was much discussion concerning the possibility of setting up an Indiana Karst Protection Fund. A motion was made for a committee to prepare a fundraising letter to be sent to at least 500 area cavers. This letter should be ready by the next meeting for further discussion. Motion passed: 6-0. Jane Miller was away preparing the food.

The next meeting will be on December 5th at the IU Geology building in Bloomington.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM and everyone ate and ate and ate...

Submitted by James Adams, IKC Secretary



	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.			
\$	onation 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	Make checks payable to the Indiana Karst Conservancy, Inc. and mail to the			
ADDRESS_	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			
CITY/STATE	Organization with membership dues and donations fully tax deductible. A			
PHONE #(s)	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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PROTECTING CAVES THROUGH ACTIVE CONSERVATION