

IKC Update

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY
JUNE 1999 · NUMBER 53

A New IKC Karst Preserve...



THE ORANGEVILLE RISE

INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY, INC.

PO Box 2401, Indianapolis, IN 46206-2401
 Affiliated with the National Speleological Society.



The Indiana Karst Conservancy 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.

<p>EXECUTIVE BOARD</p> <p>President Kriste Lindberg (2000) (812) 849-5766 Lindberg@indiana.edu</p> <p>Secretary James Adams (2000) (317) 882-3724(H)/(317) 285-1611(W) JKAdams@aol.com</p> <p>Treasurer Keith Dunlap (2000) (317) 882-5420(H)/(317) 242-2505(W) KDunlap@atd.gmeds.com</p> <p>Directors</p> <p>Bruce Bowman (2001) (317) 539-2753 Bowman_Bruce_E@lilly.com</p> <p>Ronnie Burns (2001) (812) 283-7610 RBurns@venus.net</p> <p>Bruce Devore (2001) (219) 639-7249 BRDevore@aol.com</p> <p>Bambi Dunlap (2001) (317) 882-5420 Bambi.Deer@juno.com</p> <p>Nick Noe (2001) (317) 782-3442 NickNoe@classic.msn.com</p> <p>Tom Rea (2000) (765) 653-4423 TRea@caves.org</p> <p>Bob Sergesketter (2000) (812) 482-5517</p> <p>Tom Sollman (2001) (812) 753-4953 Sollman@juno.com</p> <p>Bill Tozer (2000) (765) 778-3259 WTozer@aol.com</p> <p>Bob Vandeventer (2000) (317) 888-4501 VandeventerB@tce.com</p> <p>Richard Vernier (2000) (812) 385-5058 Richard_Vernier@sec.siemens.com</p> <p>Kathy Welling (2000) (765) 653-6352 KathyD@ccrtc.com</p>	<p>COMMITTEES/CHAIRPERSON</p> <p>Management & Owner Relations Keith Dunlap (see E-Board list)</p> <p>Land Acquisition Hank Huffman (812) 876-9645 HankandEllen@worldnet.att.net</p> <p>Membership James Adams (see E-Board list)</p> <p>Publications Keith Dunlap (see E-Board list)</p> <p>Hoosier National Forest Project Steve Lockwood (812) 849-5766 SDL@kiva.net</p>	<p>GROTTO/LIAISONS</p> <p>Bloomington Indiana Grotto Anmar Mirza (812) 339-1506</p> <p>Bloomington Indiana Grotto Kriste Lindberg (see E-Board list)</p> <p>Central Indiana Grotto Keith Dunlap (see E-Board list)</p> <p>Dayton Underground Grotto Mike Hood (513) 252-2978</p> <p>Eastern Indiana Grotto Brian Leavell (765) 552-7619</p> <p>Evansville Metro Grotto Ernie Payne (812) 477-7043</p> <p>Greater Cincinnati Grotto Eric Weaver (513) 369-0738</p> <p>Harrison-Crawford Grotto Dave Black (812) 951-3886</p> <p>Louisville Grotto Richard Newton (812) 365-2495</p> <p>Mid-Hoosier Grotto Jeff Cody (317) 888-9898</p> <p>Northern Indiana Grotto Clyde Simerman (219) 422-3030</p> <p>St Joseph Valley Grotto Ted Bice (219) 892-6337</p> <p>Stygian Grotto Richard Orr (314) 521-0355</p> <p>Sub-Urban Chicago Grotto Gary Gibula (603) 393-6746</p> <p>Western Indiana Grotto Don Ingle (812) 466-5015</p> <p>Windy City Grotto Steve Petruniak (414) 279-3601</p>
<p>MANAGED CAVES/PATRONS</p> <p>Coon Cave Keith Dunlap (see E-Board list)</p> <p>Grotto Cave Keith Dunlap (see E-Board list)</p> <p>Orangeville Rise (to be appointed)</p> <p>Shaft Cave Jeff Cody (317) 888-9898</p> <p>Shiloh Cave James Adams (see E-Board list)</p> <p>Suicide Cave Ronnie Burns (see E-Board list)</p> <p>Sullivan Cave Bob Vandeventer (see E-Board list)</p> <p>Wayne's Cave Serena Smith (812) 339-2394</p>	<p>Cover: Joshua Abdulla observing the Orangeville Rise (Orange County) at low flow conditions. Photo (circa 1993) and layout by James Adams © 1999.</p> <p>Newsletter staff: Keith & Bambi Dunlap</p> <p><i>Myotis Press</i></p>	

QUARTERLY MEETING REMINDER

SATURDAY, JUNE 26th, 7:00 PM

PIKE COUNTY, INDIANA

SUGAR RIDGE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA 3 CAMPGROUND

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. While official business of the IKC is conducted, the meetings are informal, and everyone is encouraged to attend and participate. The IKC Board *wants* your input.

Preliminary Agenda Items: Brief recaps of last quarter's activities; DNR abandoned mine gates project; Orangeville Rise activities discussion; Land Acquisition Committee activities, Sullivan Property activities; Leonard Springs park activities; HNF inventorying project; Bylaw changes; Auction items; and more....

Meeting directions: From Winslow, take SR 61 south to SR 364. Take SR 364 east 3/4 of a mile to CR 300E. Take 300E 3/4 of a mile south to the campground on the right. We will try to be in the first campsite. If weather is a problem, we will move to the shelter at Pike State Forest located at the end of SR 364. Starting time is approximate depending upon the gating project.

EVENTS CALENDAR

- 26 JUN = IKC QUARTERLY MEETING, near Winslow (see above)
- 26-27 JUN = ABANDONED MINE GATE CONSTRUCTION, near Winslow (see page 4)
- 12-16 JUL = NSS NATIONAL CONVENTION, Idaho
- 21 AUG = HNF/IKC COMMITTEE MEETING AND FIELD WORKDAY, Bedford
- 18 SEP = HNF/IKC KARST PROJECT TRAINING SESSION, Bedford
- 02 OCT = LOST RIVER EDUCATIONAL TOUR, Orleans (contact Bob Armstrong)
- 16 OCT = HNF/IKC COMMITTEE MEETING AND FIELD WORKDAY, Bedford
- 19-23 OCT = NATIONAL CAVE MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM, Tennessee (see page 5)

For more information on the Indiana Karst Conservancy, visit our web site at <http://www.caves.org/conservancy/ikc> or write to our PO box. 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.

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RAMBLINGS FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT...

Over the years, the IKC has seen some truly strong leaders amongst its ranks - from Presidents to Directors to members. They are some of the best I have known in the caving world. Some good policies have been set forth, as well. Over the next year, I plan to carry them through as well as devise a few more.

For starters, there has been one issue in particular that seems to be rather timely - cave/karst management and acquisition.

We have just acquired our second property -- the Orangeville Rise. Also, with the encroachment of civilization onto the Indiana karstlands, more caves/karst features will be needing our help. Many of significance have already been sold, subdivided, and or developed. Some of which have been subsequently lost to cavers. This is unfortunate. However, it is not too late for others. The key to acquiring these lands is knowing what's available.

Recently, members of the IKC, The Nature Conservancy, and the DNR's division of

Nature Preserves discussed this situation. All are willing to work together with us in this endeavor. It is now easier than ever for us to do it.

Additionally, last week, I sat down with a realtor friend to discuss a proposed plan... one that would benefit both them and us. That is, we could help them deal with cave/karst properties, which tend to be difficult to sell and manage, and in return request that they let us know which lands that may be of interest to us are, or could be, available.

Most often, these karstlands are undesirable to many people (just think of how many sinkholes have been filled in), however, they are important to us. She was very interested and seems to think this could really take off. It promises to be a win-win for all.

In addition, you can help out here, too -- please let us know if you hear of significant caves and/or karst features that you think we would be interested in.

- *Kriste Lindberg*

ABANDONED MINE BAT GATES PROJECT - JUNE 26-27

Your assistance is needed to complete the second phase of installing bat-friendly gates on abandoned mine entrances (see page 16 for a recap of phase one). Four gates are on the agenda for the weekend which is an ambitious schedule, but can be completed if we have the volunteers and cooperative weather.

The project, a cooperative effort between the IKC and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources will provide ideal habitat for several species of bats. In the past many of these mine openings have been closed by bulldozing to eliminate their safety concerns, but the Indiana DNR would like to be more pro-bat, thus they have entered into an agreement with the IKC to do a pilot project to construct seven gates. IKC members manage the project and perform most of the actual work. In exchange, the DNR will cover all the costs of the materials, supplies, camping, and other expenses, *plus* appropriately compensate the IKC for our efforts (i.e., this should be viewed as a fund raiser to support other IKC projects). This is a win-win-win situation for the IKC, the DNR, and especially for the bats who are now living in these mines.

The four entrances to be gated are all located at mine site 859, near the town of Glezen (just south of Petersburg). The entrances are between ten and nineteen feet wide and three to four foot tall. No real skills are required, just a willingness to work together as a team to get things done. Volunteers should wear heavy boots and leather gloves. Lunches on both days will be provided. Camping will be provided Friday and Saturday nights (see directions to campground on page 3).

If you are interested and can help, please contact Keith Dunlap at 317-882-5420, KDunlap@atd.gmeds.com. We will be meeting both mornings at 8 AM at the Sugar Ridge headquarters/maintenance yard (just east of SR 61 on SR 364). If you will be arriving later, be sure to get directions to the work site.

NEWS BRIEFS...

- ❑ Each March the IKC holds its elections, selecting the three Officers (one year terms) and six of the twelve Directors (two year terms). After five years, Bruce Bowman decided to step down as President and Kriste Lindberg accepted the nomination from the floor and was elected. James Adams and Keith Dunlap were each re-elected as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. For Director positions, Bruce Devore, Nick Noe, and Tom Sollman were re-elected while Bruce Bowman, Ronnie Burns, and Bambi Dunlap were newly elected. We would like to thank the out-going Directors Steve Lockwood (one year), Kriste Lindberg (two years), and Dave Haun (six years).
- ❑ The 14th National Cave and Karst Management Symposium is quickly approaching. The biennial conference this time is being organized by the Southeastern Cave Conservancy and will be held in Chattanooga, Tennessee, October 19-22. Attendees include cave and land managers from federal and state agencies, commercial caves, conservation organizations, and the general caving community. The symposium consists of numerous presentations, several field trips, and the opportunity to interact with others dedicated to cave conservation. For more information, visit www.caves.org/ncms99 or contact Mark Wolinsky at (919) 755-9945 or ncms99@sci.org.
- ❑ The Ohio Valley Region's conservation project for 1999 will be in Sloan Valley Cave, Pulaski County, Kentucky. The date has not been finalized, but expect it to be in October. Tasks are to include speleothem repair, formation cleaning, and trash/graffiti removal. Access will be through the Garbage Pit entrance. Camping will be available. For more information, contact Bill McCuddy.

❑ Over the past nine years, the Indiana DNR and the IKC have been monitoring Coon, Grotto, and Jim Ray's caves for winter disturbances in these critical *Myotis sodalis* hibernacula. This monitoring is done passively with electronic "speloggers" which are installed near the entrances of the caves and record the date and time of each human disturbance (triggered by light). The information collected is providing a means to determine the effectiveness (or ineffectiveness) of our closure methods in discouraging unauthorized entry. This past year again saw no unauthorized entries in Grotto (third year in a row) or Coon caves. Ray's Cave saw three unauthorized entries, but two of those were in late April and probably did little harm. The data is clear, new signage and other deterrents implemented in the fall of 1996 has made a significant improvement compared to the prior years.

Winter	Number of Disturbances		
	Jim Ray's	Coon	Grotto
98 / 99	3 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾
97 / 98	1	1	0
96 / 97	0 ⁽¹⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾	0 ⁽¹⁾
95 / 96	3	9	4
94 / 95	8 ⁽¹⁾	8 ⁽¹⁾	5 ⁽¹⁾⁽³⁾
93 / 94	-- ⁽⁴⁾	-- ⁽⁴⁾	-- ⁽⁴⁾
92 / 93	7 ⁽¹⁾	3 ⁽¹⁾	8 ⁽¹⁾
91 / 92	6	1	5
90 / 91	4 ⁽¹⁾	8 ⁽¹⁾	n/a

1) Excludes one visit for biennial bat census
 2) Excludes one visit for anabat testing
 3) Spelogger failed on day 182 of 227 days
 4) Data loss due to faulty batteries

- ❑ Preliminary results from this past winter's Indiana bat census yielded mixed results. Several caves in the Harrison-Crawford area were down, but other caves in Monroe and Green counties were up with the total number of bats remaining about the same compared to the 1997 census. Of note, both Coon and Grotto had the highest numbers ever documented in these two caves (over 6000 and 4000, respectively). Furthermore, Ray's Cave took another impressive jump and is now probably the largest winter hibernacula for *Myotis sodalis* anywhere with over 60,000 bats! A complete article on the census results will be presented in a future *IKC Update*.
- ❑ On May 8th, over two hundred volunteers participated in the Hoosier National Forest's "Take Pride In America" workday. Most of the projects that were completed dealt with trail maintenance, but as was done last year, one project focused on karst. Dave Hanson (HNF) and approximately twenty volunteers worked on the Wesley Chapel Gulf project removing old rolls of fence and barb wire from sinkholes and from the edge of the gulf. Other trash pickup and fence removal was completed. Most of the caver volunteers where from the St Joseph Valley Grotto who had made the clean-up one of their grotto conservation projects. Cavers included Bob Arm-



strong, Ted Bice, Mark Deebel, Burt Gates, Bill Kulwicki, Kevin Kulwicki, Burnis Piper, Carol Ritter (and children), Dee Slater, and Trae Spires. After the clean-up Bob Armstrong treated everyone to an impromptu mini-tour of the Lost River including visits to the Orangeville Rise, the True Rise, and Ragsdale Gulf.

- As reported in an Ohio Valley Region press release, on April 24th, 40+ volunteers from the region descended again on a large sinkhole that drains directly in Freeland's Cave (Ohio's longest near Peebles, Ohio). Although some minor work remains, the sinkhole no longer looks as if it were ever used as a dump. More than ten additional tons of refuse was removed, equaling the tonnage removed last year. Almost half of the refuse was recycled thanks to the support of a local recycler.
- On April 24th, the IKC again participated in the Earth Day Indiana festivities. This annual event is a great way to network with other organizations and make our cause known to the environmentally-conscience general public. The IKC and the Lost River Conservation Association shared booth space this year. A feature article on current events in cave conservation was provided by the IKC as part of the Grassroots Environmental Handbook -- a free publication issued by IPALCO as their contribution to the event. Fair weather and a large turnout allowed us to educate many people and on the issues of cave and karst preservation. Thanks to Bob Armstrong and Bruce Bowman for manning the table this year.
- The IKC still has a few donated items to auction off with funds going into the Sullivan property fund. The first item is a one-of-a-kind sterling silver carbide lamp pendant and rope chain necklace hand crafted by IKC member Jack Wood. For more details and to make a bid, go to <http://www.caves.org/conservancy/ikc/promo.htm> or contact Bruce Bowman. The high bid as of June 6th was \$40.

We also have a Justrite carbide handlamp donated by IKC member Marty Church and a new sit-harness looking for a good home. For more information or to make a bid on these two items, contact Jim Adams.

- Through the generosity of one of our member's, we have had the luxury of two color covers in as many issues without spending any money. While we plan to go back to a standard "black and tan" cover with the next issue, having the option of color definitely allowed a little extra creativity in the layout department which produced a couple of attractive and eye-catching covers.
- While your IKC dues pays for the basic operating expenses of the organization, we rely significantly upon general donations for many of the larger projects we undertake. Luckily we have many members who give a little extra (some more than a little) when they renew each year. Thanks to John Ahlberg, George Brutchin, Danielle Burden, George Cesnik, Marty Church, Bambi Dunlap, Keith Dunlap, Bruce Devore, Jeff Farr, Joe Gasperi, Dave Haun, Tim Heppner, Dick Horn, Tem Hornaday, David Lasser, Robert Masta, Jonathan Miller, Nick Noe, Ernie Payne, Robert Roundy, Bob Sergesketter, Susie Strickland, Gordon Smith, Bob Vandeventer, Dean Wiseman, Jim Wright, Bluesprings Caverns, and Marengo Cave. Donations through May total almost \$1200.
- After the successful fund drive for Sullivan Cave and the obvious interest in additional cave acquisitions, the IKC Board voted to set up a restricted "acquisition" fund where donations could be made and held as seed money for the next opportunity. While it is not envisioned that this fund would ever grow big enough to fully fund a whole project, it would allow us to act quicker and minimize our debt load. Contributors to the fund so far: George Cesnik, Bob Decker, Scott Fee, Dick Horn, Jonathan Miller, Nick Noe, Ernie Payne, Jan Pursley, Robert Roundy, Gordon Smith, Tom Sollman, Mark Webb, and Kathy Welling. Donations through May totals \$825.
- Five new members have joined the IKC in the past quarter. Welcome Daniel Rice (345), David Anderson (346), Carl McDougall (347), Don Bohling (348), and Scott Worpell (349). The IKC membership now stands at 167.

IKC RECEIVES THE ORANGEVILLE RISE

by Bruce Bowman

Most IKC members immediately recognize the Orangeville Rise as one of the largest springs in Indiana. It along with the nearby True Rise are the sources of the "new" headwaters for Lost River after sinking underground seven miles to the east. The Orangeville rise pool has been owned by The Nature Conservancy since the mid-70s, after a successful fight to stop a downstream dam that would have inundated several significant Lost River karst features. The property is a little over three acres in size, and includes both the rise pool and the stream; which flows only a short distance to the southeast before joining the Lost River dry-bed. The Orangeville Rise contains a population of the state-endangered Northern cavefish, *Amblyopsis spelea*. It is also a state-dedicated nature preserve and National Natural Landmark.

This karst feature has long been discussed as a property that could benefit from active management. To this end, discussions between the IKC and TNC were initiated to see if the property could be transferred to the IKC. These discussions have been ongoing for at least four years -- long-time members may recall seeing discussions to this effect in the meeting minutes of the IKC board. However, since the property was adequately protected, the project has never been a top priority for either organization.

The proposal got a new lease on life in early 1997, when the IKC renovated the sign on the property to demonstrate our commitment to active management. By August, we

were asked to provide a formal memorandum as to why the property would benefit from the transfer. Among these benefits were the increased focus on karst protection afforded by the IKC, and the possibility that the property would serve as a "seed" for other acquisitions/donations so the IKC could become a more credible land trust in Indiana (note: our recent success in acquiring Sullivan Cave didn't hurt our cause, either). Clearly, the transfer was a win-win proposition.

This formal memorandum was submitted in September of 1997 and languished for some time in the TNC regional attorney's office. To be fair, neither the IKC nor the Indiana Chapter of TNC were pushing very hard to expedite the deal. There were many other priorities, and this one simply took awhile to reach the top of the stack. Obviously, the IKC itself was quite busy with our own business of raising funds for Sullivan Cave. Throughout this process, there were some meetings with the IKC's Land Acquisition Committee to discuss the details of the existing property management plan and articles of dedication, property tax and tax exemptions, liability insurance, and generally getting a feel for what we were getting ourselves into.

Things reached a peak last April, when I was notified that the regional attorney had completed her review of the application and had drawn up papers for the transfer. The DNR was promptly contacted and their final buy-in to the transaction was obtained. The

Posing with our new deed for the Orangeville Rise (left to right): Bruce Bowman (IKC), Kriste Lindberg (IKC), John Bacone (DNR Nature Preserves), and Les Zimmer (TNC).

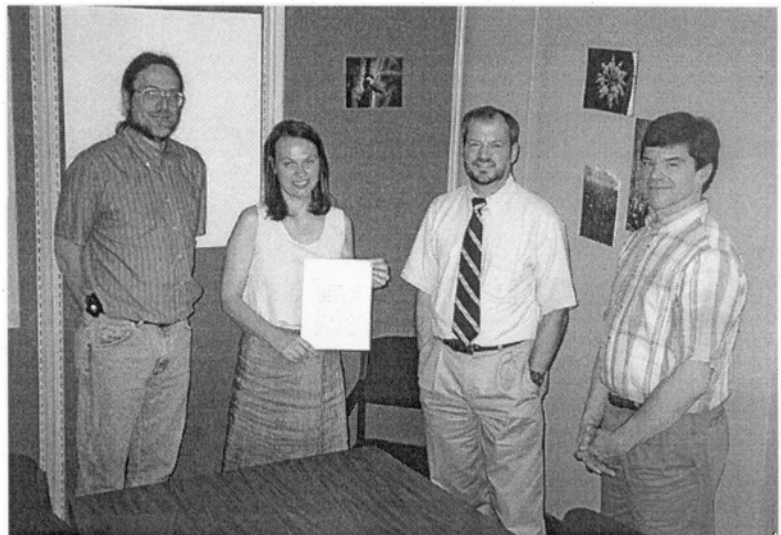


Photo by Hank Huffman

IKC board was also promptly polled by email and phone to obtain a final endorsement of the transfer, and to approve an application for property tax exemption. The IKC came to be the owners of the Rise on May 5, 1999; when TNC signed a Quit Claim Deed, naming the IKC as the beneficiary. The deed contains a reverter clause, such that ownership would revert back to TNC should the IKC be dissolved, or fail to uphold our duties under the Articles of Dedication. Also signed was a Memorandum of Understanding to the effect that the Department of Natural Resources recognizes the IKC as the new owner.

TNC also provided a template for filling out the forms for our property tax exemption. The deed was recorded at the Orange County courthouse on May 11. The tax exemption application (Form 136) was submitted on May 13; the outcome of which is still pending.

For all practical purposes, management of the property is already outlined in the Articles of Dedication and Master Plan. The dedication is very similar to a conservation

easement, held by the state of Indiana. Virtually all management and research activities not expressly allowed under this plan must be pre-approved by the DNR before the IKC can implement them. Therefore, there is little reason for the IKC to write our own management plan. We already have several projects in mind for the site, including replacement of the sign with a less-obtrusive design that notifies people on who and where to contact someone for additional information, removal of a rope overhanging the rise pool, removing trash and debris, etc. A workday will probably be planned for either late this year or early in 2000.

The IKC would like to thank The Nature Conservancy for their foresight, for their help throughout this process, and for so forcefully demonstrating their confidence in the IKC as both a credible land trust and responsible stewards of karst properties. The Articles of Dedication and Master Plan for the Orangeville Rise are outlined below, and are also available on the IKC web page at <http://www.caves.org/conservancy/ikc-rise.htm>.

ARTICLES OF DEDICATION
ORANGEVILLE RISE OF LOST RIVER NATURE PRESERVE

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 266 of the Acts of 1967, as amended by Acts of 1972, Public Law 107, and solely for the uses and purposes set forth in said Act as of the date of these Articles of Dedication, and upon and subject to the conditions under which Grantor took title to the real estate hereinafter described as set forth in the deed of Anna L. Pinnick, a widow and Henry T. Holland, Chairman, Opposition to Lost River Springs Valley Conservancy District and Ruth Holland his wife to Grantor dated the 4th day of December, 1972, and recorded on the 29th day of December, 1972, in Orange County Record No. 120 all of which conditions are incorporated herein by reference thereto as set forth herein in full. The Nature Conservancy, a not-for-profit corporation of the District of Columbia having its principal office in the City of Arlington, Virginia, hereby dedicates to the Department of Natural Resources of the State of Indiana, under the provisions of said Act, voluntarily and without consideration, (subject, however, to termination as hereinafter provided) a perpetual nonexclusive easement in the following described real estate herein called Orangeville Rise of Lost River Nature Preserve located in Orange County, Indiana:

A part of the Southeast quarter of Section 6, Township 2 North, Range 1 West, Orange County, Indiana. More particularly described as follows: Beginning at a 1/2-inch iron pipe which marks the Northeast corner of Lot Number 1 in the town of Orangeville as platted in the Orange County Indiana recorder's office June 18, 1849; thence N90°E (assumed bearing) along the South line of Street Number One in the Town of Orangeville 190.65 feet to a railroad spike in the center of a county blacktop road known as the Orangeville-Paoli Road; thence S13°26.0'W along the centerline of the said road 426.84 feet to a railroad spike; thence S33°30.8'W 164.69 feet to a railroad spike; thence leaving the said road S33°13.3'W 102.54 feet to a 1/2 inch iron pipe; thence S33°54.1'W 38.00 feet to the center of the Dry Bed of Lost River; thence along the centerline of the said Dry Bed N48°29.5'W 180.59 feet to the point where the centerline of the Dry Bed intersects the centerline of Lost River; thence N64°36.2'W along the centerline of Lost River 6.64 feet; thence leaving the centerline of

Lost River N24°14.4'E 528.15 feet to a 1/2 inch iron pipe at the Southeast corner of the aforesaid Lot Number One, Town of Orangeville, Indiana; thence N01°19.1'E along the East line of lot One 65.49 feet to the point of beginning. Containing 3.017 acres more or less, and subject to all legal rights-of-way and easements.

Grantee hereby accepts such dedication and holds its estates, rights and interests hereunder in the Nature Preserve in trust for the People of the State of Indiana under the provisions of said Act.

Subject to said deed conditions the Nature Preserve shall be used, administered, managed and protected by the Administrator (as defined in the Master Plan) in accordance with the provisions of the Policies for Administration and Management of Indiana Nature Preserves and Registered Natural Areas adopted by Grantee and in effect on May 1, 1969, of these Articles of Dedication and of the Master Plan for the Nature Preserve adopted by Grantor and Grantee, to be effective on last date appearing below, all of which are on file in Grantee's office in Indianapolis, Indiana, and in Grantor's office in Arlington, Virginia, (which Policies and Master Plan are hereby approved and adopted by Grantor as the rules and regulations for the Nature Preserve as provided in said deed conditions), together with such amendments of laid Policies or Master Plan as may be adopted by Grantee in writing and approved and adopted by Grantor in writing from time to time and as are not inconsistent with the provisions of said Act, these Articles of Dedication or said deed conditions.

Grantee shall not grant any estate, interest or right in the Nature Preserve, or dispose of the Nature Preserve, or any part thereof, or any of its interests or rights therein, without Grantor's prior written consent.

In the event that, in contemplation of a taking of the Nature Preserve or any part thereof for another use, the Natural Resources Commission of the State of Indiana should find, after a public hearing, that an imperative and unavoidable public necessity exists for such taking and the Governor of the State should approve of such taking, all as provided in Sections 8 and 9 of said Act, this dedication and all estates, rights and interests created by these Articles of Dedication shall automatically terminate and be of no further force or effect as to the area subject to such finding and approval.

If and whenever said Act is amended, Grantor shall have the right to terminate this dedication and all estates, rights and interests created by these Articles of Dedication by giving written notice of such termination to Grantee at any time within one year after said amendment becomes effective. As used in these Articles of Dedication, the word "Grantor" means The Nature Conservancy or such other organization as may have title to the above described real estate under said deed conditions.

Neither the uses and purposes for which the Nature Preserve is dedicated nor the provisions of these Articles of Dedication shall expire or lapse or be deemed fully satisfied by virtue of compliance therewith for any period of time.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The Nature Conservancy and the Department of Natural Resources of the State of Indiana have caused these Articles of Dedication to be signed by their duly authorized officers on the respective dates appearing below.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY Dated: 3/14/1975
G Jon Roush, Executive Vice President

STATE OF INDIANA NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION Dated: 3/20/1975
John A Hillenbrand II, Chairman

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Joseph D Cloud, Director
Theodore L Sendak, Attorney General

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF NATURE PRESERVES
William B Barnes, Director

Approved this 13th day of June, 1975
Otis R Bowen MD, Governor, State of Indiana

MASTER PLAN
AMENDMENT OF ORANGEVILLE RISE OF THE LOST RIVER NATURE PRESERVE

BEING EXHIBIT "A" TO ARTICLES OF DEDICATION
ENTERED INTO BETWEEN THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
AND THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE STATE OF INDIANA

The Master Plan for Orangeville Rise of the Lost River Nature Preserve, Orange County, Indiana adopted by the Natural Resources Commission on March 20, 1975, and recorded as a part of the Articles of Dedication for the Nature Preserve on June 18, 1975 in Orange County Record No. 28, page 351-59, is hereby amended by deleting in total such original Master Plan and by substituting the Amendment of Master Plan which follows.

- 1) This Master Plan applies to a Nature Preserve which contains a noteworthy geological feature, a site at which the underground Lost River comes to the surface. The preserve also contributes to the protection of the rare *Amblyopsis spelaea* (northern blind cave fish) and other cave fauna. In addition, the preserve contains some wooded land, several watercourses, and some old field.
- 2) This Nature Preserve is owned by The Nature Conservancy, a not-for-profit corporation of the District of Columbia. The Nature Preserve is located in Orangeville Township, in Orange County, Indiana, a more detailed description being contained in the Articles of Dedications of which this Master Plan is a part and to which it is attached.
- 3) As used in this Master Plan, "Department" means the Department of Natural Resources of the State of Indiana, or such other governmental agency as succeeds to its rights and duties (including particularly its rights and duties under the Nature Preserve Act, hereinafter called "Act" and "Administrator" means The Nature Conservancy, or such other entity as succeeds to The Nature Conservancy's rights and duties, and "Nature Preserve" shall be that area described as such in the Articles of Dedication of which this is a part.
- 4) The custody, administration, and management of the Nature Preserve shall be the responsibility of the Administrator pursuant to the Act, and Articles of Dedication of the Nature Preserve, and this Master Plan. The Nature Preserve may be used for all purposes stated in the Act, but subject to the provisions of this Master Plan. Action required or permitted by this Master Plan may be taken only by the Administrator, or by parties designated in writing by the Administrator for particular actions. All provisions of the Master Plan shall be interpreted in the light of the basic intention of this Master Plan that the Nature Preserve shall be managed to preserve and enhance the geological feature it protects and the rare species which utilize the site. As such the preserve shall be dedicated for the purposes of the Act and in furtherance of the public policy of the State of Indiana as declared in the Act.
- 5) The primary visitor activities in the Nature Preserve shall be walking, observing, nature study, and scientific and educational projects. Such activities will be permitted to the extent such visitation is consistent with the above described management objectives.
- 6) No additional easement or right-of-way or other intrusion and no structure, development, impairment, disturbance, or use which is not permitted by this Master Plan shall be established or be allowed to continue.
- 7) Boundary markers and a boundary fence with necessary access gates may be placed around the perimeter. Such developments should be installed with the least possible disturbance to the soil, plants or animals.
- 8) Appropriate foot trails may be installed within the area of the Nature Preserve. Other developments, construction or improvements (including a parking lot) that are agreed upon, in writing, by both the Administrator, or its designee, and the Director of the Division of Nature Preserves of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, or his designee, and are not inconsistent with the intent of this document, may also be permitted.

- 9) Cutting or planting of grass, brush or other vegetation, thinning of trees, and/or opening of scenic vistas, are permissible if approved as specified in paragraph 8 above.
- 10) Water levels shall not be altered intentionally except when essential for the restoration or maintenance of natural conditions, or in regard to any existing legal ditches. All alterations require joint approval of both the Department and Administrator.
- 11) Except as provided in this Master Plan, there shall be no removal or use of any natural material, product, or object in the Preserve, unless agreed upon by the Department and Administrator. Removal of natural material for specimens is disfavored (excepting as discussed elsewhere in this Master Plan), and shall be permitted, when permitted, for scientific purposes only. Approval of the Administrator must be obtained before any collecting is permitted on the Preserve. The Administrator shall inform the Department as to all research taking place on the Preserve, in order that the Department be properly informed as to the use of the Preserve. All activities, including both visitor use and scientific use shall be permitted only to the extent that the Preserve can tolerate them without substantial damage to the management objectives described in paragraph 4. All biological management of the Preserve, including prescribed burning and the removal of use of natural material, plants and animals, shall be done in accordance with a Management Plan, which shall be formulated by the Administrator and approved by the Department. Species of plants and animals which are declared as noxious by the State of Indiana, and aggressive exotic and native species which are detrimental to the quality of the Nature Preserve, may be controlled and removed in accordance with State Law. Herbicides proven to be effective and safe in natural area management may be used only if directly applied to cut stumps or to the species to be eradicated. In the case of animals, the control and removal shall be by the most current acceptable methods, and in the most humane way possible. Absent written permission from the Department, no eradication not provided for in the Management Plan may be undertaken sooner than ten days after notice has been mailed to the Department, and may be done only in accordance with the most current information available on natural areas management.
- 12) Native plants and animals may be introduced into the nature preserve as provided here below. The provisions of this paragraph are intended only for those species whose populations are few and small, and thus vulnerable to population declines and possible extirpation from the State of Indiana.

If the Department and the Administrator agree, a species may be introduced to the preserve in order to re-establish a plant or animal population that was historically known to occur in what is now the nature preserve, but that no longer occurs there, or to establish a population of plant or animal that is now known or was historically known to occur in the same community type within a 50 mile radius of the preserve. Such introduction shall be limited to species which are considered rare, threatened, or endangered in Indiana according to the most current listing by the Department of Natural Resources.
- 13) Erosion and soil deposition may be controlled in a manner jointly agreed to by both parties.
- 14) The following activities are prohibited, except as otherwise described in the Master Plan, Management Plan, or Articles of Dedication, but their inclusion shall not restrict the right to prohibit other activities considered inconsistent with this Master Plan or the purposes of this Preserve: all terrain vehicles; snowmobiles; grazing by domestic animals; farming; surface mining for coal; quarrying; camping; fires; logging; vehicular traffic, except for parking areas, and for emergency or maintenance; hunting; trapping; and the removal, disturbance, molestation, or defacement of minerals, plants, animals, or natural features, except as provided elsewhere in this or appurtenant documents.
- 15) Both the Administrator and the Department shall periodically inspect the Nature Preserve to insure that the objectives for which the preserve has been established are served as well as possible.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The Nature Conservancy and the Department of Natural Resources of the State of Indiana have adopted this Master Plan as of the 2nd day of March, 1987.=20

STATE OF INDIANA NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
James H Lahey, Chairman

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
John Humke, Vice President

UNDER-EARTH DAY 1999 WAS A SUCCESS

by Bruce Bowman

The annual Sullivan Cave workday -- known as Under-Earth Day -- was held on April 18; the day after the Indiana Cave Symposium. Forty-four people showed up and helped with a number of projects. Because we are now the stewards for the surface as well as the cave, much of our emphasis this year focused on several much needed above-ground tasks.

First order of business was to continue the hardening of the existing path from the road to the cave entrance. This involved installing additional erosion bars, removing some tree-falls and other debris, and hauling more gravel and sand up the path from the dry-bed. Although the existing path and rainwater diversion seem to be doing their job, the additional effort will certainly pay off in the long run.

The second order of business was to replace the posts for the access lane gate. Although the original posts were stout in their time, they had begun to sag with age and one had rotted off at its base. Two cavers were dispatched to Bedford to pick up some 6x6 treated posts and concrete mix. New post holes were dug about three feet deep and two feet further downhill along the access road from the original posts. A post-hole digger made quick work of the job and we were fortunate to run into no large rocks or bedrock. The new posts were set in concrete, back-filled and allowed to cure [editor's note: the gate hardware and gate were transferred to the new posts and the old posts removed several weeks later].

Another job was to clean-out and improve the ditches on either side of the access lane so the road itself drains properly. This was "completed" as much as possible, but the ability to fully achieve the objective was limited by the partial collapse of both culverts. These culverts will have to be replaced eventually.

Another task that was achieved was to fill in the tire ruts that were left several weeks earlier when three IKC Board members (who will remain nameless) delivered firewood to the shelter and got one of their trucks stuck. Shovels and garden rakes, along with grass seed, completed this job.

Several more cavers were dispatched to

pick up surface trash found previously in a couple of small sinkholes on the property and other cavers collected trash along SR 54.

Other reconnaissance was necessary in anticipation of future projects; in particular, the building of a new driveway to allow access to the existing lane. Our new neighbor is congenial enough to let us occasionally use the existing driveway, and we hold an easement for another year or so, but at the same time, we mustn't overstay our welcome in this regard, and the current InDOT permit expires in October. We will have to hold at least one more workday or contract out the work (I currently favor the latter idea). It looks like a lot of fill dirt and at least two culverts will be needed -- and even then, there remain concerns about the ability to see up and down the road from the entrance location. There was also some discussion of a small, gravel parking lot just outside the gate for day-to-day visitors.

Finally, we contemplated the logistics of removing the abandoned travel trailer that lies uphill from the clearing (and is something of an eyesore).

Of course, Under-Earth Day wouldn't live up to its name if a number of people (30+) didn't go underground and remove trash and graffiti. The limited amount of debris removed by the crew this year is a credit to both our current visitors and the effort of everyone who pitched in during previous events.

Thanks to the following people who helped one more time with this annual event: Bill Ackerman, Nate Ackerman, Jim Adams, Bob Armstrong, Denise Baker, Charlie Beima, Jeff Boucreau, Bruce Bowman, Eric Cann, Al Carpenter, Charles Cummings, Bruce Devore, Deb Devore, Bambi Dunlap, Keith Dunlap, Greg Dunwoody, Nick Dunwoody, Jeff Gilbert, Marc Giulino, Ray Gower, David Gribble, Jim Hall, Mark Hall, Mathew Hazelton, Jim Johnson, Carey Jones, Kriste Lindberg, Steve Lockwood, Carl McDougall, Chris McDougall, Anmar Mirza, Matt Mussebram, Nick Noe, Bill Owens, Jeff Partlow, Robert Payn, Clark Rodeffer, Gretchen Schenk, Bob Sergesketter, Robert Sollman, Tom Sollman, Richard Vernier, Rich Whisler, and Jack Wood.

THE 1999 INDIANA CAVE SYMPOSIUM

article and photos by James Adams

With the threat of rain in the air and a cold breeze blowing, the seventh annual Indiana Cave Symposium was held on Saturday, April 17, 1999 at the Cave Country Canoes Campground and Group Meeting Hall in Milltown, Indiana. A hot-dog roast began at 5:30 PM with hungry symposium attendees contributing a variety of chips, dips, salads, fruits, and sweets. After the tube-steak banquet, everyone moved over to the meeting hall. The presentations began at 7:00 PM.

Dave Black, President of the Indiana Cave Survey and coordinator of the event, opened the business portion of the symposium with a welcome message and provided introductions for the speakers.

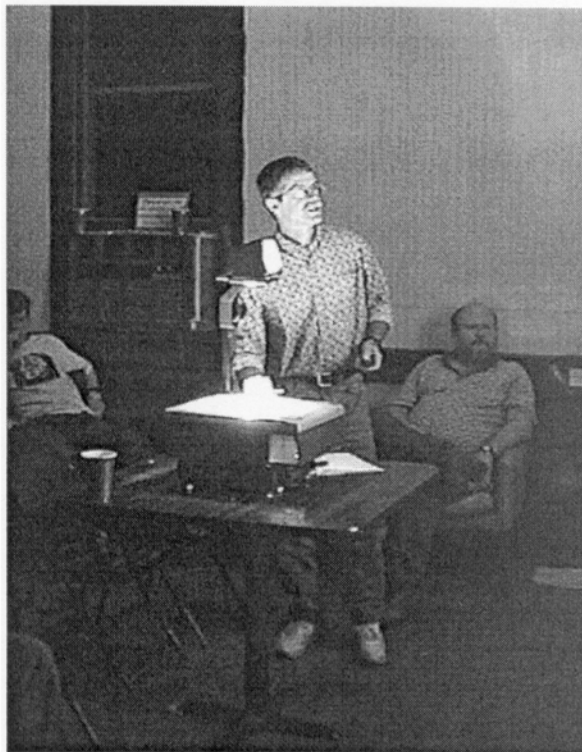
Dave Haun, Chairman of the Central Indiana Grotto, spoke briefly and solicited nominations for recipients for two awards that are given each year at Cave Capers, an annual event sponsored by the CIG. One award is to honor long term contributions of a caver, the other is to show appreciation towards a cave owner.

Next on the agenda was biologist Jerry Lewis who presented an overview of two of his recent cave biology studies in the Blue River drainage system. Some of Dr. Lewis' inventory work was done in support of The Nature Conservancy's Blue River Project. It was natural that Allen Pursell of The Nature Conservancy follow Dr. Lewis to talk more about the TNC's Blue River Project.

Jim Keith and John Bassett of EarthTech were next on the agenda. Jim shared recent dye-tracing activities along on SR 135 in preparation for upgrading that highway in southern Washington County. John provided some interesting history on past dye traces in the Lost River area along with new work he had done at Mooretown "Rise". Finally John talked about a trace from Ramsey to Harrison Springs in Harrison County.

Kriste Lindberg next gave a presentation on the ongoing Hoosier National Forest Cave Inventory in cooperation with the Indiana Karst Conservancy. Kriste has been involved in the project for a number of years and spoke about some of the goals of the project and opportunities for caver involvement. Approximately 100 caves are on the Forest-owned land.

One of the highlights of many past symposiums has been an update from Keith Dunlap on the monitoring of winter populations of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*). The bad news from the latest census is that a couple of caves lost large numbers (Twin Domes and Jughole). The good news is that a number of other caves continue to show modest increases. Thus the overall population in Indiana remains stable which is important since Kentucky and Missouri, the other two major bat states, are still showing critical declines.



John Bassett giving his presentation on dye tracing that he and Jim Keith have conducted recently.

A true project caver, Ray Sheldon, who has been involved with the Spring Mill State Park survey project and Jefferson Proving Ground Karst Study, has been busy coordinating a new project, the Crane Karst Study. Ray and company have made nearly two dozen trips over the last eighteen months to provide the most complete inventory of caves, springs, and other karst-related features at the Navy's Crane Naval Warfare Support Center in Martin and Greene counties.



"The Lost Caves of Harrison-Crawford Counties" was the title of John Benton's presentation. John has done significant research in this popular area of the state and his investigations continue. John's unique topic, complete with old photographs and newspaper clippings, brought the 1999 symposium to a close.

Well, almost to a close. Many attendees took advantage of the nearby campground or visited caver friends in the area and continued swapping adventures into the night.

Many thanks to Gary Roberson and Gordon Smith for providing the fine facilities again this year. Thanks to the speakers for their presentations covering a wide range of interesting topics. In addition, thanks to everyone else who shared a dish, cooked a hot dog, set up equipment, ate a hot dog, listened to a presentation, and enjoyed good caver fellowship.

Let's do it again next year!

Editor's note: For more photos from the symposium, check out <http://www.caves.org/survey/ics>.



IKC Director/grill master Ronnie Burns serving up a hot dog to IKC member Jack Wood prior to the Indiana Cave Symposium presentations.

LEONARD SPRINGS NATURE PARK

by Kriste Lindberg

Deep within a little known box canyon on Bloomington's west side, the City of Bloomington's Parks and Recreation department is turning one of the city's first water sources, Leonard Springs, into a nature park with an emphasis on conservation and education of water sources.

It is a karst area which contains three small caves -- Shirley Springs Cave, Shirley Springs Shelter Cave, and Waterfall Cave -- and is one of the most picturesque areas I have ever seen in the midwest. It has quite an interesting history, too. During the late 1800's, it was the site of two mills. In the early teens, the little canyon was dammed and it's various springs filled it partially with water. However, as Bloomington grew, in the 40's the demand for water outpaced what the reservoir could hold. Therefore, it was abandoned and the city created the larger Griffy Lake reservoir on the city's north side.

This project has brought the city and various grottos and other organizations together for their input on this sensitive area,

including the Indiana Karst Conservancy, the Bloomington Indiana Grotto, and the Eastern Indiana Grotto. All are mindful of the sensitive nature of this area. It is yet another successful pairing of cavers with a government agency.

In June, the EIG is doing their annual conservation project on the grounds -- a cleanup of Shirley Springs Cave. It's sloping entrance is just loaded with trash. We are most appreciative of their support in this.

Also in progress is a cave biota study, a wetland observation area, and a trail which keeps the interests of the natural features and wildlife in mind. Besides, the cave life, many interesting birds and plants have been sighted and documented in this area, as well. It has quite a lot to offer and will be very beneficial from an educational standpoint.

We will keep you posted on the progress that is being made here and could even use more help. There are a couple of trail days coming up; one is one June 19 and the other is on July 10. Please contact me for any questions and more information.

HNF/IKC INVENTORY KARST PROJECT UPDATE

by Kriste Lindberg

As many of you may know, the HNF now has a new person responsible for overseeing their cave and karst operations - Kelle Reynolds, Wildlife Biologist. Kelle is originally from the midwest and went to school at Purdue. She lived/worked in Washington for awhile but has come back to Indiana.

We are pleased to announce that she has the thumbs up from your HNF/IKC Karst Inventory Project Committee. We have been working on many aspects of karst management and have successfully protected some areas and information which may have otherwise been subject to misuse. This could not have been done without such strong support from the HNF.

In addition, we may expand into the area of dye tracing and water testing. While going through old records, Kelle came across some fluorescein and a large water sampling device. This device takes samples of water at specified intervals. There are several areas on the HNF, such as around Rose Cave or Wesley Chapel Gulf, where dye-tracing would be beneficial in better defining re-

charge areas.

Speaking of Wesley Chapel Gulf, we'd like to thank Bob Armstrong, Dee Slater, and members of the SJVG for their help in the USFS's Take Pride in America Day, as they did a rather extensive cleanup there on May 8th (see page 6 for more details).

On May 15, Bill and Nate Ackerman, Steve Lockwood, and myself set out to find the elusive Bond Cave, just outside of Chambersburg. We chose to do this one as the HNF is currently doing an archaeological study of the area and this cave has historical significance. After hiking a few miles through the woods, we finally found it, amidst some rather heavy underbrush. Our find and hike back were rewarded by some cold refreshments Bill thoughtfully brought along.

To date, we have one management plan completed and four are in the works -- Rose Cave, Patton Cave, Elrod Cave, and Boiling Springs Cave.

As usual, we still need your help, so please contact us if you are available.

SB392 KARST REDEFINITION LANGUAGE WITHDRAWN

by Bruce Bowman

As reported in the last *IKC Update* (#52, page 9), language had been introduced into the General Assembly to redefine the term "karst" for purposes of selecting sites for solid waste landfills in Indiana. The intent of this bill was very specific, to allow the Washington County landfill to remain open. Yet as discussed in the previous article, this new definition failed to provide a *functional* definition of karst for protection of groundwater. Therefore, it left the door open for inappropriate application of the definition not only for siting of landfills, but for other purposes such as regulation of confined feeding operations.


March and April of this year saw much confusing activity surrounding this bill. Readers may remember that the bill unanimously passed both the Senate Environmental Committee and the entire Senate.

However, the bill stalled in the House; probably due to environmental opposition, and it soon became apparent that the bill would not even receive a committee hearing.

To circumvent the bill from dying, the House sponsors attached the same karst redefinition wording as a rider to SB66; a completely-unrelated bill involved with regulation of underground storage tanks.

Because SB66 had much support and it was important that it pass, the Chairman of the House Environmental Committee granted a last minute hearing for SB 392 so that the redundant language could be striped back out of SB66.

While most of the same groups testified before the House committee, the opposition (including Keith Dunlap) did a much better

continued on page 21 

IKC/DNR SECURE ABANDON MINE ENTRANCES FOR BATS

by Keith Dunlap

On the weekend of May 8/9, IKC volunteers completed phase one of our bat habitat project for the DNR, constructing three gates on abandoned mine entrances in Pike County. These mines are being used by Indiana bats (*Myotis sodalis*) as well as other species. The gates will allow continued use by the bats while at the same time eliminate the human hazards associated with these openings. In the past, known mine entrances were generally closed by bulldozing the entrances shut.

Despite a questionable forecast, we had excellent weather both days. The plan for the weekend was to construct three angle-iron bat gates plus build three other "minor" structures. Even though we were a little short-handed on Sunday (Mother's Day), all six items were completed with the exception of the top coat of paint and some minor back-filling (to be completed on June 26th).

On Saturday we had 15 IKC volunteers for most of the day, plus Mark Stacy from the DNR (Rich Fields, DNR's photographer was also there for a while). We got started on time, arriving at the work site about 9:30. Several people started by digging the trenches for the two gates in the "pit" (a karst-like window ten foot in diameter with passages going in both directions -- see photo). Others worked on the water management task, using a small submersible pump to lower the water in the work area and trenches. The remainder of the volunteers carried all the equipment from the road to the work area (about 75 yards). Steel was rough cut back at the storage yard, then shuttled to the work site, for final sizing. The horizontal sill plates (6" angle iron) were placed in the trenches and leveled. Then the two vertical supports (4" angle) were cut, positioned, and welded to the sill plate. The tops of the vertical supports were then anchored to the ceiling using one inch diameter pins (inserted in 12" deep holes drilled in the ceiling rock). From that point on, it's just a matter of sizing and placing the horizontal bars working from the bottom up. The only new "twist" to these gates compared to cave gates was the use of expanded metal mesh to line the walls. The purpose of the mesh is to discourage potential intruders from "mining" around the ends of the gate since the rock in these mines walls are soft sandstone rather than limestone. Since the two gates in this

pit were only fifteen feet apart, we worked on both concurrently, cutting down the wait time as bars were being cut. It took most of the day to complete these gates. Their final dimensions were both about ten foot wide and five foot high.



Looking down into the "pit". Gate #1 is under the ledge in the background. Steve Weinzapfel and Bruce Trotter handling steel for gate #2.

While all the work was going on with the first two gates, several people started working on digging the trench for the third gate. This gave us a significant jump on the next day.

The last task in the "pit" was to construct a ladder, so if a child fell/jumped into the pit, they could get back out. We questioned the logic of the ladder since this could also attract the inquisitive, but it wasn't our call.

It was dark by the time we finished up the ladder. Several people had already left,



Keith Dunlap welding on the nearly complete gate #1.

but we still had enough people to haul everything back out to the road and load it up for the night. It was about 9 PM when we finished up and we were definitely tired.



Finished gate #2 (primed but not painted). For scale, the gate is approximately ten foot wide.

The next day we got an early start, arriving at the work site around 8:30. We were down to seven IKC members, plus Mark. The tasks were smaller (one gate and two "barriers") but the work area was a farther distance, about 200 yards from the road. Things went smoothly with the gate, with it ending up being about nine feet wide by three foot high. The first "barrier", a crack eight foot high by one to three feet wide, was adjacent to the third gate, so we got started on that while finishing up the gate. The purpose of the barrier was to keep children from entering the crack and becoming stuck. When we started, we really weren't sure the best way to block the crack, but Bob Sergesketter and Mark came up with something that worked using expanded metal and scrap pieces of four-inch angle-iron.

The final structure was to block a small hole approximately one foot by two foot in size, but maintain airflow as it was thought to connect to the other mine passages and could be important for cooling the mines in the winter for Indiana bat use. We had given Kriste Lindberg the task of contouring the expanded metal grate earlier in the day; we then attached the grate over the hole using angle-iron with pins into the sandstone, framing the grate with even more angle iron.

While all the heavy work was going on Sunday afternoon, Bambi Dunlap and Kriste wiped down the gates with mineral spirits and applied the primer coat to everything

they could access. It was important to get this done, as the moist air from the mines could quickly corrode the surfaces making the primer/top coat less protective in the long run.

By the end of the day we were down to six people, but the team spirit was there to get everything hauled back out and the work site cleaned up, finishing up around 6 PM.

As with most of these types of projects, it's hard work, but there is a real sense of accomplishment when the tasks are behind you. Knowing these gates will allow the mines to provide a good habitat for the bats, while protecting humans from potential danger, AND providing some added funding for future IKC conservation projects makes this initiative an ideal situation. Finally having Mark participate both days provided him with much needed/first hand experience on construction techniques and the practical aspects of gate construction on mine entrances so he can better evaluate their appropriateness on other entrances in the future.



Lunch break on Saturday. The "pit" entrance is just to the right of this photo.

IKC participants included John Benton, Bruce Devore, Bambi Dunlap, Keith Dunlap, Kriste Lindberg, Steve Lockwood, Bob Sergesketter, Tom Sollman, Bill Tozer, Bruce Trotter, Jake Trotter, Bob Vandeventer, Dick Vernier, Sue Vernier, and Steve Weinzapfel.

One final note, early in the day on Saturday, a lone bat ventured out of the mine entrance to check out our activities and then returned back into the mine. As it got dark that evening, a number of other bats exited the gates to feed for the night.

Digital images by Bob Vandeventer and Mark Stacy.

INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY TREASURY REPORT

Income/Expense Statement From January 1, 1999 to March 31, 1999

INCOME:

Dues Apportionment and Residuals	581.25	
Donations - General	1010.00	
Donations - Sullivan Restricted Fund	6471.00	
Donations - Acquisition Restricted Fund	315.00	
Interest	29.16	
		\$8,406.41

EXPENSES:

IKC Update (printing, production, mailing)	297.22	
Membership (postage, meeting notices, etc)	120.70	
Conservation/Management/Education	78.03	
Sullivan (fund-raising)	5.60	
Misc (Sec of State fee, BOG lunch)	101.55	
Restricted Funds Transfer	6753.90	
		(\$7,357.00)

NET OPERATING EXCESS (DEFICIT) THIS PERIOD: \$1,049.41

Balance Sheet March 31, 1999

ASSETS:

Cash in Checking Account	2059.85	
Cash in Savings Account	11800.32	
Sullivan Property	68262.22	
		<u><u>\$82,122.39</u></u>

LIABILITIES & OPERATING EXCESS:

Hancock Property Maintenance Fund	122.69	
Indiana DNR Nongame Fund	134.00	
Sullivan Restricted Fund	1892.08	
Land Acquisition Restricted Fund	315.00	
Deferred Dues Restrcted Fund	2145.00	
Hat Fund (excluding 22 hats in inventory)	73.83	

Previous Operating Excess	76390.38	
Net Excess (Deficit) This Period	1049.41	
Current Operating Excess	77439.79	
		<u><u>77439.79</u></u>

Total Liabilities & Operating Excess \$82,122.39

IKC ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, March 20th, 1999

Greenwood, Indiana

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

James Adams
 Bruce Bowman
 Ronnie Burns (incoming)
 Bruce DeVore
 Bambi Dunlap (incoming)
 Keith Dunlap
 Dave Haun (out going)
 Kriste Lindberg
 Steve Lockwood (out going)
 Nick Noe
 Tom Rea
 Bob Sergesketter
 Tom Sollman
 Bill Tozer
 Bob Vandeventer
 Richard Vernier
 Kathy Welling

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

none

The March meeting was called to order at 10:13 AM at the Greenwood Community Center, President Bruce Bowman presiding. There were no proxies. Minutes were not approved since none of the members have received their March issue of the *IKC Update*. The December and January meeting minutes as well as the March minutes will need to be approved at the June meeting.

Treasurer Keith Dunlap reported \$13,503.94 in the general and restricted funds. Of that, \$1,885.06 is in the restricted fund for the Sullivan Property. One hundred and seven of one hundred and sixty-one current members have renewed their dues for the next year with several members renewing their dues for several years.

Elections were held: Kriste Lindberg was nominated by Keith Dunlap and accepted the nomination as President. Several other members were nominated but either declined the nomination or were not present to accept the nomination. Dave Haun moved and Kevin Strunk seconded to accept Lindberg as President. Motion passed.

Since only one candidate had accepted nomination for Secretary, Kathy Welling moved and Bob Sergesketter seconded to accept James Adams as Secretary. Motion passed.

Since only one candidate had accepted nomination for Treasurer, Ronnie Burns moved and Welling seconded to accept Keith Dunlap as Treasurer. Motion passed.

While ballots for Directors were being counted, Bowman passed out certificates of appreciation to members who served in Officer and Director positions during the past year. Bowman thanked everyone for their support while he has been in office for the last five years.

There hasn't been much news on the confined feeding regulations proposal. Hearings continue and the IKC will be notified when public comments will be accepted. Six public hearings are scheduled; none are being held in major karst regions.

SB392, which redefines karst, has passed through the Senate and has been passed on to the House. It has not yet received a hearing in the House Environmental Affairs Committee.

The new Directors were then announced: Bruce Bowman, Ronnie Burns, Bruce DeVore, Bambi Dunlap, Nick Noe, and Tom Sollman. The new Directors and Officer were seated; Lindberg chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Bowman proposed a Bylaws change that will limit an Officer to serving four consecutive terms in a given office. This change will be announced 30 days before the June meeting and then voted on at the June meeting.

Strunk raised questions about having longer terms of Officers or having the Officers selected from the Directors. There was much discussion.

Keith Dunlap moved to establish a Land Acquisition and Capital Improvement Restricted Fund. The fund would be used for future land and easement purchases and capital improvements on those properties. There was discussion, especially concerning keeping excess money donated for the Sullivan Property acquisition in a fund specifically for projects at the Sullivan Property. Motion seconded by Tom Rea. Motion passed, 13-0-2.

Under Earth Day: Keith Dunlap noted that trail work, replacement of gateposts, trash pickup, and in-cave trash and graffiti removal are on the schedule for the April 18th event. Parking may be a problem since SR 54 has been widened. The driveway installation is tentatively scheduled for August. Our InDOT driveway permit expires on October 3. Rea suggested that participants come in from Bloomington on SR 45 rather than try to turn around between the curve and the hill. Visitation rules are available to all trip leaders and



are also available on the IKC website.

Bob Vandeventer gave his annual report on visitation to Sullivan Cave. For the year ending March 1999, 27 requests for trips were received and 18 have been scheduled and completed. There were 152 people on these trips plus about 50 people for Under Earth Day.

Lindberg suggested that we have all Cave Patrons and liaisons make a similar report annually.

Steve Lockwood reported on the Hoosier National Forest cave inventory. Approximately 100 caves have now been identified. Bowman, Keith Dunlap and Lockwood have been working on Management Plans for Rose, Patton, and Elrod Caves, respectively. The Dillon Cave Management Plan is complete. A training session is planned for May 15.

A prescribed burn for vegetation management at Wesley Chapel Gulf has been withdrawn. We need to look at other proposed burn areas to see what caves are in those areas.

A WCG Special Interest Area planning meeting is scheduled. This is a small group that will meet to get input.

Take Pride In America Day is scheduled for May 8. No projects are being planned by the IKC. Bob Armstrong noted that there are rolls of fence that need to be removed at WCG.

Kelle Reynolds is the new HNF liaison, replacing the acting liaison, Pat Merchant.

Keith Dunlap reported on the Department of Natural Resources Mine Gate project. He has made a proposal to the DNR to build seven gates on old mines using IKC volunteer labor. Three of the seven gates are required to be built by law because the mines are used by the endangered Indiana bat. The gates will keep the entrances open for the bats that use these mines. Several work weekends will be planned and work should be completed by August 31, 1999.

Keith Dunlap moved to authorize up to \$4,000 for the project to be used as "front money" which would be paid back to the IKC by the DNR. Bowman seconded. Motion Passed, 15-0-0.

Keith Dunlap moved to authorize him to sign the contract on behalf of the IKC for the Mine Gate Project. Seconded by Burns. Motion passed, 15-0-0.

There was some discussion over liability on the completed project.

Shirley Springs Area: Lindberg is doing a biota study for the city of Bloomington in three caves in the area. Any proceeds will be split with the Bloomington Indiana Grotto. Lindberg has copies of the proposal if anyone is interested. A clean up with the Eastern Indiana Grotto may also be possible.

Donnehue Cave: Bowman has received a request that the IKC take more action at the Culvert Entrance. The entrance is on INDOT property. Two other entrances would not be able to be controlled. In addition, there is an issue of flood control. No motion.

IKC Political Action: Strunk observed that businesses and legislators around the state are not aware of organized caving groups such as the IKC. The IKC needs a standing committee to stay on top of various legal issues. Strunk requested that the board consider what the IKC will do about these issues. Noe urged all Board Members to comment to Lindberg via email.

Strunk also suggested that the IKC sponsor a one-day karst educational program at the Indiana Government Center during the week. Perhaps a January/February target date should be considered.

Sullivan Cave Insurance: The coverage for non-IKC owned vehicles is expensive and beyond the scope authorized at the last meeting. Keith Dunlap moved to approve \$195 for the rider. Seconded by Welling, Motion passed, 9-4-2.

The bottom segment of the Coon Cave sign needs to be removed and delivered to Bowman.

There are two items available for auction to raise funds for the Sullivan Property, a Justrite carbide hand lamp and a new seat harness. Due to the length of the meeting, these items will be brought for auction at the June meeting.

Tony Acosta, Outdoor Recreation Supervisor of the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department appeared to respond to the IKC's denial of permission to conduct tours in Sullivan Cave. He left a written response with Lindberg and answered questions from the group. He was asked to determine if the Ft Wayne Parks Department would be willing to indemnify the IKC if anyone got hurt on one of his trips.

The next meeting will be on Saturday, June 26 at 7:00 PM near the Mine Gate Project work site.

Meeting adjourned at 1:06 PM.

Submitted by James Adams, Secretary

Continued from page 15....

job of convincing the committee members that there were two separate issues here, and passing bad legislation which could negatively impact the entire state was not the best approach in assisting Washington County with their specific problem. Finally, Greg Smith of the Citizen Action Coalition offered alternative language to extend the landfills permit. While the committee didn't adopt this new language, the tide had turned. The committee made it clear to the sponsors that they should take this alternative approach if they wanted the bill to survive.

With session time running out, the SB392 sponsors completely rewrote the bill which passed on the final day. The new bill didn't attempt to re-define karst, but instead allowed the Washington County landfill to continue its operation through November 1, 2002. Meanwhile, independent consultants will be hired and use dye-tracing and other methods (approved by IDEM) to assess groundwater flow in the immediate vicinity. The intent of this activity is to more fully assess the landfill's impact on groundwater quality in the context of new EPA regulations. This is an appropriate compromise -- it accomplishes the main objectives of the original bill without the objectionable side effects that a re-definition of karst would bring about.

The text of the act does not name the Washington County landfill explicitly, but instead discusses it in terms of being "in existence on April 15, 1999" and "in a county containing a population of not less than

23,700 and not more than 24,000." Obviously, this narrows the discussion down to one county. Although odd-looking, this approach isn't that unusual for legislation intended as a stop-gap measure. The full text may be found at <http://www.state.in.us/legislative/bills/1999/SE/SE0392.1.html>

It's difficult to assess the impact covers and other concerned people may have had on this legislation. Certainly, those who attended the hearings had some impact. For awhile, near-daily discussion and updates on this bill were provided through the Internet; occasionally under the subject of "Lousy Karst Legislation in Indiana." Many people were provided with the names (and email addresses) of key legislators and an opportunity to act, and hopefully many did.

It should be understood that the majority of people don't pay a great deal of attention to what goes on at the state capitol; many bills are signed into law without significant comment from the public, due simply to lassitude. Meanwhile, corporations and special interests have paid lobbyists and PACs to ensure their opinions are heard. One should never underestimate the impact that a few emails or letters from constituents can have on the outcome. It definitely worked here to de-rail the bill in the House.

The IKC will continue to monitor proposed legislation and make any relevant information available to our membership. We would also like to acknowledge the vital role the Hoosier Environmental Council plays in keeping it's member organizations informed of legislative issues and orchestrating strategies to combat the anti-environmental groups.

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

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

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

\$ _____ donation to the general IKC fund.

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

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

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

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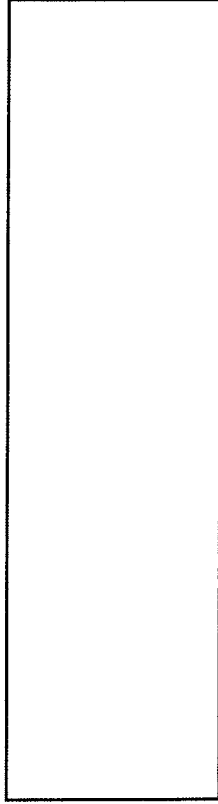
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Make checks payable to the Indiana Karst Conservancy, Inc. and mail to the IKC Treasurer, c/o Indiana Karst Conservancy, PO Box 2401, Indianapolis, IN 46206-2401. The IKC is an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with membership dues and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

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