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# IKC Update

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NUMBER 42

SEPTEMBER 1996

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**BEFORE**

**AFTER**



# 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.

\*\*\*\*\* EXECUTIVE BOARD \*\*\*\*\*

President	Bruce Bowman	... (1997)	.....	(317)	276-4098(W)	/(317)	539-6935(H)
Secretary	James Adams	.... (1997)	.....	(317)	263-1611(W)	/(317)	882-3724(H)
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Director	Larry Bundy	.... (1998)	.....	(317)	736-8841(H)		
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Director	Dave Haun	..... (1997)	.....	(317)	464-9090(W)	/(317)	781-1996(H)
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Director	Nick Noe	..... (1997)	.....	(317)	782-3442(H)		
Director	Tom Rea	..... (1998)	.....	(317)	653-4423(H)		
Director	Eric Schmidt	... (1998)	.....	(317)	233-1056(W)	/(317)	745-6739(H)
Director	Bob Sergesketter	(1998)	.....	(812)	482-5517(H)		
Director	Clyde Simerman	.(1998)	.....	(219)	422-3030(H)		
Director	Tom Sollman	..... (1997)	.....	(812)	753-4953(H)		
Director	Bill Tozer	..... (1998)	.....	(317)	778-3259(H)		

\*\*\*\*\* COMMITTEES/CHAIRPERSON \*\*\*\*\*

Cave Management & Landowner Relations/	Keith Dunlap	.....	(317)	882-5420
Land Acquisition/	Hank Huffman	.....	(812)	876-9645
Membership/	James Adams	.....	(317)	882-3724
Publications/	Keith Dunlap	.....	(317)	882-5420
Hoosier Forests Project/	Kevin Komisarck	.....	(812)	339-2394

\*\*\*\*\* MANAGED CAVES/PATRONS \*\*\*\*\*

Coon Cave/	Keith Dunlap	.....	(317)	882-5420
Grotto Cave/	Keith Dunlap	.....	(317)	882-5420
Shaft Cave/	Jeff Cody	.....	(317)	888-9898
Shiloh Cave/	James Adams	.....	(317)	882-3724
Suicide Cave/	Ronnie Burns	.....	(812)	883-6252
Wayne's Cave/	Serena Smith	.....	(812)	339-2394
Woodard Cave (TN)/	NIG - contact John Simerman	.....	(219)	424-0361

\*\*\*\*\* GROTTOS/LIAISONS \*\*\*\*\*

Bloomington Indiana Grotto/	Anmar Mirza	.....	(812)	339-1506
Bloomington Indiana Grotto/	Kriste Lindberg	.....	(812)	339-7210
Central Indiana Grotto/	Keith Dunlap	.....	(317)	882-5420
Dayton Underground Grotto/	Mike Hood	.....	(513)	252-2978
Eastern Indiana Grotto/	Brian Leavell	.....	(317)	552-7619
Evansville Metropolitan Grotto/	Ernie Payne	.....	(812)	477-7043
Harrison-Crawford Grotto/	Dave Black	.....	(812)	951-3886
Louisville Grotto/	Richard Newton	.....	(812)	365-2495
Mid-Hoosier Grotto/	Jeff Cody	.....	(317)	888-9898
Northern Indiana Grotto/	John Simerman	.....	(219)	424-0361
Stygian Grotto/	Richard Orr	.....	(314)	521-0355
Windy City Grotto/	Gary Gibula	.....	(708)	778-6747

Cover - Scott Anderson mud-washing graffiti in Grotto Cave.  
 Photos by Bill Tozer, June 1996.



Publishing by *Myotis Press*, Editor and Publisher Keith Dunlap.

# QUARTERLY MEETING REMINDER

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21st, 5:00 PM**

**GREENWOOD, INDIANA**

Home of Jim Adams & Kim Kohal, 620 Jackson Road (317-882-3724)

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; Land Acquisition Committee report and motions; Bat Hibernacula alarm systems; Coon Cave restoration progress; Cave temperature monitoring project; Special Publications Committee status report; NCMS close-out activities; IDNR Cave Management Plan status; IDNR activities; HNF activities; and more....

Following the meeting (approximately 6:30), the IKC Officers will host a cookout. This will provide an opportunity for members and their families to become better acquainted with others who are interested in cave/karst conservation. The cookout will be held rain or shine; please bring lawn chairs. The IKC will supply the burgers, hot dogs, and brats. Please bring a covered dish, salad, or desserts to share.

As part of the after-meeting activities, there will also be the fourth annual "best brownies" contest. *However, this year's rules have been broadened to define a "brownie" as **any** dessert that is sorta cake-like **or** contains sugar or chocolate.*

Meeting directions: see the inside back cover for map.

## EVENTS CALENDAR

- 21 SEP = IKC QUARTERLY MEETING (see above)
- 12 OCT = WESLEY CHAPEL GULF HOMESTEAD WORKDAY (see page 4)
- 12 OCT = LOST RIVER TOUR, Orange County (see page 4)
- 16-17 NOV = HNF KARST VALUES INVENTORY SEMINAR (see page 5)
- ?? DEC = IKC QUARTERLY MEETING, Bloomington (date and location TBD)

Membership to the Indiana Karst Conservancy 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.

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## RAMBLINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT...

It often happens that we, as cavers and cave managers, have information on karst resources that other people don't have. For cavers, this usually involves cave locations and maps; but may involve biological, archeological, or historical data as well. After putting forth effort to acquire the information, we develop a kinship with the resource itself. Certainly we're more aware of and sensitive to the issues of cave well-being than your "average Joe on the street." It's therefore not too surprising that many people who have this knowledge are reluctant to share it. In many cases, it's quite appropriate for cavers to hoard this information for the property owners and themselves, and give it out only on an "as needed" basis.

At the same time, it's becoming apparent that cavers may not always be in the best position to protect caves. These resources are coming under increased pressure from industrial, commercial, and residential development; and it may happen that cavers aren't made aware of a particular situation until it's too late to do anything about it. There are government agencies that are responsible for assessing the impacts of these activities, and the caves could benefit if they had access to this information. Yet government agencies may have to deal with freedom of information challenges; turn-over of personnel; and to a certain extent, politics. Nationally, the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act has helped a great deal; but we have no such legislation for state-owned or privately-

owned caves. Promulgating state legislation would help, but most Indiana caves are on private land.

We also need to recognize the explosion of information provided by a number of private individuals and organizations. The increase of cave data on the World Wide Web would be considered alarming by some. At least one Usenet newsgroup is available that is unmoderated for cave location information. It has even come to our attention that a county visitor's center in Indiana has given out a few "wild" cave maps and locations to complete neophytes without any warnings about equipment needs or biological sensitivity. Undoubtedly this situation started out innocently enough, but the message is clear: The "information age" is here. Stemming the tide will be difficult and may ultimately prove impossible.

Ironically, although almost all of the involved people have the best interest of the karst in mind, their perception of the best means to proceed is different. Nonetheless, there are those who would do these cave systems damage, and we must protect the caves from them—and in some instances, protect them from the caves.

I view the orderly and discrete dissemination of cave information as the biggest challenge cavers will face as we head into the next millennium. If you have any thoughts, by all means, share them with your Officers and Directors.

- *Bruce Bowman*

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## NEWS BRIEFS...

- The third and final workday of the year on the Wesley Chapel Gulf property (Orange County) is scheduled for October 12th, starting at 10 AM. The purpose of the workday is to perform a little outside maintenance and yard care around the homestead (see *IKC Update* #41, pp 8-9 and pp 10-11 in this issue for previous workday summaries). This work will reduce the potential for vandalism by giving the house a "lived-in" look and prevent it from deteriorating during the property's transition period. Currently the house and 200-acre property, including the Gulf, is owned by US Gypsum, but will soon be purchased by the Hoosier National Forest. The house could potentially become a karst education and interpretation center, so keeping it in good shape is important. For more information on the workday, contact Bruce Bowman.
- Also on October 12th in the same area, Bob Armstrong will be hosting the last Lost River tour of the year. Bob generally conducts five or six tours annually, featuring the nu-

merous karst features of the Lost River drainage basin. Starting at the river's head waters in Washington County, the tour will progress westwardly across Orange, visiting such classic features as the Sinks of the Lost River terminus zone, Stens Swallowhole, Turner Swallowhole, Tolliver Swallowhole, Wesley Chapel/Elrod Gulf, the Orangeville Rise, and the True Rise of the Lost River. Each tour visits different features depending upon the river's water level and accessibility. The all-day tours are conducted caravan-style and are free. Starting time is 8 AM sharp at the southeast corner of the square in Orleans. Contact Bob Armstrong (317-926-4266) for more details.

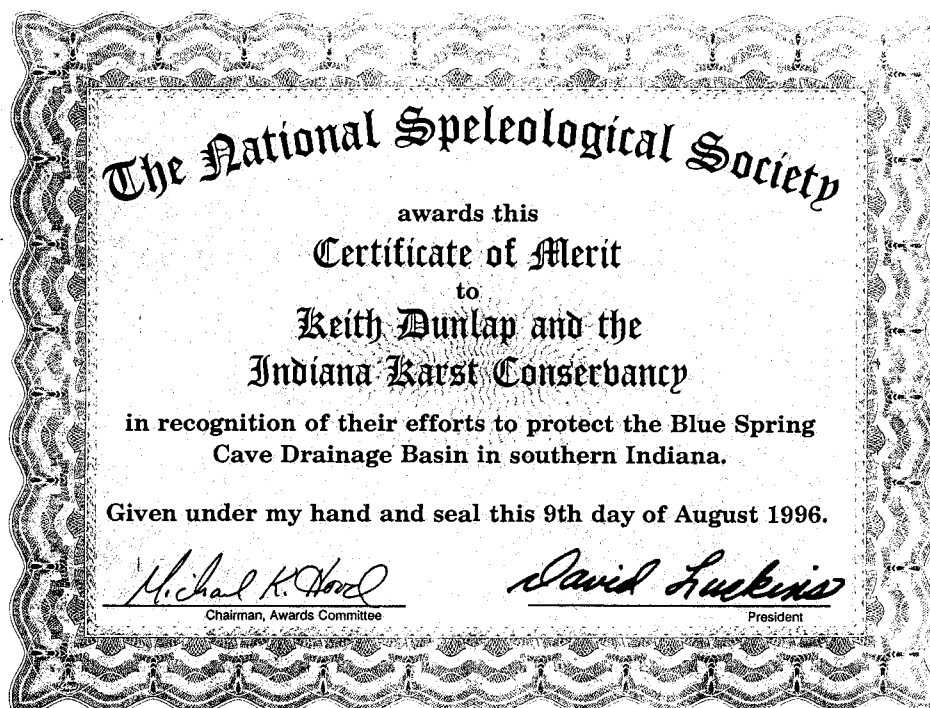
- ❑ The Hoosier National Forest is sponsoring a two day training seminar of inventorying karst values. The seminar, November 16 and 17, will cover a number of topics (geology, hydrology, paleontology, biology, and more), taught by various experts. The Saturday session will be at the Bedford forest office, while the Sunday session will be in the field, applying what was learned on Saturday. While the overall goal is to train volunteers to assist with the inventorying and management planning for caves on the HNF, the technical knowledge gained will help cavers in general to better appreciate and recognize the values of each cave they visit. Please contact Larry Mullins at the HNF office (812-275-5987) for more details and specific start times.
- ❑ As part of The Nature Conservancy's emphasis on the Blue River basin (Washington, Harrison, Crawford counties), TNC has contracted with biologist/caver Dr. Jullian Lewis for a two-year study to document and inventory the biota of the caves in the basin. With nearly 1000 caves in this region, Dr Lewis has his work cut out for him. Obviously he will not be able to visit them all, but it is hoped that he will get a good representation to determine the rarity of the various cave species and to prioritize the need for protectionary efforts.
- ❑ On June 8th, eight volunteers helped with the annual workday on the Hancock property in the Garrison Chapel area. The purpose of the workday was to perform various maintenance tasks on the property containing Coon, Grotto, Shaft, and Turtle caves. This year, the volunteers picked-up trash on the various trails, picked up trash along both sides of Spicer Lane, check on Coon Cave, did some minor repairs to the Grotto and Shaft fences, mud-washed some recent graffiti in Grotto cave (see cover photos), and provided a visual presence to the adjacent landowners that someone is looking out for the property. Participants included Scott Anderson, Keith Dunlap, Bruce Bowman, Hank Huffman, Kriste Lindberg, Nick Noe, Tom Sollman, and Bill Tozer.
- ❑ The end of the summer cave clean-up at Coon Cave was completed on August 31st. The ten volunteers continued the work started a decade ago to rid the cave of graffiti. The area of concentration this year was at the top of the lower pits and the several crawlway loops that connect the pits back to the main cave. Several historic signatures and dates were observed including an 1895 date and the name of John Malott of Bedford (relation to Clyde Malott?). The cavers also made the traditional trip to the back of the cave, collecting what little trash has accumulated on the illicit trips of the past year (mostly during the hibernacula closure). Participants included Bruce Bowman, Julie Bringle, Keith Dunlap, Bambi, Erwin, Ron Harlow, Don Ingle, Roy Logan, Ernie Payne, Bill Svihla, and Bruce Trotter.
- ❑ The first two week in June saw a large number of Illinois caver volunteers (and one Hoosier, Keith Dunlap) working with the Illinois DNR on securing the lower level of the Blackball Mine in the northern part of the state. The dolomite mine, with two levels and over two dozen entrances is Illinois's largest know hibernaculum of Indiana and Little Brown bats (estimated to be 24,000). The man-made "cave" was abandoned over a century ago and the bats have gladly accepted it as home. However, in recent years, despite heavy posting by the DNR, there have been many observations of unauthorized visita-



tion by the curious and several deliberate attempts to exterminate the helpless hibernating bats. Supervised by Roy Powers, four bat-friendly gates were constructed on the access portals to the lower level where the majority of the bats winter. Funding was provided by the Illinois DNR and Bat Conservation International. Most of the volunteers were members of the Near Normal Grotto.

- The United States Geological Survey is creating quite a stir in the caving community when it was discovered that their large Geographic Name database (GNIS) contains perhaps thousands of cave names and locations. To make matters worse, the database is directly accessible via the World Wide Web and several commercial map PC programs are using the database for displaying geographic features. The states with the most caves in the database appear to be Georgia, Tennessee, and Alabama and it appears at least some of the names/location information came from copyrighted lists of these state's cave surveys. Indiana had several dozen caves in the GNIS, but most are commercial caves or better known caves located in state parks.
- The Hoosier National Forest has undertaken new timbering activities in selected areas of the forest. While the current logging is classified as "emergency salvage" because it is focusing on removing downed pine trees from last winters heavy snows, many feel it is just the prelude to renewed general logging. It has been more than a decade since the HNF suspended logging due to public outcry and criticism from below-cost timber sales. Should timbering return to the HNF, recreational and ecological activities will likely be deemphasized and become unfunded as manpower and financial resources are shifted to tree harvesting and road building.
- On July 10th, the Supervisor of the Hoosier National Forest, Kenneth Day, ordered the main cliffs (north end of the box canyon/rock shelter area) closed to rappelling and rock climbing. The closure was issued to decrease the deterioration of the rock shelter floor which has been determined to be archaeologically significant. Previously, a partial closure was issued on the eastern end of the cliff face to protect the locally significant wintergreen growing along the edge. The new closure site had been the recommended alternative site when the original closure was implemented last year. For now, rappelling is still allowed on the other publicly-owned cliffs in the area, but none of them provide equal recreational opportunities. For more information, contact Les Wadzinski at 812-275-5987.
- As reported in the June *IKC Update*, the Evansville-to-Indianapolis (I-69) highway's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was released for public comments. The IKC's comments focused not only on the obvious environmental issues, but also on the Statement's deficiencies related to discussing the other main alternative (I-70/US41) and the projects questionable cost justification values. According to one source, by the August 1st deadline, there were hundreds of (perhaps a thousand?) comments sent to IN-DOT, with most of the letters against building the road. However, it would appear most of the Indiana politicians, supported by pro-growth and construction lobbying dollars, are in favor of the project. This is evident by the fact that federal funding for the design and engineering phase has already been released even before the final EIS has been issued.
- Work continues on the MOU between The Nature Conservancy and the Indiana Cave Survey. The Nature Conservancy wishes to use ICS data to recognize significant cave resources as part of their Blue River Project, and share its biological inventory data with the Division of Nature Preserves (Indiana DNR) for inclusion in their Natural Heritage Database. Concern about the confidentiality of ICS database remains the main issue to resolved. The IKC is facilitating discussions. Hopefully all parties will soon reach an agreement that can further facilitate the protection of the caves and karst.

- Scheduled for this issue, but not completed (or started) was a summary article on the past three years of temperature monitoring in Coon, Grotto, and Ray's caves. Keith Dunlap and Scott Johnson have been using small data logger to record semi-continuous cave temperatures in these three Indiana bat hibernacula to see if there is any correlation between air temperatures and population fluctuations. A fourth season of data collection will be conducted this winter with the project expected to continue indefinitely. Funding for the instrumentation was provided by an Indiana DNR Nongame Special Projects grant. Hopefully the summary article will be ready for the December issue.
- In recognition of the significant effort the IKC and Keith Dunlap contributed towards protecting the Blue Spring karst drainage system during the upgrading of SR 37, the National Speleological Society presented them with a Certificate of Merit at this year's NSS Convention in Salida, Colorado. Certificates of Merit are generally awarded to individuals or groups for specific accomplishments in cave exploration, science, conservation, or activities that further the goals of the NSS. This year, there were only two awards given (the other to the Lint Pickers project at Carlsbad Caverns). While the award was specific for our activities to protect the Blue Spring system, the overall and long term impact of this effort is significantly greater since it fundamentally changed the way the Indiana Department of Transportation plan and design highways in karst areas, requiring consultation, design reviews, and approval from US Fish & Wildlife, Indiana DNR, and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.



- Each year, the IKC sponsors "Cans for Karst" at Cave Capers, collecting aluminum and steel beverage cans for recycling. While the main purpose of this project is to reduce landfill burden by conspicuously promoting responsible recycling, it also brings in a little cash. Cans from the past two year's Capers, along with cans donated by Jim Adams, Keith Dunlap, and Tom Rea totaled forty-two pounds, equating to \$10.60 for the IKC.
- The *Proceedings* of the 1995 National Cave Management are complete and now available (see the review on page 8). If you attended the symposium or ordered a copy from the IKC, you should receive it before October 1st (the goal is to have them mailed out by September 16th). Originally, we had hoped to have them distributed by early-August, but the printer took about six weeks longer to deliver than anticipated. We would also like to extend the discount offer to IKC members until Oct 15th to purchase the book for \$6.50 + \$1.50 shipping (the book retails for \$10.00 + postage). Send your orders to the IKC's PO box or call Keith Dunlap.



- With this issue of the *IKC Update*, members should have received a copy of the IKC's Special Reprint #8, *The "American Bottoms" Region of Eastern Greene County, Indiana — A Type Unit in Southern Indiana Physiography* by Clyde Malott. This 1919 paper was Malott's PhD thesis and the forerunner of numerous other karst related articles he wrote during his career as a practicing geologist in Indiana. The reprint series is part of the IKC's mission of promoting cave and karst education and science. This particular reprint was sponsored and significantly funded by member Don Peters who has a special interest in the Ammerican Bottoms region. Additionally, Joshua Abdulla, James Adams, Bruce Bowman, Keith Dunlap, Jaime Fee, and Bill Tozer were involved in its production (OCR scanning, photo mastering, layout and formatting, proof-reading, collating, assembling, folding, stapling, and trimming). The next reprint is scheduled for March of 1997.
- The costs of producing (paper and copying) and mailing the *IKC Update* have gradually increased over the past several year. You may have noticed the last several issues have been a little thinner as the editor is being more selective on including non-original articles. While the IKC is currently financially sound, and there is no anticipated dues increase, donations are becoming evermore important in funding some of our less-essential items. The IKC would gladly entertain sponsors for such things as color covers, additional photos, or reprinted articles of interest to the sponsor for the *Update* or the IKC's Special Reprint Series.
- The IKC has received two donations from Boy Scout troops in the past quarter. Additionally, the Southeast Kentucky Caver Invitational (SEKCI) held a lottery with the grand prize being donated to the conservation organization designated by the winner. Don Schoffstall won and selected the IKC as his recipient. Finally, the IKC would like to thank M•A•B Paints for donating the paint for the Orangeville Rise sign.
- Three new members have joined the IKC since June. Welcome Kriste Lindberg, Kitty Wooldridge, and Doug Moore. The membership now stands at 143 paid members.

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## BOOK REVIEW

by Larry Reece

*1995 National Cave Management Symposium — Proceedings*. Published by the Indiana Karst Conservancy, Indianapolis, IN. 320pp softbound. Suggested retail price of \$10.00, available from the NSS Bookstore, Speleobooks, Inner Realm and other suppliers of cave books.

The Symposium *Proceedings* contain the 54 papers presented at the 1995 National Cave Management Symposium and cover a wealth of cave related subjects including management plans, formation restoration, environmental monitoring, and much more.

Of particular interest to Indiana cavers might be the papers presented by Keith Dunlap on Temperature Monitoring; by

John Bassett, John Duwelius, and James Keith on Reducing the Impacts of Highway Construction in Indiana Karst; by Julian Lewis on The Devastation and Recovery of Caves and Karst Affected by Industrialization; by Julian Lewis on Cave Bioinventory as a Management Tool; and by Frank Reid on Cave Radio as a Management Tool.

While the papers by Indiana authors or relating to Indiana caves will be of interest to Indiana cavers and those caving in Indiana, I'm sure you will find many other papers of interest and much of the subject matter may be of use to you in your caving activities. I think you will find this book an affordable and worthwhile addition to your cave book library.



## MONROE COUNTY DRAFT ZONING ORDINANCE

by Bill Baus

Monroe County is in the process of drafting a new zoning ordinance. This process was instigated by a desire of some (mostly developers) to take back zoning control of the "two mile fringe", an area which has been controlled by the city of Bloomington's zoning for the last few decades. Traditionally the county's planning and zoning has been mostly *laissez faire* and rather ineffectual, while the city's has been rather stringent. It seems the developers thought that by taking back the two mile fringe, they would lessen restrictions in this area. Fortunately, two things intervened: First, state law requires that to take back the fringe, the county must have a zoning plan as comprehensive as the city's. Second, the effort has sparked new interest in county zoning. As a result, it seems that the developers have shot themselves in the foot. Instead of getting reduced restrictions on the fringe area, they will have increased restrictions in the whole county.

I purchased a copy of the 200 page draft zoning ordinance and have read through it, but only in a cursory fashion so far. I also have spoken briefly with some of the planning staff. In general, I am favorably impressed with the draft ordinance. It is far better than I had expected. However, I have noted some problems, including the failure to deal specifically with karst. The staff assured me that they were in the process of writing a section dealing with karst. The committee which is working on this is as follows:

Warren Henegar - chair  
 Kevin Buchheit - head of county  
 planning department  
 Tad Stevenson - county drainage  
 engineer  
 Stacy Hann - formerly worked for  
 county planning department  
 Dick Powell - consultant, geologist,  
 and former caver  
 Jim Keith - consultant, ecologist, and  
 former caver  
 Joe Peden - farmer who has worked  
 with the soil conservation service  
 Steve Ruple - developer

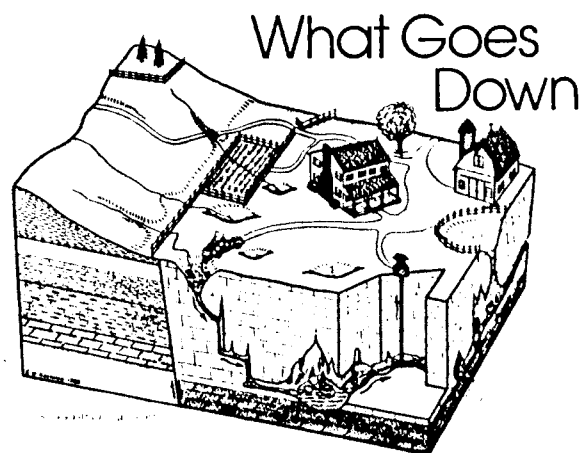
While they are currently in the investigative stage, it seems that eventually this will result in a karst section in the zoning ordinance or possibly a separate ordinance. It is likely that it will be administered and enforced by the drainage board. I will be contacting some of the committee members to get more information and to urge that the ordinance give adequate protection to caves, cave life, and karst drainage.

There have been two hearings on the zoning ordinance and I have attended one. There will be more hearings, some informational, and at least one for additional public comment. Written comments are also being accepted and may be directed to:

Monroe County Planning Dept.  
 Courthouse, Room 306  
 Bloomington, IN 47404

I will be glad to discuss the entire zoning ordinance or the karst ordinance with any interested cavers.

Bill Baus  
 1210 W. 8th  
 Bloomington, IN 47404  
 (812) 339-1210 home  
 (812) 855-3322 office  
 e-mail: Baus@indiana.edu



Must Come Up!

## LOST RIVER WORKDAY II

by Bruce Bowman

The land exchange for Wesley Chapel Gulf has yet to be completed, and the property was again getting overgrown with vegetation since our spring workday (see *IKC Update #41*, page 8). A quick check of the information sign at Orangeville Rise, after Cave Capers, showed that it was also in need of repair. Therefore, another workday in the area was scheduled for July 13th. Permission to do the work was quickly granted and a mailing was sent to IKC members to publicize the event as well as we could.

The day dawned warm and beautiful, with only scattered afternoon thundershowers predicted. I arrived at the property right on time to find Keith Dunlap picking up debris and starting to trim the bushes. I got out my high-wheel mower and in about a half hour had a good portion of the front lawn taken care of; fortunately, the property had been bush-hogged recently by a neighbor and the grass wasn't too high. Just about that time, Tom Sollman arrived and started working with his mower as well. It's a good thing he had gasoline — I'd forgotten to bring any! The rest of the morning was fairly uneventful as I just continued to mow while the other guys alternately hacked at weeds and took turns with Tom's mower. By noon, we had

things pretty much cleaned up around there and took off for the Rise. After we left, Larry Mullins arrived with his chain saw and, with his long bar, was able to cut up most of the large, oak log that remained from our first workday.

Arriving at Orangeville, we quickly constructed a makeshift scaffold (see photo) and began to sand and scrape on the sign. Keith had already cleared away some of the weeds on the road right-of-way so we could work. In maybe a half hour, it was ready to paint. Although my father is a painter by trade, I pretty much let Tom and Keith do this, while my "help" consisted of taking photos and contributing various amounts of cajoling and heckling: "You missed a spot over there...What would happen if I pulled this nail?"...etc.). The Rise is a beautiful karst feature, rivaling Wesley Chapel Gulf itself, and it was quite pleasant to spend a little time just watching the water well up and enjoying the coolness of the air in the vicinity. At one point, the skies started threatening rain, and it even began to fall in earnest. A tarp was thrown over the sign and scaffold and the work continued. The rain subsided after a couple of minutes and never seriously threatened again. By 3:30 (taking frequent breaks to watch the paint



Keith Dunlap and Tom Sollman removing weeds from the back side of the house at Wesley Chapel Gulf property.

Photo by Bruce Bowman

dry), Keith and Tom had two coats on the sign and it was looking good. If those guys did any more work, I don't know about it — I was foolish enough to arrange this event on my wife's birthday and didn't hang around any longer!

An event of this nature in mid-summer, when so many people have conflicts, is always problematical. Still, although the turn-out for this event was light, there wasn't nearly as much work to be done and we had sufficient people to do the job. Since the land exchange with the Hoosier National Forest will not be complete until early 1997, we'll undoubtedly have yet another workday sometime in mid-fall. Thanks to everyone who helped out, and to Mike Cunningham and US Gypsum for their continued support of our efforts. Finally, special thanks should go to M•A•B Paints, for generously donating the paint for the sign.



Keith Dunlap and Tom Sollman (above right) preparing to paint the sign at the Orangeville Rise. And the finished sign (right).



## CLIMAX CAVE CLEAN-UP

by John LaMar Cole, OVR Cave Conservation Liaison

The 1996 conservation project of the Ohio Valley Region, held at Climax Cave in Rockcastle County, Kentucky, August 17-18, unquestionably supported the old adage that success is more a result of quality than of quantity. I had hoped for four times the number of volunteers than showed up on Saturday, but those who came were thoroughly equipped and ready for action. Better than half of the thirty-plus participants had prior experience as "cave scrubbers" and knew exactly what to do without being told. Those who were new to the scene caught on quickly and within ten minutes of entering the cave everyone had found their niche and were toiling away with the absorbed devotion of an ant colony. The info sheet that I'd prepared for the event anticipated a throng of the inexperienced, perhaps a scout troop or two. But this was not the case and the team leaders that I'd planned to assign to manage novices proved unnecessary.

As we entered the cave I announced that everyone should find an area of vandalism in the cave that inspired them to its elimination. The goal was to transform their chosen locale into passage that bore no evidence of vandalism whatsoever. Simply mudding over spray-paint has proven over the years a very temporary, unsatisfactory method of disguising graffiti. The mud dries, flakes away, and in a few months, the spray paint is peeling through nearly as ugly and obvious as before. As well, mud slopped upon otherwise clean limestone can hardly be considered much of an improvement. But equally as undesirable are the raw, abraded wounds on the cave walls where graffiti has been scoured away, but no attempt has been made to return the rock to a natural appearance. This is usually easily accomplished by brushing on a thin slurry of cave mud to stain the roughened area, smoothing out the edges until the worked area is indistinguishable from the adjacent rock. I stressed that before anyone left their site to work on something else, their area should look as they imagined it before the invention of the spray-paint canister.

Everyone took me at my word and the quality of workmanship was outstanding throughout.

Most graffiti was sprayed upon the thin layer of sediment that dusts the cave walls which fortunately often separates the paint from actual rock. This was removable with a modicum of elbow grease and determination. But areas where paint had soaked into porous limestone, or where it had been applied to speleothems, had to be handled more delicately. Particularly problematical were areas where spray enamel marred popcorn encrusted walls — a situation in which scrubbing would prove utterly destructive. A technique that Bill Walden of COG has learned to be effective is the use of propane torches to burn away the paint, leaving the rock unmolested. This can be very time consuming however, though the results are well worth the investment. Bill spent his entire day working on a large, stalagmitic formation that greets the visitor upon entering the south entrance of Climax Cave, transforming it from a billboard of obscenity back into one of the many impressive landmarks that makes Climax a cave well worth the effort to restore it.

A faster but far more hazardous and controversial method of removing stubborn graffiti involves the use of acids. To avoid polluting the cave with caustic fumes and run-off that could endanger cave life as well as volunteers, I was in charge of the "acid crew." No other unauthorized use of acids was permitted. Volunteers were informed at the beginning of the conservation project that if they encountered particularly resistant spray paint, to let me know about it as I scouted the cave. Donning goggles, masks and gloves, we used plastic spray bottles to spritz muriatic acid upon the paint, allowing time for the acid to dissolve the limestone beneath. To completely remove the paint normally required only a couple applications with some hearty scrubbing in between. After the second application, it was found that nylon-bristled scrub brushes were more effective for removing the paint than the

wire brushes. A second spray bottle containing water only was used to rinse down the area before applying the "brown wash" slurry with large paint brushes.

For less troublesome paint that still defied the efforts of scrubbing alone, a phosphoric acid solution was used, producing less vapor than the muriatic acid, but requiring more time to be effective. Applied with a small paint brush, the phosphoric solution was ideal for areas where paint was sprayed over signatures considered "historical." Herein lay another controversy as to the subtle interpretations of the boundary delineating history from vandalism. As a rule of thumb, any signatures before 1910 were to be saved if at all possible. Cincinnati-based MVG members Mike Harrington, Alan Abt, Brian Heckman, and Shane Slay, as well as members of the Red Eye Karst Team, must be commended for their work on a spectacularly abused corridor where they succeeded in salvaging signatures written in wax pencil that dated back to the 1820s while completely removing the lime-green and day-glo orange graffiti obscuring them.

Unquestionably the most uncomfortable restoration work was the removal of graffiti from the cave ceiling. Acid was not practicable. Volunteers developed their individual approaches, but none were user-friendly. Neck-wrenching, arm-exhausting labor was the only effective method and even so, the results were somewhat disappointing. Steve Luganni of the GCG found Bill Walden's propane torch method reasonably successful, but it still required mudding which is more obvious on sediment-free ceiling rock. Nevertheless, after smoothing out the borders, it was an immense improvement over the scrawled mementos of modern day Neanderthals. I am planning a return trip in the near future to experiment with muriatic acid using paint rollers on ceiling extension poles.

Capturing the project from onset to completion was MVG Conservation Chair and CRF Joint Venturer Bill McCuddy. A professional photographer and videographer, Bill is planning to produce a cave restoration video for the NSS, using footage shot during the '96 OVR Conservation Project weekend, and will include spe-

leothen repair projects currently underway in the Sloan's Valley Cave System. Bill interviewed participants at work while documenting vandalism for future forensic investigation. Many of the vandals provided us with first and last names, as well as much other researchable information. I fully intend to follow up on the more noteworthy criminals with a mind to enlighten them as to the grittier joys of cave conservation. One apparently local graffitist named Adam and his cohort "Goon," whose misplaced artistry had blemished the cave fore to aft, little suspect that their spray-paint spree will be their undoing. I personally will not rest until they have spent at least one full day with a wire brush clutched in their exhausted grasp.

Climax Cave owner Mrs E Clark and other cooperative local residents are putting out the word to expose our teenage Michaelangelos. It is only a matter of time.

Media coverage of the conservation project was generous and well wrought. The Lexington Herald-Leader sent a young journalist down to write about the event. It was Amos Jones' first time in a cave and he seemed as impressed with our devotion as with the exotic beauty of the environment. His excellent article was the feature story of the "local news" section of the Sunday paper. Besides several exceptional, large-format photos of volunteers in action, the article contained numerous pertinent quotations, stressing the illegality and mindless destructiveness of cave vandalism. In a sidebar at the opening of the article the address of the NSS was listed for those interested in caving.

Besides newsprint coverage, Lexington's WLEX television station sent a video-journalist to gather footage and interviews of the event. Segments aired on three separate occasions throughout the weekend, emphasizing the criminality of spray-painting cave walls. COG's Kathy Franklin shone as the spokesperson for the project, expressing herself with eloquence and candor. The anchorpersons even quoted relevant sections of the Kentucky cave protection law, and referenced the recent convictions of cave vandals in the Mammoth Cave area. As ex-Ohio Valley Region chairperson Duke Hopper said, commenting on the superlative quality of the media



coverage of the project, "It doesn't get any better than this!"

All in all, the project was more a restoration project than a conservation project. Many of the techniques used in Climax Cave would be utterly inappropriate in more sensitive environments. The conservation purist would find our use of acid and scrub brushes as much a case for vandalism as the calligraphic excesses of Adam and Goon. But two decades of spelean graffiti removal have taught me a practical lesson. A clean cave is far less likely to inspire abuse than one where a little graffiti is allowed to remain unexpunged. Today there may be only a couple of random signatures; tomorrow it will be indistinguishable from the concrete walls of a New York City subway. My ongoing work in the Sloan's Valley Cave System has shown that graffiti can be manageable... as long as you don't let it get out of hand. Of course, the success of this depends on many factors — control of access foremost among them. But one lesson I have learned indelibly: allow one "Fred loves Betty" to remain and you can bet that others will hasten to add their competitive contribution in short order. It's not a war to be won in a day, or accomplished in a single project. But it's a battle that must fought if we are to preserve our caves as one of Nature's most precious treasure holds, as fragile as they are

awe inspiring. Education and awareness may be the ultimate stratagems for winning the war, but for now, on the battleground deep under the earth, the brush and the bucket are the weapons of victory.

GCG's caver emeritus Bill Simpson estimates that we succeeded in removing nearly 100% of the graffiti from about 80% of the cave. Now when you enter the south entrance of Climax Cave, you can stroll for twenty minutes (all the way to the breakdown room) and see the cave as you've never seen it before — devoid of graffiti and trash! All of us who participated in the conservation project left with a warm feeling of accomplishment and a lasting sense of camaraderie with our fellow conservationists. It was definitely a weekend worth the sore necks and exhausted arms. Follow-up projects have already been planned. I am currently seeking grotto and scout sponsors who cave in the area willing to commit to a yearly maintenance project so that Climax Cave does nothing but improve in the coming years and is not allowed to degenerate into the garish subway terminal it had become. Anyone interested should contact me: John Cole, (606)245-3383, or write me at PO Box 555, University Station, Lexington, KY 40506-0025. The Miami Valley Grotto has already pledged to a yearly clean-up effort and I

....continued on page 15

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## 1996 MAMMOTH CAVE RESTORATION FIELD CAMP

by Larry Reece

The eighth annual Restoration Field camp was held at Mammoth Cave on August 11 through August 16, 1996. Thirty participants from six states attended. The IKC was represented by John Benton, Larry Bundy, Linda Bundy, Larry Reece, and John Vargo.

Projects this year included the removal of two Echo River tour boats from Ole Bull's Concert hall and one tour boat from Marion Avenue. Lint removal was conducted along Broadway starting at the Rotunda and proceeding about 300 meters into the cave. Wood removal along Echo River Trail was attempted but met with

little success as very little wood was seen exposed in the area. The majority of remaining wood is buried in the silt. Flowstone cleaning in the Doyle Valley entrance with the aid of a 2000 gallon fire department tank truck was another of the projects.

A half day was spent at the ACCA's American Museum of Caves & Karstlands in Horse Cave, building part of a stone wall along the path to Hidden River Cave and landscaping the entrance area.

A successful week of restoration projects ended with trips in the Weller entrance of Roppel cave on Saturday.

**INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY TREASURY REPORT**  
**Income/Expense Statement**  
**From April 01, 1996 to June 30, 1996**

**INCOME:**

Dues Apportionment and Residuals	521.25	
Donations	305.00	
Interest	173.04	
		<u>\$999.29</u>

**EXPENSES:**

IKC Update (Printing/Production/Mailing):	178.63	
Membership Correspondence/Expenses	170.00	
Misc Correspondence/Info Request/Conservation	31.51	
Property Management Expenses	62.58	
		<u>(\$442.72)</u>

**NET OPERATING EXCESS (DEFICIT) THIS PERIOD** \$556.57

**Balance Sheet**  
**June 30, 1996**

**ASSETS:**

Cash in Checking Account	350.11	
Cash in Savings Account	16300.44	
Total Assets		<u><u>\$16,650.55</u></u>

**LIABILITIES & OPERATING EXCESS:**

1995 National Cave Management Symposium	6595.84
Indiana Cave Survey	1182.41
Indiana Cave Symposium Fund	220.55
IKC Reprint #8 pre-payment	250.00
Hancock Property Maintenance Fund	201.83
DNR Non-Game Fund	270.00
Deferred Dues Fund: 139 members - 1996 75%	1563.75
3 members - 1997 100%	45.00

Previous Operating Excess	5764.60
Net Excess (Deficit) This Period	<u>556.57</u>

Current Operating Excess	6321.17
Total Liabilities & Operating Excess	<u><u>\$16,650.55</u></u>

Actual IKC Assets (minus NCMS, ICS, & ICsym accounts) \$8,651.75

look forward to hearing from others in the near future.

My heartfelt thanks to all the participants in the project, representing three states and fourteen grottos and organizations within the Ohio Valley Region. I also want to express my gratitude to the board members of the Great Saltpetre Cave Pre-

serve for granting us gratis camping at their beautiful facility for the weekend, and especially to Pat Johnson of the Blue Grass Grotto for serving as our campground host and whose hospitality and hot coffee were a godsend throughout the weekend. Thanks to everyone for making a difference. Climax is a better cave because of you!

# IKC QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, June 8, 1996

Bloomington, Indiana

## BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bruce Bowman (President)  
 Jeff Cody (proxy for Larry Bundy)  
 Bruce DeVore  
 Keith Dunlap (Treasurer)  
 Dave Haun  
 Hank Huffman (proxy for Joshua Abdulla)  
 Nick Noe (see note below)  
 Tom Rea  
 Bob Sergesketter  
 Tom Sollman  
 Bill Tozer  
 Clyde Simerman  
 Richard Venier (proxy for Larry Mullins)

## BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

James Adams (see note below)  
 Eric Schmidt

The quarterly business meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by IKC President Bruce Bowman at the IU Geology Building, Room 143, Bloomington, Indiana. Introductions were made with approximately 20 members and visitors present. Treasurer Keith Dunlap served as Acting Secretary for the absent James Adams.

Hank Huffman, Jeff Cody, and Dick Venier were accepted as proxies for Joshua Abdulla, Larry Bundy, and Larry Mullins, respectively. Ronnie Burns as proxy for James Adams was rejected by President Bowman as there was some confusion over whether proper proxy notification had been given.

Bruce Bowman announced the resignation of Director Betty Watson from the IKC Board. Bruce nominated Nick Noe to finish Betty's term, Tom Rea seconded. Passed unanimously. Nick was seated on the Board at that time.

The March meeting minutes were accepted as published in the June *IKC Update*. Keith Dunlap reported a balance of \$8788.87 in the IKC treasury, excluding non-IKC funds in our banking accounts.

Bruce Bowman lead a discussion on increased interest in gas drilling in the New Albany shale which is coincidental with the main karst areas in southern Indiana. Bruce has been communicating with Jim Slutz, DNR Oil &

Gas Division Director, on possible protectionary regulations when drilling in sensitive karst areas. Slutz would like to proceed by including these safeguards in the permitting process rather than as formal rules. By doing this, there will be less red-tape, they can be enacted more quickly, and are less likely to be challenged by the oil industry.

Keith Dunlap reported that the next educational IKC reprint will be Clyde Malott's 1919 PhD thesis on the "American Bottoms" karst region in Greene County. This extensive paper is being funded by Don Peters and should be distributed with the September *IKC Update*.

Bruce Bowman discussed the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) by the Indiana Department of Transportation on the proposed Evansville-to-Indianapolis interstate highway (I-69). The IKC will make a formal reply, but individual members were strongly encouraged to comment too before the August 1st deadline. The Hoosier Environmental Council will be making a mass-mailing covering the many deficiencies of the DEIS including its questionable financial justification and its bias towards a new-terrain corridor with little discussion of the I-70/US-41 alternative. Of the various new-terrain proposals, the report's "preferred" route probably has the least impact on the karst.

Keith Dunlap reluctantly reported he has not made any progress on negotiating a new MOU with Spring Mill State Park's staff pertaining to the IKC's involvement in helping to protect and study the numerous caves in the park.

Bruce Bowman discussed his involvement in initiating an MOU between the Indiana Cave Survey and The Nature Conservancy of Indiana to facilitate data sharing between the two organizations. A draft agreement is being circulated among selected ICS members with discussion on the agenda for the June 23 ICS meeting.

Tom Sollman gave an update on the dye tracing results at Shiloh Cave (Lawrence County). Last year, at the IKC's request, dye was dumped by the Lawrence County Health Department in the toilet of a nearby home whose septic system was suspected to be leaking into the main passage of Shiloh. The dye



"bugs" were collected, found to test positive by Tom, but sent to Noel Krothie at IU for a non-partial confirmation. The samples were analyzed, but the results were "temporarily misplaced". Tom has been assured the results will be eventually found.

Tom Sollman and Hank Huffman re-visited Mayfields Cave (Monroe) recently to photo-document signatures, perform some cursory water analyses, and make further biota observations. The main observations compared to their August 1995 trip was that there was more water (previously the gravel stream was almost dry) and more trash (indicating illicit visitation from this otherwise closed cave). Tom and Hank would like to continue making a trip annually to document the biota and document any changes that may occur due to the extensive industrial development occurring nearby.

Bruce Devore reported that he and Deb Devore have a meeting scheduled for tomorrow (June 9th) with the new owners of Porters Cave (Owen County). From his phone conversation with the owners, they are interested in talking with someone about conservation and access issues.

There are several upcoming Hoosier National Forest karst related activities on the calendar. Larry Mullins was not present to elaborate.

Hank Huffman reported that the Indiana DNR's Cave Management Task Force is still working on a draft policy. Their next meeting is scheduled for June 13. It is anticipated the draft will be released later in the summer for the caving community to review and provide comments. It is anticipated the draft policy will include a permit system, although the details have not been finalized.

Keith Dunlap reminded members of the Coon Cave (Monroe County) clean-up on August 31st. This will be the last day for visitation for Coon and Grotto caves until May 1st.

Bruce Bowman reiterated previous discussions related to the Environmental Fund which the IKC has been invited to join. While there is some interest, no one wanted to obligate the membership to meeting the volunteer requirements. The issue was tabled, to be re-visited next year.

Bruce Bowman proposed a mid-summer Wesley Chapel Gulf homestead workday. The tasks to be completed would be less intensive

than the first time, basically some mowing, hedge trimming, and other cosmetic items. July 13th was set as the tentative date, contingent upon approval of US Gypsum.

Keith reported upon the status of the National Cave Management Symposium *Proceedings*. The 320 page book is basically done, and Tom Rea has received several printing quotes which were significantly below our budgeted target. IKC members will receive a special offer to purchase the book at our cost, plus shipping.

Keith Dunlap reported on the day's activities on the Hancock property. Bill Tozer and Scott Anderson removed some recent graffiti in Grotto Cave, Nick Noe repaired the fence around Shaft Pit, and several others picked up trash along the various trails and Spicer Lane. Maintenance on the Wayne's gate was also performed.

Keith Dunlap again brought up the subject of installing remote alarm systems in Coon and Grotto caves to discourage visitation during the bat hibernacula closure. Keith has discussed the matter with the Indiana DNR and it is likely they will fund the equipment. It is anticipated the custom built alarms will be ready for installation this fall.

Bruce Bowman lead the discussion on several activities related to the Land Acquisition Committee (LAC):

In December, the IKC Board voted to accept, if offered, a conservation easement along Indian Creek in Harrison County related to the Sinks of Indian Creek. The developer who was proposing the easement has now changed his plans for a sub-division and is now selling the property to a golf course developer. It is uncertain if the conservation easement will still be part of this deal.

Bruce Bowman has had discussions with the owner of Carter Byrnes Cave (Harrison County) of a possible conservation easement on approximately 30 acres to protect the cave in the middle of a planned sub-division.

Bruce Bowman reported the transfer of the Orangeville Rise (Orange County) from The Nature Conservancy to the IKC is progressing. The LAC needs to address insurance and property tax exemption issues before the transfer can be completed.



Bruce Bowman and Ronnie Burns have revived lease negotiations with the owner of Suicide Cave (Washington County). Initially, the new owner wanted the IKC to carry insurance on the property for her. This was not acceptable to us and she has since dropped that requirement. It does appear that she will require the IKC to install a gate on the cave if the lease is to be renewed. There was much discussion on the necessity of the gate, whether the IKC should enter into such an agreement when the consensus is that a gate isn't necessary, and the negative consequences on the cave not being protected (or bulldozed) if the IKC does not lease the cave/install a gate. Keith Dunlap motioned, Clyde Simerman seconded: Contingent upon a successful lease agreement being negotiated, the IKC will, if necessary, install a gate on Suicide Cave, the cost of materials not to exceed \$250. Twelve for, none against, Hank Huffman abstaining.

Keith Dunlap initiated a discussion on parking problems at Wayne's Cave (Monroe County). Dave Haun relayed his April 26th observations of 36 Boy Scouts and 14 vehicles parked along the road. It was unclear how this large group got the key (none of the key holders gave the key out on that weekend). The discussion widened and lengthened into suspected illicit key copying and ways to prevent it, and various methods to minimize parking problems (limiting group sizes, limiting the number of vehicles per group, etc). Dave Haun finally motioned, Tom Rea seconded: Each group will be limited to two vehicles parked along the road, but with no group size restriction at this time. Twelve for, none against, Bill Tozer abstaining. Keith Dunlap will communicate this new vehicle restriction to the grotto liaisons. Keith will also investigate having all future gate keys stamped with a "Do Not Duplicate" imprint.

Bruce Bowman led the discussion on an anti-dumping sinkhole brochure being designed by The Nature Conservancy as part of their Blue River initiative. Several other groups are helping to prepare and fund the project. It was a little unclear as to the complete scope, audience, and participants in this project, but the consensus was that the IKC should be supportive. Keith Dunlap motioned that the IKC offer to fund 25% of the brochure's production, up to \$250. Tom Rea offered the amendment to make the funding contingent upon having the IKC's name on the brochure. The amendment failed, five for, six against, 2 abstaining (many felt the participating group's names would be on the brochure and there was no need to have this requirement). The original motion passed,

eleven for, Tom Rea against, and Bruce Devore abstaining.

Bruce Bowman brought up the subject of providing a Cave Capers door prize. The IKC has done this in the past, but several questioned the cost effectiveness of this. Bruce suggested several inexpensive alternative, but there was concern that an inexpensive prize might be perceived negatively. Dave Haun motioned to not provide a door prize this year. Twelve for, one abstaining.

Bruce Devore brought up a previous suggestion Keith Dunlap had made to him about splitting with the Northern Indiana Grotto the \$200 donation received from US Gypsum for the volunteer work performed at the Wesley Chapel Gulf homestead. The suggested split was offered since approximately half the volunteers were NIG members. Bruce and Clyde Simerman, representing the NIG, indicated the donation should stay with the IKC.

Ronnie Burns recapped the recent fence installed by the Harrison-Crawford and Evansville Metro grottos around the entrance of Heiser Well. The 6' fence was to prevent the owner's children from falling in. The fence perimeter was 76' in length and landscaped by pine trees donated by the Indiana DNR.

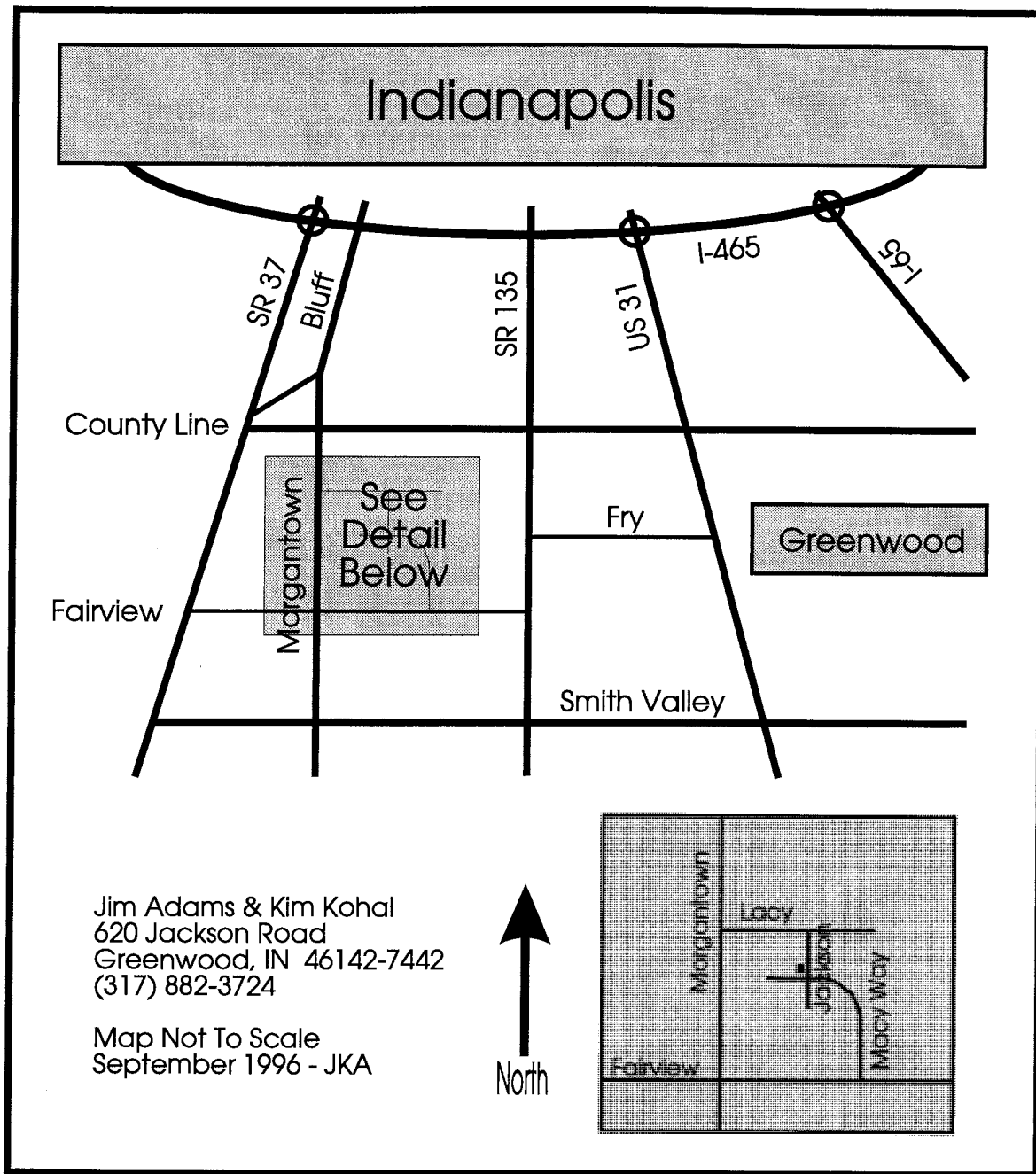
There was mention of changes in the bulk mailing regulations to go into effect July 1st. It was thought that the new regulation will not impact the IKC's non-profit bulk mailing.

The next meeting was tentatively set for September 21st at the home of Jim Adams and Kim Kohal in Greenwood (Jim was not there to confirm the date). The meeting will be the annual cook-out. Start time to be determined.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:03.

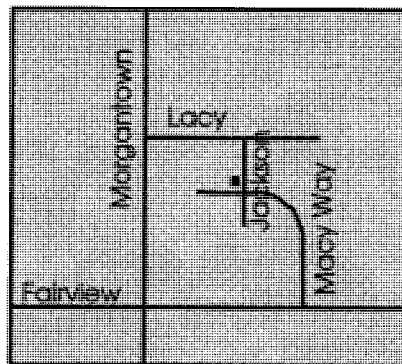
Submitted by Keith Dunlap, Acting Secretary.





Jim Adams & Kim Kohal  
 620 Jackson Road  
 Greenwood, IN 46142-7442  
 (317) 882-3724

Map Not To Scale  
 September 1996 - JKA



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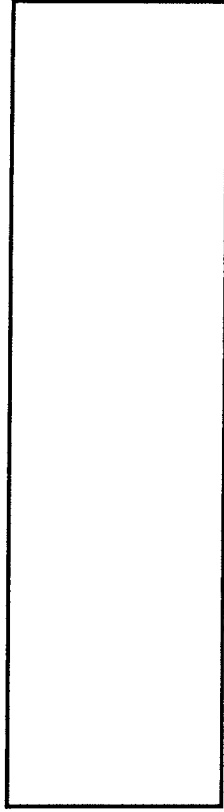
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for IKC membership dues at \$15 per year (dues expire March 31st of each year, please pro-rate @ \$1.25/month).
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ donation to the general IKC fund.
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ donation restricted to a specific IKC project. Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ I know of an area worthy of protection. Please contact me.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I would like to volunteer to help. Please contact me.

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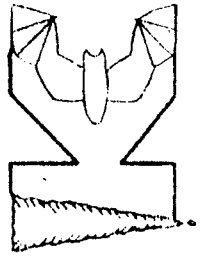
Make checks payable to the Indiana Karst Conservancy, Inc. and mail to the IKC Treasurer, c/o Indiana Karst Conservancy, PO Box 2401, Indianapolis, IN 46206-2401. The IKC is an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with membership dues and donations fully tax deductible.

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