



IKC UPDATE

**A Quarterly Publication of The Indiana Karst Conservancy
December 2002 Number 67**

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.

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*grottos with access agreements

QUARTERLY MEETING REMINDER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7th, 10:00 AM

SOUTHPORT, INDIANA

Home of Nick and Carita Noe, 1195 Priority Place

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; Discussion of upcoming projects, Land Acquisition Committee activities, Potential gating project, Potential funding opportunity, and more....

Meeting directions: The Noe's condo is 1/2 block east then 1/2 block south of the intersection of Shelby Street and Stop 10. Call or e-mail Nick or Carita (see contact info on page 2) if you need more specific directions.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

- 07 DEC = IKC QUARTERLY MEETING (see above)
- 21 DEC = HNF COMMITTEE MEETING/FIELD DAY, contact Steve Lockwood
- 18 JAN = HNF FIELD WORK DAY, contact Steve Lockwood
- ?? FEB = IKC BOARD MEETING (date and location TBD)
- ?? MAR = IKC ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING (date and location TBD)
- ?? APR = UNDER-EARTH DAY AT BUDDHA PROPERTY (date TBD)
- ?? APR = BLANTON PROPERTY CLEAN-UP, Orleans (date TBD)

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 much appreciated 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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NEWS BRIEFS...

- ❑ November 7th was the final day of the formal comment period related to the latest I-69 Draft Environmental Impact Statement. From all indications, it appears the populous's choice was the "non-preferred" I70/US41 alternative. This route is much cheaper and according to the DEIS, also much less destructive to the environment compared to any of the five "preferred" route InDOT proposed. The final decision on the "best" route was to be made by InDOT before the end of the year, but a critical letter from the EPA and a subsequent letter suggesting other alternatives is likely to delay the announcement. Our hats should go off to the Hoosier Environmental Council and several grassroots organizations for doing an outstanding job of publicizing the issues while several cavers have worked with landowners in Monroe, Greene, and Owen counties documenting the many caves and karst features previously missed by InDOT's consultants.
- ❑ If you are looking for an interesting professional conference on karst, you might mark down September 6 - 10th, 2003 on your calendar. These are the dates for the *Ninth Multidisciplinary Conference on Sinkholes and the Engineering and Environmental Impact on Karst* to be held in Huntsville, Alabama. Presentations, field trips, poster sessions, consultant exhibits, and even a short course on karst are part of the conference. For more information, go to www.asce.org/conferences/karst2003/index.cfm
- ❑ The land trust movement through out the United States has exploded over the past ten years. Indiana is no different with at least twenty-five land-holding conservation organizations, most working regionally around the state. Several of the new land trusts have not made that first "deal", while The Nature Conservancy tops the list by protecting over 19,000 acres. In total according to the Indiana Land Resource Council, nearly 30,000 acres are either owned by, or have conservation easements held by private, non-profit conservation organizations. The IKC currently protects 81 acres.
- ❑ Over the past four years, the IKC under contract with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the Hoosier National Forest has installed 23 bat closures on abandoned mines within Indiana. This has eliminated potential hazards for humans while providing a more secure habitat for hibernating bats and other fauna. It has also provided the IKC with an environmentally-friendly source of income in excess of \$21,000 which can be used for land acquisition or other conservation related activities. A big thanks to everyone who has volunteered their time and effort to make the gating program a success.
- ❑ Last March, the IKC co-sponsored an interactive forum in Austin on bat gate designs. The forum brought forth the current designs and best practices in use today by various gate designers/fabricators. The proceedings of this forum will eventually be published and distributed through the NSS. However, the draft version of the proceedings are now available on the web at www.mcrcc.osmre.gov/Bats/Default.htm, as well as several other bat related topics. It is an interesting site worth a visit.
- ❑ Several IKC members (Jim Adams, Bob Armstrong, Bambi and Keith Dunlap, Tom Rea, Dick and Sue Vernier, and Bob Vandeventer) have been saving their aluminum cans, along with cans collected at Cave Capers. These cans are then turned in for re-cycling. This year's collection netted over 200 pounds worth \$53.50 for the IKC.
- ❑ In the last *IKC Update*, it was mentioned how General Motors and Lilly had each donated \$250 to the IKC as part of their "volunteer recognition programs" for employees Keith Dunlap and Bruce Bowman, respectively. Not to be out done, Verizon's Volunteer Incentive Program has donated \$500 to the IKC for Bruce Devore's effort and another \$100 for matching his previous cash donation. Investigate if your employer has similar programs and of course volunteer your hours and make you donations.
- ❑ Five new members have joined the IKC in the past quarter. Welcome Adam Manship (406), Todd Webb (407), Dex Conaway (408), Anthony Hessling (409, and John McInnes (410). The IKC membership now stands at 182.

STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES AT BUDDHA NATURE PRESERVE

by Keith Dunlap

With the Buddha Nature Preserve being our newest acquisition, there are a number of stewardship projects the IKC is undertaking. These include removing trash and fence wire rolls from various sinkholes and selective reforestation. Both of these tasks were initiated last April with the help of many volunteers. Then over the summer, Property Manager Tom Rea and others administered weed control around the newly planted trees, maintained the nature trail, and started installing wooden posts to delineate the parking area.

On November 2nd, we had another well attended workday with thirty-three volunteers tackling several projects. Foremost was the construction of the fence along the southern boundary of the property. We originally looked at contracting this job out to a professional, but the \$3000 price tag was more than we wanted to spend. Thus we decided we would teach ourselves the finer points of fence building. But of course the fence line wasn't over simple terrain, rather the 1100 foot length spanned across three

sinkholes, the deepest about forty feet.

We started the day with a rented 12-inch power auger. It worked great at drilling the 4-foot deep holes for the main posts, but it took a whole crew to man-handle the rig. A second crew worked on mixing concrete and



Property Manager Tom Rea standing against one of the completed fence brace sets. Behind Tom is one of the active sinkholes on the property.



Eastern Indiana Grotto members operating the power auger for the boundary fence post holes.

placing the six-inch diameter posts, while a third crew fitted the horizontal brace and installed the diagonal tension wires. It basically took all day to place the seven sets of main posts.

While the fence crews were doing their thing, other volunteers worked on removing the last of the old fence rolls (a total of five) from various sinkholes and a Scout troop worked on placing more posts around the parking area.

Participants for the day included Bill Baus, Billy Cathy, Melanie Copeland, Bruce Devore, Keith Dunlap, Mark Kraus, Brian Leavell, Kriste Lindberg, Steve Lockwood, Gene Pelter Jr, Kevin Peters, Ingrid Peters, David Randal, Tom Rea, Tom Reynolds, Bob Sergesketter, David Short, Tom Sollman, Bob Vandeventer, Richard Vernier, Sue Vernier, Guy Wolf, and 11 scouts. A special thanks should go to the Eastern Indiana Grotto for their good turnout of members.

The following day, Keith Dunlap, Tom Rea, Tom Sollman, Dick Vernier, and Sue Vernier returned to drill and set the 36 line posts for the fence. This process went much

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DRIVEWAY AND PARKING LOT UPGRADE AT SULLIVAN

by Keith Dunlap

After four years of ownership, the stewardship activities at the Sullivan Property are mostly of the maintenance variety. About a year ago, the Board approved a motion to re-harden the driveway and parking area with stone. With the wet spring, busy summer, and several scheduling delays, this task did not occur until September. Bob Vandeventer spent the day at the property working with the Hanna Trucking driver in rough spreading five tri-axle truck loads of stone (104 tons). The following weekend, Keith Dunlap, Bambi Dunlap, Tom Rea, and Bob Sergesketter performed the final grading using shovels, rakes, and Tom's blade-equipped Gator.

The re-hardening of the parking area will allow more year-around use and will also delineate where visitors can park without cutting up or getting stuck in the poorly-drained grassy area.

The IKC spend \$622 on this project.



The newly re-graveled parking area (35' wide by 80' long) for Sullivan Cave. The access driveway comes in on the left, the camping area is to the right, and the entrance to the cave is beyond the trees in the background.

SHAFT PIT FENCE REPLACEMENT

by Keith Dunlap

Back in the late 80's, the IKC constructed a rather primitive barbed-wire fence around the entrance to Shaft Pit near Bloomington. The fence was a preventive measure to lessen the possibility of someone accidentally walking through the woods and falling into the entrance (and at the time, there were a lot of unauthorized cavers going to Salamander Cave). Time has not been kind to the old fence and about a year ago, the Board started discussions on replacing it. First a new gate was approved, then at the next meeting that decision was rescinded and a fence was approved. In June, a number of volunteers spent the afternoon digging the nine post holes. Several of the holes were shallow as a result of hitting limestone. Thus the fence post structure needed to be self-supporting and braced against each other.

On November 23rd, Cave Patron Jeff Cody, Keith Dunlap, Scott Fee, and Bob Vandeventer met out on the property to complete the re-fencing task. First the nine previously-dug post holes had to be cleaned out. Then the posts were inserted, leveled,

and backfilled. Two-inch diameter horizontal holes were then drilled into posts to accept the galvanized pipe braces. Diagonal wires were then strung and tightened to lock the posts and braces together. Finally, four strands of high tension wire were stretched around the perimeter of the fence.

The IKC spent approximately \$225 on this project.



The new perimeter safety fence around Shaft Pit.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

by Kriste Lindberg

On October 5th, I went “national”. That is, the NSS appointed Amy Bern and I as Co-Chiefs (yes, that is the title) of the Education Division. The division includes the education and outreach components of the society: the Environmental Education Committee (of which Project Underground works closely), the Television and Video Committee, Safety and Techniques Committee, and the National Cave Rescue Commission. It’s a monumental task but we’re up for it! We are working on energizing the division to bring it together in a cohesive form. There is so much potential!

Basically, it will involve expanding what we have been doing on a localized level to a national level and visa versa, as we will also be bringing some of the national initiatives to more localized levels. We’ll all be learning more and sharing more, strengthening the division as a whole. More on our progress in future issues.

Actually, this new appointment is pretty good timing as we’re getting into the cooler months of the year - those that are best spent reflecting, (re)organizing, and getting ready for when the weather warms up and more activity starts happening.

A thought that comes to mind now is how important the emotional aspect of dealing with education is. In order for people to make a change in their lives, it has to come from within. That is, where it hits home. Without that little something inside, a transformation probably won’t take place, such as one that can produce a more sustainable lifestyle that’s better for the environment. That’s why we need to take the softer side of being human into account with what we do. By doing so, we can create positive changes in behavior, camaraderie, and hence, help hold a group together. Only then can social progress take place on larger scale - creating a win/win for all. Service-learning (sometimes also known as citizen scientist) projects such as Hoosier Riverwatch and the Storm Drain Marking Program assist with this process. They create urban/rural interfaces that help the community grow and experience a healthier lifestyle. Folks are able to learn more about the area they live in, how to take better care of it, and feel part

of the process or ownership - they feel good.

The Bloomington Parks and Recreation (BPR), Natural Resources division, where I have worked for the past three (almost four!) years now, is most supportive. We are working more with cave and karst education as well as other, broader conservation-minded programs that focus on water quality, and plan to expand them by working more closely with schools, scout groups, museums, and other community-oriented venues. Besides Hoosier Riverwatch and the Storm Drain Marking Program, for example, we will be doing more with WonderLab now that they are opening their new building soon. By the way, thanks to the Bloomington Indiana Grotto for donating \$250 to “buy” an engraved brick. Proceeds will be used to help support the museum in a financial as well as structural way! It will be one of many which will pave the walkway to their new, custom-built home. We look forward to the continued success of this productive, science-based, education center!

Steve Cotter, Bloomington Parks and Recreation’s Natural Resources Coordinator, and I had lunch with Dr Jerry Lewis when he was in town to give a talk a few weeks ago on cave biology to a mixed group of attendees, including cavers, government employees, and students, at Indiana University’s School of Political and Environmental. It was, of course, well-received (see Dave Everton’s article elsewhere in this issue)! Jerry will also be conducting a biota study at Leonard Springs Nature Park. It will be used as a baseline on how to improve the park’s water quality.

The BPR is also starting to write management plans for all of our parks with natural areas. This is being done to further strengthen our education and outreach initiatives as well as to improve resource/park quality. Almost all of our more than thirty parks have them, and those that don’t, may soon as a result of our work. Did you know that over half of our parks contain flowing water?!

Speaking of flowing water, we’ve been moving right along with Hoosier Riverwatch, as well. David Christman’s science class at Harmony School has been continuing to



monitor the water quality at Leonard Springs Nature Park and Dr Heather Reynold's "City as Ecosystem" class has been busy monitoring the water quality at Bryan Park as part of the park's naturalization process. Both took part in National Water Quality Monitoring Day that took place on October 18 as part of the celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act. Results were entered into a nation-wide database. You can visit the site at: www.yearofcleanwater.org. Follow the links to National Water Monitoring Day.

To help further our progress with Hoosier Riverwatch, I successfully completed their Level II training, which qualifies me to use more advanced training equipment, use their database, and is the next step to becoming



A landowner (left) looking down into a small cave entrance in southwest Monroe County while Sam Frushour fills out documentation. This cave and it's forest setting could be threatened by I-69.

and instructor. A couple of weeks ago Todd Stevenson, Monroe County Stormwater Engineer, and I drove up to the IDNR's National Resources Education Center, which houses the program, to learn more about water monitoring via computers. Val Frazee of the Lost River Conservation Association also attended.

To boost interest in cave and karst conservation, including water quality initiatives, I am starting to compile a history of Leonard Springs Nature Park. This will be a fun and exciting project as I'll be conducting interviews with persons around the area who have been connected with the old reservoir and delving into the archives of museums and the City of Bloomington Utilities (CBU).

And speaking of the CBU, congratulations to them as they have just officially adopted the Storm Drain Marking Program! I'll be working with Jonathan Heald, City of Bloomington Stormwater Engineer, to administer and coordinate the program, giving me access to resources not only within the city's parks and recreation department, but now utilities as well, expanding our mission. I've been getting quite the education on GIS and other mapping and engineering systems! Bloomington's beautiful downtown historic area, Prospect Hills Historic District, just signed on to do their neighborhood with us. I'm looking forward to working with them.

Also, progress is being made with the Monroe County Stormwater meetings that Todd Stevenson (mentioned above) has been hosting. These meetings bring together folks from all around the county to discuss common challenges in regards to stormwater runoff and their solutions in preparation for Rule 13, including developers, airport and other large area managers, city and county engineers, Indiana University, and so on. Mainly, education and outreach are key here. A number of our programs are highlighted in this endeavor, including the Storm Drain Marking Program, Hoosier Riverwatch, and Project Underground. After all, stormwater runoff that enters storm drains from roads eventually connects to streams and karst, depending where they're located.

The National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA) conference was held October 22-24. Yours truly and Sharon Hall, IDNR Stormwater Specialist, hosted karst conservation field trips at Leonard Springs Nature Park for attendees. Thanks to Easley Winery for hosting dinner Wednesday night, Purdue University for the luxury coach, and Elliott Stone Quarry (the owners of an entrance to IKC -managed Shiloh Cave) for donating three most-appreciated door prizes hand made from Indiana limestone!

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CAVE ECOLOGIST SPEAKS AT ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES AND POLICY SEMINAR

by Dave Everton

Dr Julian Lewis (on left in photo) of Lewis & Associates Biological Consulting of Clarksville, Indiana spoke at a recent Indiana University seminar hosted by the Environmental Science and Policy Faculty from the School of Public & Environmental Affairs (SPEA) on the Bloomington campus of IU on Thursday, November 7th.

The presentation was titled *Cave Ecology: An Environmental Perspective*. In it, Dr Lewis discussed various forms of cave life found at locations in the United States, the Midwest, and specifically Indiana, which incidentally contains incredible cave fauna. His primary method of finding and documenting this life is by setting special traps that collect specimens, which then get collected from the caves and taken to his lab. Much of his time after that is spent looking at them through a microscope.

The work he is hired to do is usually for agencies, which often want to know if he can find cave life classified as globally rare. The areas he has studied in Indiana includes the Clark County Army Ammunition Depot, Jefferson Proving Ground (now the Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge), and more recently, ongoing work in more than 100 caves in the Hoosier National Forest. He has also been instrumental in recent efforts to stop Rumbling Falls Cave in Fall Creek Falls State Park, Tennessee from being used as a sewage dump.

Dr Lewis gave a very interesting and easy to understand presentation, using a sense of humor tastefully to highlight various points. I enjoyed the seminar, and believe all cavers would have found it both enjoyable and beneficial. He is Conservation Editor for the NSS's *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies* and on the Board of Directors of the American Cave Conservation Association, as well as being a part of the Cave Research Foundation.

The Environmental Sciences and Policy seminars are held weekly throughout both the fall and spring semesters and hosts a variety of speakers and topics. SPEA faculty member Vicky Meretsky, organizer for the 2002-2003 school year seminars, says that although some of them are rather tightly focused, most aim to reach a broad audience

with a general environmental science background. While cave and karst topics aren't intended to be the main focus, she indicates that various related issues could be addressed in future seminars, including:

- ❑ karst hydrology
- ❑ transport of toxic chemicals through karst systems
- ❑ chemical reactions between pollutants and karst
- ❑ conservation of karst plant communities
- ❑ policy complexities of regulating water quality in karst
- ❑ a detailed explanation of the hydrology of the Lost River system

If you or someone you know may be interested in presenting a one hour talk as an expert in one these fields at a future seminar, please contact Vicky at 812-855-3836 or e-mail meretsky@indiana.edu for additional information. Kriste Lindberg is a point source person and will continue to send out information regarding upcoming seminars to regional caving groups in the future via e-mail.



HNF/IKC KARST INVENTORY PROJECT UPDATE

by Kriste Lindberg

Need relief from the winter blahs? Get out and work on the HNF Project! Remember, workdays take place on the third Saturday of each month. It's a great way to enjoy the outdoors, do some caving and/or ridge-walking, and help your local national forest.

We are currently at 136 known caves on the forest and counting. Of that number, the following is an update on the progress we have made of to date:

Approved cave management plans	1
Drafted cave management plans	4
Caves that require management plans	21
Caves submitted for significance	24
Caves that require values team info	14
Caves that require advance team info	44
Caves that require more info for packages	52

During the October work day, we had our morning "business" meeting to discuss the cave biota inventory project by Dr Jerry Lewis (incidentally, he named a new species of millipede after Kelle Reynolds, the Karst Specialist on the HNF), management of future acquisition areas, the Wesley Chapel Gulf Special Area Management Plan which is in it's final stages of approval, eventual acquisition by the HNF of the Blanton Property (overlying the Lost River Cave System), and other HNF projects. After the meeting, informal discussions continued at the new, Cajun Shack. It poured rain all afternoon so we had to put off fieldwork until another day.

As part of November's field workday,

Keith Dunlap, Tom Rea, Steve Lockwood, and I walked the TNC-acquired Blanton property to inventory it for karst features and see if there are any sinkholes that need trash removal attention - 213 acres is a lot of land! We found one that definitely needs to be cleaned -- probably two large dumpsters worth! We will likely have a clean-up workday in April.

In other news, thanks to IKC Director Don Ingle for attending a dinner with Region 9 NF officials in mid-November! Our partnership with the HNF is mutually beneficial and keeping the regional staff informed of how the IKC and HNF work together is important.

Let me know if you have any questions and/or would like to join this exciting and productive project!



A large trash-filled sinkhole on the Blanton Property which will be an IKC clean-up project in 2003.

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faster because the power auger only had to drill an 8-inch diameter hole, 3-foot deep for the 4-inch diameter posts.

The five strands of high-tension wire will be strung in the spring after the posts have had a chance to settle and set.

The final cost for the fence was just over \$1000. Furthermore, we will be requesting full reimbursement for these expenses from the Indiana Heritage Trust stewardship fund.

Boy scouts digging post holes for wooden posts around the perimeter of the Buddha parking area. ☺



INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY TREASURY REPORT

Income/Expense Statement From July 1, 2002 to September 30, 2002

INCOME:			
Dues Apportionment and Residuals	703.75		
Donations - General	1357.34		
Donations - Land Acquisition Fund	37.50		
DNR gates (Parke Co)	3100.00		
Interest	112.62		
		\$5,311.21	
EXPENSES:			
IKC Update (printing, production, mailing)	283.54		
Membership (postage, meeting notices, etc)	73.36		
Stewardship/Conservation	51.11		
Dues/Donations (HEC)	100.00		
DNR gates	473.70		
Hat purchase (24)	180.00		
Business (Bank service charges, etc)	0.09		
Transfers to/from other restricted funds	-115.50		
		(\$1,046.30)	
NET OPERATING EXCESS (DEFICIT) THIS PERIOD:		\$4,264.91	

Balance Sheet September 30, 2002

ASSETS:			
Cash in Checking/Saving Accounts	50881.70		
Accounts Receivable ¹	3100.00		
Sullivan Karst Preserve	72000.00		
Buddha Karst Preserve	29000.00		
Orangeville Rise Nature Preserve	7000.00		
Indian Creek Conservation Easement (valued at \$1/acre)	13.16		
		\$161,994.86	
LIABILITIES & OPERATING EXCESS:			
Hancock Property Maintenance Fund	85.64		
Land Acquisition Restricted Fund	18466.66		
Deferred Dues Restrctied Fund (177 members)	2032.50		
Stewardship Endowment Fund	10827.00		
Previous Operating Excess	18304.99		
Net Excess (Deficit) This Period	4264.91		
Current Operating Excess	22569.90		
Real estate liquidity	108013.16		
Total Liabilities & Operating Excess		\$161,994.86	

NOTES:

1) Receivables for DNR gates completed this reporting period.

IKC ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Saturday, September 21, 2002
Cloverdale, Indiana

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bruce Bowman, President
James Adams, Secretary
Keith Dunlap, Treasurer
Bruce DeVore
Dave Haun (by proxy Scott Fee)
Don Ingle
Kriste Lindberg
Steve Lockwood
Nick Noe
Bob Sergesketter (by proxy Sue Vernier)
Tom Sollman
Bill Tozer (by proxy Tom Rea)
Bob Vandeventer
Dick Vernier
Kathy Welling

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

none

The third quarter meeting of the Indiana Karst Conservancy was called to order at 5:05 PM at the property of Tom Rea near Cloverdale, Indiana, President Bruce Bowman presiding. Three proxies were accepted. The minutes from the spring meeting in June were accepted as published.

There was one e-mail motion since the last meeting. The motion was passed to approve \$100 for our Hoosier Environmental Council dues. Motion passed, 14-0-1.

Treasurer Keith Dunlap reported that the IKC has netted over \$21,000 over the last four years gating abandoned mines for the Department of Natural Resources and Hoosier National Forest. Currently, Dunlap reported the following:

Total Assets:	\$162,000
Cash:	\$53,900
General Fund:	\$22,600
Acquisition Fund:	\$18,400
Stewardship Fund:	\$10,800

Bowman and Dunlap discussed recent activities of the Stewardship Endowment Fund Committee. A couple of investment options have been looked into, however, nothing has been extremely attractive.

Dunlap has spoken to Shaft Pit Patron Jeff Cody regarding the fence installation around the pit entrance. A work date has been set for November 23.

Anmar Mirza reported that the Buckner Management Committee has not met recently. Mirza expected the committee to become active again this

fall. A new "caretaker" is living on the property. The property entry gate is being kept locked. Some trash has been removed. The party-goers seem to be gone from the property. Bowman noted that formal input from the IKC to the committee has not been made. Bowman will follow-up.

Bob Vandeventer reported that no land nearby the Buckner Cave property is listed for sale as rumored. Bowman will coordinate with Vandeventer and follow-up with the landowner.

An e-mail has been received from the Eastern Indiana Grotto. They would like to help out on November 2 with the installation of the fence on the South boundary of the Buddha Karst Preserve property. The latest estimate on the cost is under \$800.

In other news from the Buddha property, there has been no action on obtaining a Classified Wildlife Habitat designation. Also, the weather was not good this summer for pre-treating for next year's tree planting at the property. This will be postponed until the spring.

A recognition event to celebrate the establishment of the preserve has not been planned nor have there been any serious proposals.

The property tax question on the Buddha property has not been investigated. Either Rea or Mirza will follow up with Lawrence County. Dunlap is planning to build two kiosks (one for the Sullivan property and one for the Buddha property) over the Christmas holiday. The kiosk, fence, and re-foresting expenses at Buddha (up to \$2430) can be reimbursed from stewardship funds available from the Indiana Heritage Trust.

Rea reported that the Property Manager at Spring Mill State Park would like to renew the Memorandum of Understanding with the IKC. Rea may have a proposal at the next meeting.

Mirza and James Adams both volunteered to do some photo monitoring at Spring Mill State Park. Rea has also talked to the Property Manager about a conservation easement on a sinkhole located just off the park property that has been "trash-traced" to a major cave in the park. Again, Rea may have more information at the next meeting.

There was some discussion of recent activities of the IKC's Land Acquisition Committee. Dunlap provided a summary spreadsheet to the Board showing the various potential projects, responsible individual, and on-going follow-ups required.



A plaque, funded by the IKC and the St Joseph Valley Grotto, is being planned for the Blanton Property to acknowledge the contributions of the Blanton family and various caver organizations. Dunlap moved to fund up to \$125 for the plaque. Kathy Welling seconded. Motion passed, 14-0-1.

Gravel needs to be added to the driveway at the Sullivan Property. Some trees need to be trimmed in order to get the truck into the property. A Bobcat is available to spread the gravel. The date for the work had been set for Sunday, October 20, however there are many conflicts on this date and a new date will need to be proposed.

Steve Lockwood has not spoken to the adjacent landowner at the Orangeville Rise about installing a fence. This is a project for 2003.

A draft management plan has been issued for the Wesley Chapel Gulf property owned by the Hoosier National Forest. The IKC has been asked for comments. The deadline for comments is September 30 and Bowman will provide a response.

An insert and an article about the proposed routes for the Indianapolis to Evansville I-69 interstate were included in the most recent *IKC Update*. Members are urged to respond and comment.

Mirza passed out the updated call-out list to cave patrons and others that were interested.

New IKC hats are now available for purchase.

The next meeting, the winter quarterly meeting, was set for Saturday, December 7, 2002 at the Noe Condo in Indianapolis beginning at 10:00 AM.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 PM. Members then enjoyed the annual Fall Picnic and annual desert contest. Bambi Dunlap placed first with her apple pie, Bruce Bowman was 1st runner-up with his Cre'me Brulee', and the 2nd runner-up winner was Keith Dunlap with his pecan pie.

Submitted by James Adams, IKC Secretary

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In other manners, Sam Frushour and I have been doing a bit of karst inventory work in the Monroe County in response to landowner concerns regarding I-69 new terrain alternatives.

Please contact me if you would like to join in on any of the above efforts as there are many opportunities to get involved! Also, please keep me posted of any that you know of and/or are involved with.

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.

