

# **IKC Update**

**A Quarterly Publication of the Indiana Karst Conservancy  
June 2000**

**Number 57**



# 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.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

### President

Kriste Lindberg (2001)  
 (812) 339-7210  
 Lindberg@kiva.net

### Secretary

Bruce Bowman (2001)  
 (317) 539-2753  
 Bowman\_Bruce\_E@lilly.com

### Treasurer

Keith Dunlap (2001)  
 (317) 882-5420  
 Keith.Dunlap@juno.com

### Directors

James Adams (2002)  
 (317) 882-3724  
 JKAdams@aol.com

Ronnie Burns (2001)  
 (812) 883-7400  
 RBurns@blueriver.net

Bruce Devore (2001)  
 (219) 639-7249  
 BRDevore@aol.com

Bambi Dunlap (2001)  
 (317) 882-5420  
 Bambi.Deer@juno.com

Steve Lockwood  
 (812) 849-5766  
 SDL@kiva.net

Nick Noe (2001)  
 (317) 782-3442  
 NickNoe@classic.msn.com

Tom Rea (2002)  
 (765) 653-4423  
 TRea@caves.org

Bob Sergesketter (2002)  
 (812) 482-5517

Tom Sollman (2001)  
 (812) 753-4953  
 Sollman@juno.com

Bill Tozer (2002)  
 (765) 778-3259  
 WTozer@aol.com

Bob Vandeventer (2002)  
 (317) 888-4501  
 VandeventerB@tce.com

Richard Vernier (2001)  
 (812) 385-5058  
 rsav@gibsoncounty.net

## COMMITTEES/CHAIRPERSON

### Membership

James Adams  
 (see E-Board list)

### Land Acquisition

Hank Huffman  
 (812) 876-9645  
 HankandEllen@worldnet.att.net

### Web Technologies

Bruce Bowman  
 (see E-Board list)

### Publications

Keith Dunlap  
 (see E-Board list)

### Hoosier National Forest

Steve Lockwood  
 (see E-board list)

### Sullivan Property

Keith Dunlap  
 (see E-Board list)

### Orangeville Rise Property

Steve Lockwood  
 (see E-board list)

## MANAGED CAVES/PATRONS

### Coon Cave

Keith Dunlap  
 (see E-Board list)

### Grotto Cave

Keith Dunlap  
 (see E-Board list)

### Shaft Cave

Jeff Cody  
 (317) 888-9898

### Shiloh Cave

James Adams  
 (see E-Board list)

### Suicide Cave

Ronnie Burns  
 (812) 883-7400  
 RBurns@blueriver.net

### Sullivan Cave

Bob Vandeventer  
 (see E-Board list)

### Wayne's Cave

Tom Willett  
 (812) 332-8004  
 TWillett@earthlink.net

## GROTTO/LIAISONS

### Bloomington Indiana Grotto

Anmar Mirza  
 (812) 339-1506

### Bloomington Indiana Grotto

Kriste Lindberg  
 (see E-Board list)

### Central Indiana Grotto

Keith Dunlap  
 (see E-Board list)

### Dayton Underground Grotto

Mike Hood  
 (513) 252-2978

### Eastern Indiana Grotto

Brian Leavell  
 (765) 552-7619

### Evansville Metro Grotto

Ernie Payne  
 (812) 477-7043

### Greater Cincinnati Grotto

Eric Weaver  
 (513) 369-0738

### 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

Bruce Silvers  
 (219) 471-9908

### St Joseph Valley Grotto

Bill Kulwicki  
 (219) 784-2115

### Stygian Grotto

Richard Orr  
 (314) 521-0355

### Sub-Urban Chicago Grotto

Gary Gibula  
 (603) 393-6746

### Western Indiana Grotto

Don Ingle  
 (812) 466-5015

### Windy City Grotto

Steve Petruniak  
 (414) 279-3601

Cover: IKC member Ron Adams descending into a virgin pit. Photo by Eric Higbie.

Newsletter staff: Keith & Bambi Dunlap



# QUARTERLY MEETING REMINDER

**SATURDAY, JULY 8th, 7:00 PM**

**BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA**

**IU GEOLOGY BUILDING, ROOM 143**

**(SAME ROOM AS BIG MEETING)**

The quarterly meetings are for the elected Board to conduct business and for our members and other interested persons to have an open forum to talk 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. The IKC Board *wants* your input.

Preliminary Agenda Items: Brief recaps of last quarter's activities; Sinks of Indian Creek conservation easement transfer from TNC to the IKC and stewardship discussion; Sullivan tree project and funding proposals; DNR abandoned mine gate project recap; Land Acquisition Committee activities, HNF inventorying project; Adopt-a-trail proposal; HEC membership renewal; and more....

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

## ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

- 08 JUL = HANCOCK PROPERTY CLEANUP, Bloomington (see page 14)
- 08 JUL = IKC QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING, Bloomington (see above)
- 15 JUL = HNF KARST INVENTORY WORKDAY, Mitchell (contact Kriste Lindberg)
- 19 AUG = HNF MEETING & INVENTORY WORKDAY, Bedford (contact Kriste Lindberg)
- 16 SEP = HNF KARST INVENTORY WORKDAY, Mitchell (contact Kriste Lindberg)
- 30 SEP = LOST RIVER TOUR, Orleans (contact Bob Armstrong)
- ?? SEP = IKC FALL QUARTERLY MEETING (date & location TBD)
- 21 OCT = HNF MEETING & INVENTORY WORKDAY, Bedford (contact Kriste Lindberg)
- 14-16 NOV = BAT & MINES TECHNICAL FORUM, St Louis

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.

*IKC Update* (ISSN 1076-3120) copyright © 2000 by the Indiana Karst Conservancy, Inc. Excluding reprinted material and individually copyrighted articles and artwork, permission is granted to National Speleological Society affiliated organizations to reprint material from this publication, with proper credit given to the author/artist and the *IKC Update*. Articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the IKC, the National Speleological Society, or their respective members.

## RAMBLINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT...

We've been doing a great job here in Indiana.

Other conservancies have been doing a lot, too. Therefore, lately, I've been making a concerted effort to get out and see what they're up to. It is beneficial for all of us to network. We can gain much by exchanging ideas and save time by not reinventing the wheel, so to speak.

On June 14 - 19, I met with the Michigan Karst Conservancy to visit their 480 acre Fiborn Karst Preserve during one of their workdays in the Upper Peninsula. Tom Rea, who is not only a Director of the IKC, but also a Trustee of the MKC, hosted my visit (as some of the long-term members may know, the MKC was founded in 1983 and the IKC was subsequently formed in 1985 on their model). This big preserve is a wonderful place and contains the state's longest cave, Hendrie River Water Cave. It's air-filled passages total approximately 1700 feet and contain several more feet of passage which have been impossible to explore due to being water-filled with low, unstable ceilings. There are also a few miles of trails on the preserve, winding through the old quarry, around the rim of the quarry, and through the woods surrounding it. The property reminded me of a combination of our Sullivan Cave property and the Leonard Springs Nature Park. The properties, as well as the management concerns, have much in common. It was beneficial to meet

with their President, Aubrey Golden, other trustees, members, and townspeople to share experiences such as management practices and business concerns. Much was gained by this trip, including strengthening relations with another conservancy.

In addition, next week is the NSS Convention [*editor's note, this article was submitted June 21*]. I'll be attending the conservation session on Wednesday morning. There, I'll be giving a presentation on the IKC, networking with others, and sharing concerns. It will be good to see some folks I haven't seen for awhile, meet some new people, and strengthen bonds. I also plan to arrange visits to some other conservancies while I'm at it. Am looking forward to this session.

While also at the convention, I will be attending the all-day Project Underground workshop. It will help us move right along with our karst educational outreach. This program, focusing on cave and karst education, will assist not only our conservancy but others in getting the word out on the protection of karst areas. Hopefully we will be receiving funding for a karst groundwater visualization model early this fall so I'll be better prepared to go out and hit the schools.

I encourage each of you to get out a bit, even if just virtually, to visit with other conservancies, as well. The broader our perspective, the better off we are. After all, we are all in this together.

*Kriste Lindberg*

---

## NEWS BRIEFS...

- ❑ IKC elections on March 18th yielded a few changes to the Executive Board. Bruce Bowman was elected Secretary switching positions with James Adams who became a Director. Kathy Welling declined re-nomination to the Board and was replaced by Steve Lockwood. Others re-elected were President Kriste Lindberg, Treasurer Keith Dunlap, and Directors Tom Rea, Bob Sergesketter, Bill Tozer, Bob Vandeventer, and Dick Vernier.
- ❑ As you will read on page 8, the IKC accepted responsibility for our first Conservation Easement to protect the Sinks of Indian Creek southwest of Corydon in Harrison County. Our main responsibility related to the CE will be to periodically monitor the property to assure the land-owners and others do not violate the tenets of the easement. The IKC is looking for a volunteer to act as the property steward to perform this monitoring. This task should only take a few hours a year. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Bruce Bowman immediately.
- ❑ IKC volunteers spent two weekends this spring working with the Indiana DNR to install five bat gates on abandoned coal mines in Parke and Greene counties. The gates will prevent human entrance into these unstable and potentially hazardous man-made tunnels while continuing to allow bats and other biota to use the cave-like habitats. A complete article with photos will be included in the September *IKC Update*.



- ❑ Eight years in the making, the US Fish & Wildlife Service last month announced that they had reached an agreement with the Department of Defense to create the Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge out of the former Jefferson Proving Ground in southeast Indiana. From 1941 to 1995, JFG tested non-nuclear munitions. It was estimated there were 1.5 million unexploded ordnances left behind and the \$8-billion clean-up costs eliminated most of the other proposed re-uses for the property. Of the 50,000 acres, about two-thirds will be closed to the public for safety reasons....of course this will suit the wildlife inhabiting the refuge just fine. The property contains a significant variety of terrains communities including wetlands, grass prairies, mature forests, down-cut streams, and shallow karst with thirty-three known caves and over fifty cave entrances.
- ❑ On May 6th, Bob Vandeventer, Eric Higbie, and Keith Dunlap supervised twelve Rose-Hulman student from the Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity in restoration work in Sullivan Cave. The students were very enthusiastic, working in a 300-foot section of the Backbreaker just before the Merry-go-round passage, removing graffiti. First the graffiti was wire-brushed as much as possible, then camouflaged what was left with a limestone-dust “white-wash” slurry. The improvement was dramatic and the Rose-Hulman group expressed an interest in doing it again next spring.
- ❑ During a routine check on the Orangeville Rise on May 14, Steve Lockwood, Kriste Lindberg, and Kevin Peters watched as thousands upon thousands amphipods moved about around the perimeter of the rise pool in what looked like clouds, changing shape and extending towards the middle. It was quite spectacular to see. A young couple and their children stood also on the shore watching them and asking questions. We answered as many as we could but decided to have this unusual occurrence looked into by those more familiar with these creatures. A small sample was taken and is in the process of being identified.
- ❑ Spring Mill State Park is in the process of formulating a new comprehensive management plan for the park to address such issues as the lake, erosion, special areas, and of course the caves. The work is being done by committee with members from within and outside the Indiana DNR, including IKC Board members Tom Rea and Kriste Lindberg.
- ❑ As part of the IKC’s outreach initiative, on April 5, several members participated in a poster session at the first annual Indiana Geology Expo 2000 in Indianapolis. The Indiana Geological Survey hosted this event, which featured various governmental agencies, geoscience consulting firms, non-profit organizations, and others interested in the topic. In preparation of the event, Kriste Lindberg and Bob Vandeventer worked to put together a new IKC display for Expo and future events. The display consists of numerous photos of various IKC activities printed on 8.5-inch x 11-inch placards and laminated. These photos can then be arranged in any order to tell a story or be placed individually. Therefore, the display can be updated and arranged in various ways to fit the specific need. In addition, there are several larger laminated posters, a title banner complete with our website address, handouts including business cards, brochures, and recent *IKC Updates* to place on tables. On the morning of the Expo, Bambi Dunlap assisted Kriste in set up the display. Kriste then “womanned” the booth the rest of the day. The IKC received several compliments on the display and made many valuable contacts.
- ❑ On May 7, Kriste Lindberg presented “Recent Projects of the Indiana Karst Conservancy” slide show at the spring retreat of the Indiana Audubon Society. This was the fourth Audubon presentation in the past year. The presentation took place near Brookville, at the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary, a wonderful multi-acre preserve complete with miles of trails, woods, a prairie, a meeting house, an old barn converted into a dining hall. While there, Kriste met long time IKC members Lynn and Jane Miller. It was a pleasure to meet them and get caught up. There were other familiar faces in the room, as well.
- ❑ Many of our members probably noticed that the March 2000 *NSS News* featured the annual summary of cave conservation projects. The IKC was featured rather prominently under the “Conservation Action” section for endeavors such as the Sullivan Cave property, the Orangeville Rise, bat studies, IDNR abandoned mine gates, Leonard Springs Nature Park, education outreach, and the HNF/IKC Karst Inventory Project. The Indiana Cave Survey was noted as well for the Versailles State Park Karst Study and the Crane Karst Study.



Over the past ten 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 "spelloggers" 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. In the fall of 1996 we installed new signage and other deterrents. As you can see, since that time there have been *no* unauthorized visits into Grotto Cave and only one in Coon Cave. Ray's Cave has had a few more disturbances, but none during the core winter months when the greatest impact would occur. This was also the first year the DNR used the new spelloggers designed/constructed by IKC member Dick Vernier. The spelloggers worked flawlessly and appear to be more sensitive compared to the previous units. The DNR plans it expand the number of hibernacula it monitors.

Winter	Number of Disturbances		
	Jim Ray's	Coon	Grotto
99 / 00	2 <sup>(1)</sup>	0	0
98 / 99	3 <sup>(2)(3)</sup>	0 <sup>(2)</sup>	0 <sup>(2)</sup>
97 / 98	1	1	0
96 / 97	0 <sup>(2)</sup>	0 <sup>(2)</sup>	0 <sup>(2)</sup>
95 / 96	3	9	4
94 / 95	8 <sup>(2)</sup>	8 <sup>(2)</sup>	5 <sup>(2)(4)</sup>
93 / 94	-- <sup>(5)</sup>	-- <sup>(5)</sup>	-- <sup>(5)</sup>
92 / 93	7 <sup>(2)</sup>	3 <sup>(2)</sup>	8 <sup>(2)</sup>
91 / 92	6	1	5
90 / 91	4 <sup>(2)</sup>	8 <sup>(2)</sup>	n/a

1) Includes two visit for landowner's relatives  
 2) Excludes one visit for biennial bat census  
 3) Excludes one visit for anabat testing  
 4) Spellogger failed on day 182 of 227 days  
 5) Data loss due to improper batteries

The Sycamore Land Trust, serving south-central Indiana has recently added their first paid staff member, Development Director, Christian Freitag. Christian will focus on growing their organization through increased membership and financial resources, allowing SLT to acquire and protect more properties and conservation easements. Like The Nature Conservancy, we foresee the SLT being a potential partner in cave acquisition properties which might be more than the IKC could handle on their own.

The IKC would like to bid farewell to Jeff Stant, the Executive Director of the Hoosier Environmental Council. Jeff has guided HEC to an impressive list of environmental accomplishments over the past decade and half. He and HEC have been true activists taking on a number of controversial issue. HEC has assisted the IKC on several occasions including legislative issues and our citizens lawsuit related to the SR 37 upgrade. Tim Maloney, previously HEC's Natural Resource Policy Director, will assume the Executive Director's position on June 30th.

Seventy percent of our membership now has e-mail. This has allowed the IKC to reduce our communication expenses by sending most of our meeting and activities notices electronically to those who have e-mail (members without e-mail still get postcards). We are very aware of "spam" mail so we are very disciplined about only sending out necessary communications and are careful to not display your address to others, nor do we provide our membership information to any other organizations. Please contact Keith Dunlap (Keith.Dunlap@juno.com) with e-mail and street address changes so we can keep our database up to date.

Another way we are trying to improve our communication to our membership is through our website (www.caves.org/conservancy/ikc). In addition to our activity calender, we are also posting our meeting minutes within a week or so of the meetings so members can keep up on the business aspect of our organization in a more timely manner.

The IKC covers most of its basic expenses and obligations with membership dues. However, we also depend upon general donations to supplement and support some of the other projects we pursue. Since January, fifty-one individuals/organizations have donated a total of \$845. Donors include John Ahlberg, Tom Ahlers, John Benton, Larry Bundy, Chris Carpenter, George Cesnik, Jeff Cody, Bruce Devore, Cheryl Early, Jeff Farr, Joe Gasperi, Dave Haun, Hal Hempt, Tim Heppner, Tem Hornaday, Don Ingle, Joan Keever, Steve Lanning, Dan Lucas, Bob Masta, Dick Maxey, Steve McKenzie, Jonathan Miller, Doug Moore, Larry Mullins, Nick Noe, Ernie Payne, Everett Pulliam, Russ Pusilo, Tom Rea, Larry Reece, Jennifer Reiss, Robert Roundy, Steve & Diana Schuh, Bob Sergesketter, Bruce Silvers, Sherry Sloan, Gordon Smith, Suzie Strickland, Wayne Tucker, Regina Turner, Bob Vandeventer, Dick Vernier, Kathy Well-



ing, Jeff Weston, Jamie Winner, Scott Worpell, Kevin Wyatt, Bluespring Caverns, Marengo Cave, and Sassafras Audubon.

- ❑ IKC members also have an opportunity to donate to our restricted cave acquisition fund. This fund, as the name implies, will be used towards the purchase of additional cave/karst properties. Since January, \$740 has been donated and the fund now stands at \$1615. Recent donors include Carl Brown, Bambi Dunlap, Keith Dunlap, Jeff Farr, Scott Fee, Dave Haun, Tim Hepner, Jonathan Miller, Nick Noe, Scott Nordhoff, Ernie Payne, Don Peters, Steve Ragsdale, Jennifer Reiss, Gordon Smith, Tom Sollman, Rich Whisler, Jamie Winner, and the Sub-Urban Grotto.
- ❑ Four new members have joined the IKC in the past quarter. Welcome Russell Romme (363), Bill Bunting(364), Tina Hall(365), and Alan Fearday (366). Also the Stygian Grotto (297) rejoined as an organizational member and the Indiana State Library (367) has subscribed to our newsletter. The IKC membership now stands at 182.

## INDIANA CAVE SYMPOSIUM 2000

by James Adams

The weather was excellent for the eighth annual Indiana Cave Symposium. It was held on Saturday, April 15, 2000 at Cave Country Canoe's campground and their group meeting hall in Milltown, Indiana.

The picnic began at 5 PM in the campground. The Indiana Cave Survey (ICS) and the Indiana Karst Conservancy provided the main course of burgers and dogs, plus drinks and paperware. Everyone else brought his or her favorite dessert, vegetable dish, or other treat in addition to their appetites. Bob Vandeventer made last minute edits to some of the presentations on his computer while everyone else feasted.

At 7 PM everyone made their way to the group meeting hall for the presentations. After a brief welcome from ICS President Bruce Trotter, John Benton kicked things off with an overview of the history of exploration in the Binkley Cave system near Corydon.

Next, Ray Sheldon reviewed the recently completed Crane Karst Study. This project has been underway for a couple of years and focused on karst features located within the Crane Navel Weapons Support Center in Martin and Greene counties.

IKC President Kriste Lindberg followed with two presentations. The first was an update on recent IKC activities. Her second report summarized work at the Leonard Springs Nature Park near Bloomington.

With another IKC-related topic, IKC Treasurer Keith Dunlap continued with an update on the IKC's Sullivan Cave property in Lawrence County. Steve Lockwood then followed up with details on activities on the Hoosier National Forest. The project is a cooperative effort between the Hoosier Na-

tional Forest and the IKC.

IKC Secretary Bruce Bowman told the attendees about activities and challenges at the Orangeville Rise, another IKC property.

The IKC reports concluded with Keith Dunlap returning to talk about an ongoing project with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to secure abandoned mines that may be inhabited by the endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*).

Our favorite bug aficionado, Dr Julian Lewis, was on the agenda again this year with another report on his most recent discoveries in the bug and insect world. Dr Lewis has described several new species and he often names those new species after cavers who have helped with his research (IKC Director Tom Sollman was so honored this year).

As the evening drew to a close, Ray Sheldon returned to the podium to tell the group about a new project that he's become involved with. His team is now beginning to inventory the cave and karst features around Versailles State Park.

Sam Frushour who spoke about recent underwater mapping efforts in Blue Spring Cave followed Ray. This popular tourist attraction is being explored and its mapped length continues to grow.

Finally, to wrap things up, IKC Board Member and ICS Webmaster Jim Adams gave a very brief overview of the ICS web site at [www.caves.org/survey/ics](http://www.caves.org/survey/ics) on the Internet.

The IKC and ICS would like to thank Cave Country Canoes ([www.cavecountrycanoes.com](http://www.cavecountrycanoes.com)) for once again providing their campground and meeting facilities. You can get the latest information about next year's Indiana Cave Symposium at the ICS web site.

## IKC ACQUIRES FIRST CONSERVATION EASEMENT

by Bruce Bowman

The IKC is pleased to announce that we now manage another significant karst property in Indiana: the Sinks of Indian Creek. An ongoing project for nearly four years, the transfer of a conservation easement (CE) for the Sinks to the IKC was completed in May. The purpose of this article is to give our membership some background on how this took place, introduce the values of the property, and explain the commitments we've made as an organization to protect this karst resource.

**What are the Sinks?** Indian Creek flows through the town of Corydon and its flow can be substantial. Under normal flow, the entire creek dives underground in a series of large swallow-holes that litter the streambed over a distance of about a quarter mile; only to rise again at a spring nearly four miles away. This spring, Harrison Spring, is the largest in Indiana; expressed in terms of volume of water discharged. Therefore, protection of the water quality at the Sinks is critical for the welfare of surface biology at both sites, as well as any aquatic, troglobitic life in the subterranean passages.

The property also contains a dam and other drainage modifications constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, in an attempt to circumvent the sinks; thereby providing a constant surface water supply to landowners downstream. Although their attempts proved futile, the remnants of their work have substantial historical significance. To this day, the low, stone-and-cement structures pond the water for a considerable distance upstream.

A number of the sinks along the stream banks are quite impressive and take a great

deal of water. The local topography has been visibly changed over the course of months, with flood events opening new sinks and choking others with mud and debris. Several digitized photos of the property are available on the IKC web page at [www.caves.org/conservancy/ikc/sinks.htm](http://www.caves.org/conservancy/ikc/sinks.htm).

**How did we get this easement?** Since 1994, the IKC has partnered with The Nature Conservancy of Indiana (TNC) in an effort to protect karst resources and the biology that depend on them. Being located in a karst area, the Corydon office of TNC has been particularly active and sensitive to karst issues as part of their Blue River Project. In 1996, Allen Pursell of TNC noted that the parcel containing the sinks was being sub-divided for a small housing addition, and approached the IKC to see if we would be interested in working with them to manage the property. Of course, we indicated that we were; but also noted the advantages in having someone local to the site negotiate the conservation easement. On January 13, 1997, TNC secured an easement for about 13 acres of property in the creek bed and overlooking bluff. In addition, an access easement was obtained so the land-locked property could be visited for monitoring purposes.

The 50-foot bluff above the creek bed contains a trash dump. This dump is about a quarter mile away from any good place to put a dumpster, and requires shuttling trash in pickup trucks. Since the easement was signed, the IKC has partnered with TNC to help clean up this dump, holding two workdays. The first workday occurred on November 15, 1997, as part of the conservation project for the Ohio Valley Region of the



Tom Rea, Bruce Bowman, and Allen Pursell looking at Indian Creek during higher flow with water going over the dam.

photo by K Lindberg



View looking downstream from the dam during regular flow. All of Indian Creek sinks just upstream from this point.

photo by Bruce Bowman



NSS. Over 20 cubic yards of trash were removed on that cold, miserable day when a substantial amount of snow fell! Unfortunately, it soon became apparent that there was more trash where that came from; as a matter of fact, we barely made a dent in it. A second joint TNC/IKC workday was held on November 7, 1998 under sunny skies, and more than 50 cubic yards of more trash was removed. There remain several major appliances and other debris at the site, but these two workdays went far to demonstrate the IKC's commitment to the project.



Trash dump cleanup by IKC and TNC volunteers in November of 1998. Over 70 cubic yards has been removed during two workdays. photo by Bruce Bowman

Through our partnership, TNC has come to recognize the IKC's focus and leadership in the area of karst preservation; and from the outset, we had planned to receive this easement from them. However, these things take time; and the transfer of the Orangeville Rise also took priority. In late February of this year, the regional attorney of TNC completed the documents needed for the transfer and forwarded them to the main office in Indianapolis. At the Annual Business Meeting in March, the IKC directorship confirmed our desire to receive the easement. In April, three IKC officers/directors made the trip to Corydon to sign these documents, which were recorded at the Harrison County courthouse the following month.

**What is a conservation easement?** Simply put, any easement is a legal document whereby a landowner signs over certain property rights to others who do not actually own the property. These rights can be anything; rights to commercial development, logging, mining, farming, utilities -- you name it. In this particular case, the landowner agreed that he wanted the property along the creek bed -- and the immediately adjacent creek banks -- to be protected in a manner that was in keeping with the

goals of TNC and the IKC.

An easement of this nature offers several advantages. It ensures protection of the property for as long as the conservancy remains a legitimate, legal entity. If the landowner dies, or the property is sold, the easement is binding on future landowners. So to a landowner that shares the conservancy's interest in the property, this is a good way to protect his land without actually selling it; and in this respect is much better than the leasing agreements we hold on other properties. There is also the significant advantage that the tenets of the easement reduce the value of the property. Having signed over land use rights, the property is worth less, as low as 20% or less than its appraised value. This devaluation affords considerable relief from property taxes. Also, if the easement is donated to a qualifying organization, the value of the donation is often deductible on the donor's income tax return.

Frankly, just about the only disadvantage of the easement from a landowner's standpoint is that he isn't free to change his mind. Under the right circumstances, and with the correct legal language, this is rarely a significant concern.

**How will the IKC manage this property?** It's important to understand that the IKC does not own this property and does not have free access to it. The easements mainly allows us to visit the property for two purposes: to make observations for scientific and educational study, and to ensure that the covenants of the easement are followed. We must provide advance notice of our intent to visit to the landowner(s); we can't just go whenever we want to, or issue permits so others can go.

...continued on page 19



Allen Pursell and Kriste Lindberg signing paperwork to transfer the Conservation Easement from The Nature Conservancy to the IKC.

## SULLIVAN PROPERTY RE-FORESTING PROJECT

by Keith Dunlap

When the IKC acquired the Sullivan property, one of the issues discussed by the committee drafting the management plan was how they envisioned the future condition of the property. The consensus was for the property to become a mature hardwood forest, likely the way it was in the early-1800s before the area was settled. Luckily, approximately half of the acreage is already nicely wooded and another quarter is young growth (10 to 20 years old). Only about five acres are non-forested in three separate areas. The clearing nearest the cave was prescribed to remain open for parking and camping. The other two fields (2/3 of an acre along the western border and 3-1/2 acres on the ridgetop at the south end) were approved to be re-forested at some point.

Subsequently, in the spring of 1999, 75 trees (pecan, oak, and redbud) were planted in the western field as an experiment. The trees did poorly due to the dry weather, excessive weeds, and deer predation, but still over half of them survived.

In September of last year, the IKC Board approved funding to plant 400 more trees to

finish out the western clearing. The trees were ordered through the Indiana DNR nursery and we ended up with red oak, bitternut hickory, white ash, and yellow poplar/tulip.

We received the trees in late March and sent out an e-mail soliciting volunteers for an April 2nd workday. Despite the short no-



Volunteers working to plant the last of the 400 trees in the ridgetop field.

photo by Kriste Lindberg

tice and drizzly weather, fifteen members showed up to help with the planting. Working in roughly four teams of three, the 400 trees were planted, flagged, and mulched in about four hours. We learned from the previous year that mulching was necessary to keep the weeds down immediately around the trees and flagging was necessary to find the trees when mowing. The trees were planted using a 9-foot by 9-foot spacing with approximately 300 new trees planted to complete the western field with the remaining trees planted in the ridgetop field. Participants helping included Bruce Bowman, Chris Carpenter, Bambi Dunlap, Keith Dunlap, Tom Kotowski, Kriste Lindberg, Steve Lockwood, Mark Murphy, Everett Pulliam, Tom Rea, Gladys Reece, Larry Reece, Bob Vandeventer, Kathy Welling, and Jamie Winner.

The weather so far this year has been excellent for the trees with more than ample moisture. Because the western field had horses grazing there for several years, the nutrient/nitrogen levels are elevated which is good for the trees but even better for the grass and weeds, requiring mowing. We



Tom Rea and Kathy Welling planting trees in the western clearing.

photo by Larry Reece

...continued on page 19

## LEONARD SPRINGS NATURE PARK UPDATE

by Kriste Lindberg

The focus this quarter has been on education and outreach. Much has been happening on this front, as you will read below.

Earlier in this issue (page 5), I mentioned the Indiana Geology Expo 2000, which took place in April. One of the display topics was on Leonard Springs Nature Park. Many people stopped by to check out the story-board and compliment us on our efforts.

I've, also, been busy going into classrooms and presenting programs to school groups on caves and karst before taking them on LSNP tours to reinforce what they have learned. It is interesting to see what the children know and don't know, hearing their questions. I feel as though a lot is being learned, not just by the school children, but by me! One group came equipped with little journals they had put together. They were to take notes, sketch in them.



Bloomington area students visiting Leonard Spring Nature Park to learn about karst. Here the students are sitting on the old reservoir's dam making field notes in their journals. photo by Kriste Lindberg

In mid-May, Shirley Springs Cave was visited by twenty-five Indiana DNR naturalists as part of their training for the summer. In order to help with this, Jeff Cummings, the Naturalist at Spring Mill State Park, who was in charge of the cave portion of the session, recruited Anmar Mirza to speak on caving safety, Dave Tibbets to speak on cave mapping, and I to lead the trip and speak on cave conservation and education. The naturalists, as well as the presenters, had a great time.

During Speleofest, I presented an overview of the park at an Ohio Valley Region meeting for the benefit of those who have not been there as a lead-in for their 2000 conservation project which is to take place there this fall. I have since met with Monroe County's Adopt-A-Road folks, who are going to help us with supplying trash bags, gloves, orange vests, a winch truck, removal of trash, including tires. I also met with the Monroe County Fair Board in order to the nearby Monroe County Fairgrounds as a place to camp.

We have also been working on plans to introduce a new "Adopt-A-Trail" program within Bloomington Parks and Recreation. The IKC has been asked if they would like to adopt the trail at LSNP. It will be on the agenda for the IKC's next quarterly meeting on July 8.

Finally, I'd like to thank IKC member Steve Taylor for helping me put together a map of both caves on property in spatial relation to each other. There are two views, which were devised from this map - one shows the caves and surface features from the top and the other show them from the side profile. They have been helpful in showing people how water flows through the system and how all are related.



Field trip into Shirley Spring Cave by Indiana DNR naturalist as part of their training related to cave. photo by Kriste Lindberg

## UNDER EARTH DAY 2000

by Keith Dunlap

The eleventh annual Sullivan Cave work-day was another success. Fifty-six cavers converged on April 16th to work on conservation projects both below and above ground on our Lawrence County property.

This being the second year under IKC ownership, we again concentrated upon surface task. The biggest project of the day was the demolition of the old 24-foot travel trailer in the western clearing. This trailer was a real eye-sore, abandoned long ago. The plan was to cut the trailer into smaller sections and pack it into a 30-cubic-yard dumpster we had rented. There were over twenty people working most of the morning to get the trailer cut apart. Unlike RVs of today, this 50s-vintage trailer was built like a tank, complete with steel sheet exterior, porcelain toilet, case-iron plumbing, and heavy steel frame. We used a sawz-all to cut the exterior into manageable pieces and carried them to the dumpster....we used a torch to cut up the frame and axles.

After the trailer was gone, the rest of the dumpster was filled with old lawn-mowers, tires, bed springs, and other trash found in the woods. The old culvert replaced last year was also cut up and hauled off.

Another task needing attention was to widen and deepen the ditch along the access lane. During heavy rains, the ditch would often overflow across the road. Jamie Winner and Keith Dunlap spend about an hour fixing this problem.

A number of volunteers worked on re-nailing the shed roof, priming the roof, and painting on the sides of the shed. A top coat is still needed to finish this project.



Volunteers working during Under Earth Day to re-nail the shed roof, then prime the roof and sides.

Tom Rea and Kathy Welling took care of pulling about a dozen fence t-posts in the ridgetop clearing.

Kriste Lindberg, Jack Wood, and Eric Higbie made a first pass on clearing the western hiking trail back to the ridgetop clearing.



Jamie Winner digging on the access lane ditch to improve drainage.

Barb Capocy mowed the entire camping clearing.

Finally, twenty-five volunteers worked at least part of the day in the cave, removing trash, removing graffiti, and mud-washing.

All in all, this year's workday was one of the best attended and most successful, accomplishing much towards improving the cave and property.

Participants this year included Jim Adams, Miranda Adams, Charlie Beime, Bruce Bowman, Becky Bredhold, Jennifer Bush, Barb Capocy, Chris Carpenter, Matt Carpenter, Bruce Devore, Andy Dile, Rick Dile, Bambi Dunlap, Keith Dunlap, Bill English, Chris Gilbert, Brent Grist, Jim Hall, Mike Hood, Pat Jarboe, Jim Johnson, Chuck Klein, Tom Kotoski, Erik Liebhaber, Kriste Lindberg, Steve Lockwood, Robert Mangold, Carl McDougall, Christopher McDougall, Janny McDougall, Anmar Mirza, Barry Oost, Bill Owens, Jeff Partlow, David Pyle, Ernie Payne, Everett Pulliam, David Raab, Tom Rea, Gretchen Schenk, Matt Selig, Bob Sergesketter, Tom Sollman, Steve Taylor, Bill Tozer, Greg Tucker, Wayne Tucker, Bob Vandeventer, Dick Vernier, Kathy Welling, Rich Whisler, Jamie Winner, Jack Wood, and Kevin Wyatt.



Demolition of the abandoned travel trailer.

photos by Jamie Winner and Bob Vandeventer

## HNF/IKC KARST INVENTORY PROJECT UPDATE

by Kriste Lindberg

It's nice to be on the good side of things. Every time we walk into the HNF office, we are well received. They like us. We are one of the few organizations that generally work with them in a non-adversarial way. This positive approach is what helps us, and them, sustain this project.

Our March field day was ridgewalking in an area south of Huron. The area was very interesting with impressive sandstone outcrops, but little in the way of caves.

Our April field day was somewhat abbreviated due to the Indiana Cave Symposium, but one cave location was verified.

Our May field workday was one of the projects carried out as part of their annual Take Pride in America day. TPIA is a day for volunteers to get together and help the Forest Service. There were folks doing all sorts of things - from pulling weeds to trail maintenance to ridgewalking and looking for caves. Of course, we were the ones doing the ridgewalking. Over twenty cavers and other interested volunteers came out to join us in our efforts. The weather was ideal and we were not unrewarded. On our venture, we found four new pits in the area we were covering in the Deam Wilderness (this make 116 known caves on the Hoosier). Along the way, we also stopped to check in on Patton Cave (see photo). The day concluded with a cookout provided by the HNF and complimentary t-shirts.

Our June workday was spent in the Tinchier area locating a number of the kaolinite mine entrances so that we can formally comment on the HNF's proposal to closed them for safety reasons.

Since we are back in the warmer months, with the vegetation up and obscuring visibility as well as the temperatures and humidity, we will be concentrating on doing values inventories of known caves for the next four or five months.



In addition to the monthly workdays, the Forest Committee meets bi-monthly with the HNF cave specialist, Kelle Reynolds. This committee provides feedback to the HNF on their various projects which may impact caves, cavers, and cave biota.

Three big topics in recent months have been the overall forest management plan revision, a proposed plan amendment pertaining to designated Special Areas (five related to karst), and permanent closure of the abandoned kaolinite mines for safety reasons (they look like caves to most people but are very unstable on the inside).

If you are interested in caving "with a purpose" and can get out to join us, please do. We are doing a lot of good for the caves and karst on the Hoosier. The more volunteer effort we put forth, the more influence we earn related to how the cave and karst areas are managed. For more information contact either myself or Steve Lockwood (see contact info on page 2).

### HANCOCK PROPERTY CLEANUP JULY 8th, 1 PM

Each year we schedule a mini-cleanup on the Hancock Property, a tract of land that we lease containing Coon, Grotto, and Shaft caves. We will be meeting at 1 PM at the pull-off along Spicer Lane. There are no major projects scheduled this year to be accomplished, but we will be walking the trails and Spicer Lane to pick up trash. We anticipate the clean-up will only take a few hours. Assuming time allows before the IKC meeting that evening, we will also visit the nearby Leonard Spring Nature Park. For more information, contact Keith Dunlap.

**INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY TREASURY REPORT**

**Income/Expense Statement  
From January 1, 2000 to March 31, 2000**

<b>INCOME:</b>			
Dues Apportionment and Residuals	640.00		
Donations	2072.50		
Interest	97.49		
			\$2,809.99
<b>EXPENSES:</b>			
IKC Update (printing, production, mailing)	147.44		
Reprint #10 (printing, production, mailing)	231.31		
Membership (postage, meeting notices, etc)	96.53		
Conservation/Management/Education	497.68		
NSS Spring Hill Legal Defense Fund donation	200.00		
Misc (permits, bank fees, etc)	37.00		
Transfer to restricted funds	700.00		
			(\$1,909.96)
<b>NET OPERATING EXCESS (DEFICIT) THIS PERIOD:</b>			<u>\$900.03</u>

**Balance Sheet  
March 31, 2000**

<b>ASSETS:</b>			
Cash in Checking Account	4775.22		
Cash in Savings Account	10782.90		
Sullivan Property	72000.00		
Orangeville Rise Property	7000.00		
			<u>\$94,558.12</u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; OPERATING EXCESS:</b>			
Hancock Property Maintenance Fund	100.22		
Indiana DNR Nongame Fund	120.00		
Land Acquisition Restricted Fund	1575.00		
Deferred Dues Restrctied Fund	2400.00		
Hat Fund (excluding 4 hats in inventory)	251.76		
Previous Operating Excess (note 1)	10211.11		
Net Excess (Deficit) This Period	900.03		
Current Operating Excess	11111.14		
Real estate liquidity (see note 1)	79000.00		
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Operating Excess</b>			<u>\$94,558.12</u>

**NOTE:**

1) The "Previous Operating Excess" was adjusted from the December 31, 1999 Balance Sheet to separate out the real estate portion of the operating excess to better depict usable funds.

# IKC ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, March 18, 2000

Greenwood, Indiana

## BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kriste Lindberg (President)  
 James Adams (Secretary)  
 Keith Dunlap (Treasurer)  
 Bruce Bowman  
 Bruce DeVore  
 Bambi Dunlap  
 Nick Noe  
 Tom Rea  
 Bob Sergesketter  
 Tom Sollman  
 Bill Tozer (by proxy)  
 Bob Vandeventer  
 Dick Vernier  
 Kathy Welling

## BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ronnie Burns

The meeting was called to order at 10:11 AM at the Greenwood Community Center in Greenwood, Indiana, President Kriste Lindberg presiding. Lindberg offered her thanks to everyone who had a hand in preparing the March newsletter. Lindberg noted that the IKC currently has the highest membership in its history at 176. The IKC website also won the NSS quarterly competition. Congratulations and thanks to Bruce Bowman, the IKC webmaster. Introductions were made.

Elections were held. Kriste Lindberg was re-elected as President by acclamation. Bruce Bowman was elected as Secretary by acclamation. Keith Dunlap was re-elected as Treasurer by acclamation.

Board members elected to two-year terms were: James Adams, Steve Lockwood, Tom Rea, Bob Sergesketter, Bill Tozer, and Bob Vandeventer. Dick Vernier was elected to the one-year term. Ballots were destroyed by consensus.

Lindberg awarded certificates to Board Members, Committee Chairs, and Patrons who served during 1999-2000.

Kathy Welling was accepted as proxy for Bill Tozer.

Treasurer Dunlap reported cash assets of \$15,363.36. Of that amount, \$3,093.75 came

from dues and donations received with the 114 membership renewals so far this year.

Minutes were accepted from the December 4, 1999 and February 12, 2000 meetings as published in the March 2000 *IKC Update*.

Adams presented his annual report on visitation and conditions at Shiloh Cave. Vandeventer presented a similar report on Sullivan Cave visitation. These reports will be published as separate articles in the June 2000 *IKC Update*.

Adams reported that the Harrison-Crawford Grotto recently held a work trip to Suicide Cave, painting and cleaning up around the gate area. Patron Ronnie Burns is preparing the annual report to the landowner.

K Dunlap reported on Coon and Grotto. With multiple key holders, it is more difficult to monitor traffic. All key holders have been encouraged to log trips in the future. These hibernacula for the Indiana Bat remain closed through May 1 in accordance with the US Fish and Wildlife Service policy. K Dunlap also reported that the IKC sign above Shaft Cave has been replaced. Patron Jeff Cody would like to remove the barbed wire (present to keep people from falling into the pit) and replace with a split-rail fence or something similar. The patron will formally propose an alternative to the Board at a future meeting. There was nothing to report on Waynes Cave.

K Dunlap reported that our trees for the Sullivan property are not ready yet. A dumpster to remove the old trailer is needed for Under-Earth Day. We will have 3-6 tons of debris, so a dumpster of this size will cost us about \$500. Concerns that the trailer will fall apart make other options untenable. K Dunlap moved to allocate up \$500 to rent a dumpster. Seconded by Welling. Motion passed 14-0.

Property tax strategies for Sullivan were discussed. Options include applying for exemption, putting the property in the Classified Forest program, or to continue paying taxes. Advantages and disadvantages were examined. Classification as wildlife refuge was also considered. Maximum size for exemption is now 15 acres (since 1987). The Sullivan





property is 28 acres. K Dunlap moved to put the existing forest in the Classified Forest program. Seconded by Vandeventer. Motion passed 14-0.

The Nature Conservancy has completed necessary documentation to transfer the conservation easement for the Sinks of Indian Creek to the IKC. K Dunlap and Bowman gave an overview of the situation. IKC must be willing to enforce the covenants of the easement and even bring suit if necessary to protect the property. Adams moved to accept the easement. Welling seconded. Motion passed 14-0.

Lockwood updated the group on the Orangeville Rise. The property has remained clean since the workday last September. The new sign is also ready to put up, thanks to painting by K Dunlap. Unfortunately, erosion in the gravel around the new guardrail is getting worse. The IKC would need to re-survey the property to justify moving the guardrail (~\$200-\$300). Noe moved that we obtain a legal survey. Welling seconded. K Dunlap suggested we get quotes first. The amendment was accepted by unanimous consent. Motion to obtain quotes and pursue passed 14-0. Lockwood was instructed to initiate formal contacts with Orange County highway department and others to make our position clear.

The Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology is seeking an opportunity to do a cave cleanup project on April 15. The group would consist of 15-35 novices with little gear. Vandeventer and K Dunlap agreed to find a project at Sullivan for them on another date.

Boone Cave is for sale. Asking price is \$298,000. The property has two houses on 81 acres.

Lindberg reported continued progress with Leonard Springs Nature Park. Shirley Spring Cave will be monitored for visitation levels. Lindberg also expressed interest in publishing an educational booklet for karst landowners in Indiana.

Lockwood noted that more caves have been found on HNF property. There are now 112 known caves. Twenty-four of these are ready for management plans. There needs to be a more concerted effort to write these plans. The HNF management plan is undergoing revision, but they have no plans to alter their karst management. The most controversial

topic is trail use. There are also several Special Area designations under review, some of them for karst areas (e.g., Gypsy Bill Allen, Wesley Chapel Gulf, Beaver Creek, Tincher Hollow, Grease Gravy). Comments on the Special Areas are due by March 28.

The Indiana Cave Symposium and Under-Earth Day are April 15 and 16, respectively. The first mine gate workday is tentatively scheduled for April 29-30. K Dunlap reported that the contract for these gates has not been finalized yet.

Lindberg noted she is working on grant applications to fund the hydrology display and additional trees for the Sullivan property. President Lindberg is seeking volunteers to assist with grant writing and other fund-raising activities.

The Indiana Geological Survey is holding an expo in downtown Indianapolis on April 5. This expo runs concurrently with the meeting of the North-Central Region of the Geological Society of America. Lindberg plans to man a karst display at the expo.

Thanks to K Dunlap and Lindberg for developing the new IKC brochure. The flyer is bright yellow and eye-catching. Opportunities to obtain a grant to cover costs of producing a more expensive, professional-looking brochure are being explored.

The owners of Spring Hill Cave in Tennessee are being sued for wrongful death. K Dunlap moved to donate \$200 to their legal defense fund. Welling seconded. Motion passed 14-0.

It was noted that one of the Board Members has missed every meeting since being elected. President Lindberg will follow up.

Larry Reece won a bound volume of the 1978 NSS News at auction for \$20. [Post-meeting note: The IKC webmaster failed to check all records of incoming bids prior to the meeting. The actual winner was Joan Keever from Alabama, who was kind enough to donate a little extra to the IKC land acquisition fund. Thanks Joan!]

Next meeting: July 8, 2000, 7 PM in Bloomington. The Hancock property cleanup will be held on the same day.

Meeting adjourned at 1 PM.

Submitted by Bruce Bowman, IKC Secretary

## SHILOH CAVE ANNUAL REPORT

by James Adams, Shiloh Patron  
(March 18th, 2000)

Shiloh Cave (Lawrence County) continued to receive limited visitation during 1999. Only two trips were made into the cave.

In June, Steve Ragsdale of Belmont, Michigan took a group of patients from a correctional hospital into the cave. Although the Patron is uncomfortable with the use of the cave for therapy, this is an annual event for the institution and no problems have ever been noted.

In October, the Patron led a group of six cavers from the Central Indiana Grotto. This was their monthly grotto-sponsored trip.

In addition to these recreational trips, Tom Sollman continues to make irregular biota inventory trips into Shiloh. There was one trip in February 1999.

The cave gate lock has now held up for two years without much trouble, due in part,

perhaps, to the tube of Vaseline that hangs near the gate to lubricate the lock at each entry.

The driveway gate continues to be a concern. Last year the store on the property closed. While this provides better parking opportunities and greater caver privacy while changing, the driveway gate is more likely to be found locked. The two trips in 1999 were held when workers were in the quarry and arrangements were made before entering the cave to leave the driveway gate unlocked.

Arrangements have been made to make a concealed key available, however, this key has been concealed too well and the cavers have not been able to locate it. Our land-owner contact is aware of the problem and this will be revisited before the next scheduled trip.

## SULLIVAN CAVE ANNUAL REPORT

by Bob Vandeventer, Sullivan Patron  
(March 18th, 2000)

This report is for the IKC on the activity at Sullivan Cave from March 1999 to March 2000 by Bob Vandeventer Sullivan Cave Patron.

The number of trips to Sullivan cave have increased from my March 1999 report as I thought they would but I have had no problem in the management of the cave. There were 41 trips completed including the trip today by the SJVG. The number of people to visit the cave has more than doubled to 392. As you can tell from the number of trips and the number of people there were more small group trips than last year. This count like the last year's report does not include the people visiting and working on Under Earth Day.

The new driveway is the top comment for the year. It is much safer and a lot more private for all to visit the cave. People who have visited the cave on the past are the first to say how much better it is to be off the road

and away from the traffic. The other comments are on how clean the cave is from those who have not seen it for years.

There are no problems to report at this time. All gates and locks are in good working condition and all keys are accounted for.

One note from me as Cave Patron. I did turn away three different groups due to lack of proper equipment or experience. I would say more than fifty percent of contact on permission to visit the cave is done by e-mail. I try my best to direct people to the IKC web site for information on visiting policy. If I do not know the group I will be there or someone I have full trust in to check them out before any trip.

I am looking forward to Under Earth Day this year. I will be in this country this time so I can make it to the event and maybe we can make that old trailer go away this time.

A special thanks to Keith and Bambi for being my backup for the cave trips.

Continued from page 9...

However, the IKC will continue to apply our active management philosophies when possible. We will appoint a patron/steward up the remaining trash on the property will undoubtedly continue. For those willing to work for the privilege, there will be opportunities to view the sinks and appreciate this to oversee the property and issue annual status reports. In addition, the effort to clean unique karst resource. The IKC will also vigorously enforce the covenants and take appropriate action against any violators.

Out of respect for the anonymity of the landowner(s), we will not be publishing the full content of the conservation easement. Members who are interested in these details

should contact one of the IKC's officers or directors and request a copy.

**Conclusion.** The IKC is proud to acquire this easement on the Sinks of Indian Creek. The easement represents a very effective way for the IKC to achieve our objectives of karst protection without significant cash outlay. Hopefully, this will be the first of many such agreements.

The IKC would also like to thank The Nature Conservancy for their quick action to secure the protection of this property. We are very fortunate to have TNC as a respected partner in the environmental protection of karst in Indiana.

Continued from page 10...

have already mowed twice and will likely have to do two or three more mowings this year. It is likely we will have to continue to mow this field for several more years until the slow-growing hickory and oaks gain enough height to get above the weeds.

Planning is already underway for next year's planting. We anticipate planting 1400 trees in the ridgetop field. We hope to secure a grant to fund most of the up front expenses. The maintenance of the trees in the ridgetop field should be less demanding since the field is more grass and less weeds.

One final plus in getting the entire property re-forested, we will be able to enroll in the DNR's Classified Forest program and reduce our property taxes down to only a few dollars per year.



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

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

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

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ donation to the general IKC fund.

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

\_\_\_\_\_ I know of an area worthy of protection. Please contact me.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to volunteer to help. Please contact me.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

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

