



# **IKC UPDATE**

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# 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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# ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

## SATURDAY, MARCH 22nd, 10 AM

### GREENWOOD, INDIANA

### GREENWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

The annual business meeting is for the explicit purpose of elections. It is also for members and other interested persons to have an open forum for talking about cave and karst conservation and related topics. Past, present, and future IKC projects are discussed to solicit comments and input from our members and the caving community as a whole. The meeting is informal, and everyone is encouraged to attend and participate. The IKC Board *wants* your input.

Preliminary Agenda Items: Elections; Brief recaps of last quarter's activities; Patron/Steward annual reports; Sinkhole cleanup at the Blanton tract; Under-Earth Day at Buddha/tree planting; Orangeville Rise workday; Land Acquisition Committee activities, HNF inventorying project; and more....

Following the meeting (approximately 1 PM), we will most likely socialize over lunch at a nearby Chinese restaurant.

Meeting directions: See page 17 (inside back cover) for directions and map.

## ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

- 22 MAR = IKC ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, Greenwood (see above)
- 29 MAR = BLANTON PROPERTY SINKHOLE CLEANUP, Orleans (see page 4)
- 05 APR = LOST RIVER TOUR, Orleans (see page 4)
- 05 APR = TREE RE-PLANTING AT SULLIVAN (see page 4)
- 06 APR = PREP WORK AT BUDDHA NATURE PRESERVE (see page 4)
- 12 APR = UNDER-EARTH DAY/BUDDHA TREE PLANTING, Bedford (see page 6)
- 26 APR = HNF COMMITTEE MEETING/FIELD WORK, contact Kriste Lindberg
- 26 APR = INDIANA CAVE SYMPOSIUM (evening), Taylorsville (see page 12)
- 03 MAY = TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA (HNF), contact Steve Lockwood
- 17 MAY = ORANGEVILLE RISE WORK DAY, Orangeville (see page 9)
- 17 MAY = EARTHFEST, Bloomington (contact Kriste Lindberg)
- 31 MAY = LOST RIVER TOUR, Orleans (see page 4)
- 14 JUN = HNF COMMITTEE MEETING/FIELD WORK, contact Kriste Lindberg
- 19 JUL = HNF FIELD WORK DAY, contact Kriste Lindberg

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...

- ❑ With the snowy winter winding down and spring just around the corner (I hope!), the caving activity calendar is once again full of cave conservation/educational projects. Check out the calendar on page 3 (and related articles throughout this issue) and pick a few projects to volunteer/participate in while having a little fun too. IKC projects can be very rewarding and there is always lots of fellowship in accomplishing good things together.
- ❑ Two workdays not described elsewhere are a tree replanting workday at Sullivan on April 5th (about 130 trees to replace) and a preparation workday at the Buddha Property on April 6th to mow and flag the strips for planting trees, and to unload about 50 bags of mulch. Each of these workday will only take three or four volunteers. Contact Keith Dunlap if you are interested in helping.
- ❑ Bob Armstrong and Dee Slater of the Lost River Conservation Association will once again be conducting their guided auto/hiking tours of the Lost River area, starting from the east at its head waters in Washington County, through Orange County to its disappearance near Orleans, and on to its rise near Orangeville. This year there will be two spring tours scheduled: April 5th and May 31st. The orientation lecture starts at 7:40 AM at the southeast corner of the square in Orleans and will depart promptly at 8 AM. Reservations are not required. Tours will go, *especially* if it rains. There will be some moderate hiking so sturdy footwear and long pants/sleeves are strongly recommended. The tour is free, but a small donation is suggested for the optional printed handouts. This is a must-do tour, if you are interested in Indiana karst. For more information, contact Bob or Dee at (317) 253-6951.
- ❑ In early January, Governor O'Bannon pre-announced the "final" route for the proposed I-69 highway between Indianapolis and Evansville. The route will not become official until later this year when the Environmental Impact Statement is issued, and then there likely will be a wave of litigation which may keep this project on hold for several more years. The route selected consist of mostly "new terrain" from Evansville to just south of Bloomington, then aligned with SR 37 to Indianapolis. The alignment crosses the karst region in eastern Greene and western Monroe counties. No known large caves are directly impacted, but obviously there will be numerous smaller caves and related drainage systems impacted. Two

### **BLANTON PROPERTY SINKHOLE CLEANUP MARCH 29th, 10 AM**

Approximately a year ago, the owners of the tract of land just west of Wesley Chapel Gulf contacted The Nature Conservancy as they were interested in selling the property, but wanted their 240 acre property protected. They were aware that it overlaid the majority of Lost River Cave and any type of development would be detrimental. To make a long story short, TNC was able to acquire most of the property which will eventually be transferred to the stewardship of the Hoosier National Forest. The property is in pretty good condition with the exception of one large sinkhole containing considerable farm trash and appliances. As a joint project between TNC, HNF, IKC, and the St Joseph Valley Grotto, we plan to remove this trash and dispose of it properly.

Also on that day, we plan to honor the previous owner's family with a dedication ceremony and unveiling of a bronze plaque. This activity will happen at 1 PM.

Directions to the property -- From SR 37 south of Orleans, turn west on the road marked as going to Orangeville. Continue west to Wesley Chapel church and turn south. Go 1/2 miles and park in the parking area for Wesley Chapel Gulf (marked with a big "P" sign). The work site is on the west side of the road. If you need further directions or information, contact Keith Dunlap (317-882-5420 or keith.dunlap@juno.com).

priority III *Myotis sodalis* hibernacula (Ashcraft and Sexton Springs) are very close to the proposed alignment and might see secondary impact. The IKC and the Indiana Cave Survey plan to be involved in the formal environmental aspects of this project as well as assisting those who oppose this highway.

- ❑ Over the past year there have been many positive changes at Buckner Cave. Dick Blenz the owner has allowed several people to take an active role in managing the property compared to the previous passive approach. The BIG has organized a coalition of interested cavers to draft a management plan and Art Gahimer has remained on site for most of the year to discourage those who just come to “party”. The consensus is that things have improved significantly. If you plan to visit the cave or the property, call or e-mail Dick Blenz ahead of time (rblenz@indiana.edu). Also when you arrive, sign in at the kiosk and communicate your plans with Art (generally in his truck camper). Because of the many years of the “anything goes” attitudes some visitors have had, Art will be skeptical of anyone he does not know, but you should not have any problems if you act civil while on the property.
- ❑ Last month the twelfth biennial Indiana bat census was completed. While the final numbers have not been made public yet, there were some interesting observations. First both Coon and Grotto caves, managed by the IKC, showed extraordinary increases in populations: Coon jumped from 6,395 *sodalis* in 2001 to over 10,600 bats this year, while Grotto nearly doubled from 5,419 *sodalis* in 2001 to over 10,300 bats. Both caves have been showing steady increases since 1995 when increased efforts to reduce unauthorized visitation were implemented, but the 2003 numbers were a pleasant surprise for a species that continues to see declines elsewhere.

This census was also the first chance to see what affect, if any, the winter closure at Wyandotte Cave would have on the bats. The population was up about 10% which is consistent with the growth over the past few counts prior to the closure. However, the location of the bats was the interesting difference. Previously most of the bats were located high on the ceiling in Washington Ave and in Rugged Mountain, an area closed for tours during the winter (both of these locations are warmer than ideal, but avoid disturbance). With the winter tourist disturbance removed, the bats have relocated to lower ledges in Washington Avenue and to the Bat’s Lodge passage. It appears the bats were previously selecting less-optimum locations to avoid tourist, but now can select their preferred hibernation sites.

Finally, Buckner showed a 4000% population “explosion” going from 1 to 40 *sodalis*. This is the highest number since 1995 and is likely the result of decreased disturbance/visitation due to the renewed efforts to manage access there.

- ❑ As part of the Indiana Boat, Sport, and Travel Show in Indianapolis, the Indiana DNR Fish & Wildlife Division annually presents three awards (Conservation Organization of the Year, Conservation Person of the Year, and Conservation Writer of the Year). This year, The Nature Conservancy received the Conservation Organization of the Year award, while the IKC received an Honorable Mention in that category (we received an Honorable Mention last year too). The award again illustrates some of the relationships we have nurtured within the DNR related to our bat protection initiatives, our land protection activities, and our forestry stewardship.



- ❑ Last March, the IKC co-sponsored and help to organized 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. This effort was recently recognized with the forum’s Steering Committee receiving the 2002 US Department of Interior’s Environmental Achievement Award.



- ❑ Hot off the press, the *Proceedings of the 2001 Cave and Karst Management Symposium* is now available from the NSS bookstore. The *Proceedings* contains 56 recent abstracts and papers related to cave and karst management and is a fine reference for any caver's personal library. IKC members Bruce Bowman, Jerry Lewis, and Kriste Lindberg each presented papers during the symposium. The cost of the *Proceedings* is \$16.50, plus postage.
- ❑ It's no coincidence that The Nature Conservancy has been increasingly involved in protecting caves in Indiana. It's actually a national trend as this respected organization has come to realize the important fauna found in caves and the pressures these creatures face as development encroaches into the rural countryside. In TNC's latest magazine there were no less than four references to caves including a full length article on caves in Latin America, a reference to TNC's website on caves ([www.nature.org/article.php?caves](http://www.nature.org/article.php?caves)), an article on TNC's involvement in the acquisition of Wolf River Cave in Tennessee, and a summary of the acquisition of the Blanton Property in our Lost River area.
- ❑ With the IKC entering its 17th year of existence, it good to recognize its most important asset, its loyal membership, supplying both volunteer hours and financial support. Following is the list of members who have been with the IKC for ten or more years: James Adams, John Ahlberg, Dave Anderson, John Benton, Dave Black, Bruce Bowman, George Brutchen, Larry Bundy, Steve Cahill, Keith Calkins, Paul Cannaley, Chris Carpenter, George Cesnik, Jeff Cody, Steve Collins, Rane Curl, Bruce DeVore, Keith Dunlap, Dave Everton, Scott Fee, Allen Goodcase, Dave Haun, Tim Heppner, Dick Horn, Tem Hornaday, Hank Huffman, Scott Johnson, Jonathan Knott, Glenn Kotnik, Glenn Lemasters, Mike Lorange, Dan Lucas, Angie May, Jane Miller, Lynn Miller, George Mundy, Richard Newton, Nick Noe, Susan O'Shields, Ernie Payne, Gene Pelter, Don Peters, Steve Ragsdale, Kevin Rasmus, Tom Rea, Larry Reece, Eric Schmidt, Bob Sergesketter, Ray Sheldon, Don Shofstall, Noel Sloan, Gordon Smith, Tom Sollman, Susan Strickland, Kevin Strunk, Bill Tozer, Bruce Trotter, Dick Vernier, Mark Webb, Kathy Welling, and Kent Wilson. Also organization: Central Indiana Grotto, Evansville Metro Grotto, Northern Indiana Grotto, Windy City Grotto, and Marengo Cave.
- ❑ Three new members have joined the IKC in the past quarter. Welcome Bill Morrow (411), Dan Weinberg (412), and John Lang (413). The IKC membership now stands at 188.

## **UNDER-EARTH DAY AT BUDDHA KARST PRESERVE APRIL 12th, 10 AM**

The Indiana Karst Conservancy will once again organize a workday in celebration of Earth Day. This year, the activities will be held at Buddha Karst Preserve. If you have not visited this property before, this is an excellent opportunity to check things out. Our goals for this year will be to complete the following projects: Plant and mulch approximately 800 hardwood tree seedlings (we planted 1000 trees last year); string wire on the fence posts installed last fall to finish the fencing project; install the remaining wood posts delineating the parking are (this project is about half done); and install the information kiosk. We are not planning any work within the cave itself, but there will probably be some trips into the cave for those with vertical experience.

You do not need any special tools or skills to assist with any of the above-ground activities and family participation is encouraged. The closest camping is at Spring Mill State Park if you want to make a weekend of it. Liability waivers will be required for all volunteers.

The property is located 6/10th of a mile south of the community of Buddha (SE of Bedford in Lawrence County). Access to the property and parking is south of the cave (do *not* stop/park the former owner's home). If you need further directions or information, contact Tom Rea (765-653-4423 or [tomrea@ccrtc.com](mailto:tomrea@ccrtc.com)).

## ORANGE COUNTY BREAK-THROUGH

by Kriste Lindberg

Late Friday afternoon, December 6, I stopped by the US Fish & Wildlife Service office in Bloomington to run a quick errand and catch up on a few projects that Mike Litwin and I are working on -- he mainly handles environmental evaluations but also works on other environmental projects and committees. At the time I arrived, he was on the phone with Keith Dunlap. As it turns out, a call had just come into the office stating that a contractor installing a water pipe in Orange County had broken into a cavern near the True Rise (they were complying with stipulations Mike had set forth in their contract). We had a good, nervous chuckle!

We soon started rallying the troops as several agencies and engineering firms would need to come together to help solve the "problem" as it was possible that it could involve endangered species, drainage, erosion control issues, and other regulations, and certainly an potential engineering challenge! I made a few calls -- Sam Frushour of the Indiana Geological Survey, John Bassett of Earth Tech, and Steve Lockwood of the Indiana Karst Conservancy -- to get their input and see if they could come down at some point for a quick look to assess the situation and make a recommendation. Later that evening, I made more contacts, including Mark Goldsmith of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and Mark Deebel, Project Coordinator of the Lost River Cave Project. Mark knows the area and its caves very well.

On Monday morning Mike and I organized a meeting of the minds with the engineering firm, contractor, highway department and others that we had contacted previously.

We arrived to meet others on the site. The steel plates covering the excavation were removed to reveal a trench running along the side of the road about 15 to 20 feet long by about 6 feet wide. At the bottom was a small hole, just about body size. It trended under the road. Every so often, gentle wisps of steam would rise up out of the hole. It was very quiet at first! Everyone standing around looking at the hole, wondering what to do, taking pictures... I asked if anyone objected to Mark Deebel exploring the hole. No one objected so off he went.



Does it go? Waterline crew uncovers a potential cave.

Mark came back a few minutes later with a report and drew a little map in my journal, which was on our "desk", the topside of the shovel of the backhoe. The "cave" was about fifteen feet in total length and in fact, didn't "go". It had a sandstone roof and limestone walls with some fluting but that's about it. It was determined that it doesn't receive water on a regular basis and was a sort of anomaly in the area. More soil and limestone is sure to lie beneath but any other active cave passage was thought to be must lower.

With the Mark's report in mind, everyone got together to discuss what to do. The conclusion was to fill the hole with rip rap, then #2 rock covered with fabric, then concrete to encase the water pipe (to protect it in case of further collapse), then soil.

Personally, I found it to be quite a relief that the hole didn't "go" and that it was not a major challenge. Although, it would have been interesting if it had gone. As it was it was just a good dress rehearsal of sorts.

## THE LOST RIVER: A DISAPPEARING ACT

by Steve Grubbs (reprinted from TNC Indiana Chapter's newsletter)

The Nature Conservancy is protecting what is documented as the third largest subterranean system in the state. When the complete Lost River system is mapped, it might well be the state's largest. The system can be thought of as a three-dimensional river delta. Depending upon how much water is moving through the system, you could have water in all of the levels. There is no other site in Indiana that matches the Lost River system in terms of the dynamic subterranean hydrology (water movement).

The unique and fragile system has global significance. The cave system beneath the recent acquisition harbors at least 25 cave species -- three of which are new to science. Dr. Julian Lewis of the University of Louisville has been researching southern Indiana's cave systems for the past several years, finding and documenting rare and previously unknown species. "This latest acquisition is a biological hot spot," Lewis said. "With relatively so little known about subterranean systems, it's important that places like this are formally protected in order to study them in their pristine state." The cave species have developed in relative isolation. The species isolated by the geologic conditions of the Lost River have developed unique adaptations. Cave beetles, blind crickets, blind cavefish, and blind crayfish populate this subterranean world.

The complex is not only fragile, but is very dangerous because of its twisting channels and vertical shafts. Flash flooding in the passages is common, which continues the cave's evolution. Water coursing through the shafts causes some to collapse, then the stream winds its way along other paths, carving new channels.

New homes and their corresponding septic systems are the greatest threat to the underground system. The Blanton tract is bounded on three sides by county roads. The recently installed rural water system that parallels the roads had made the property attractive to residential developers, and so increased the importance to protect this land.

The Nature Conservancy purchased the property from Orange Circuit Court Judge Larry Blanton and his sister Paula Blanton-Foster. The Blanton family farm has pro-

tected the property for many years. Working closely with the US Forest Service and the Indiana Karst Conservancy (IKC) -- long time Conservancy partners -- the Conservancy was able to secure the property. Once the Blanton family became aware of the scientific importance of what lies underneath, they were very much in favor of this disposition of their property.

Members of the St Joseph Valley Grotto, a caving organization associated with the IKC, discovered the system four years ago. They have documented many of the extensive, multi-level passages beneath the Blanton tract. The Blanton tract is adjacent to the US Forest Service's Wesley Chapel Gulf, which was designated as a National Natural Landmark in 1972 due to its rare geological features. The gulf -- a 12-acre steep walled karst feature -- provides a rare glimpse of the Lost River on its path through Orange County. The Gulf has developed from a massive collapse of rock above the underground stream. The soft rock goes into solution and allows the rock to be slowly removed. Today, waters of the Lost River rise at one end of the Gulf, flow across the floor and sink into swallow holes where the water returns to its subterranean flow. That water flow continues through the network of cavernous routes beneath the Blanton tract.

It is anticipated that in the next year the property will be transferred to the US Forest Service. It will then become an addition to the Wesley Chapel Gulf and a part of the Hoosier National Forest.

The Lost River is one of the largest sinking streams in the country. The watershed is over 200 square miles. The Lost River begins like a normal river in western Washington County. As the stream meanders into Orange County, the water begins to sink into "swallow holes" in the river bed. Eventually, it disappears entirely into a vast system of water carved passages and caves. The Lost River, at surface level, meanders as a dry bed for 23 miles. This is about a fourth of the river's 85-mile length. A few times each year the Lost River fills its dry bed as runoff exceeds the capacity of the many swallow holes to siphon off the river's flow. As a sub-



## HNF/IKC KARST INVENTORY PROJECT UPDATE

by Kriste Lindberg

Need relief from the winter blats? Get out and volunteer on the HNF Project! Remember, workdays generally take place on the third Saturday of each month. It's a great way to enjoy the outdoors, do some caving and/or ridgewalking, and help our only national forest.

We currently have 136 known caves on the forest. Less than half of those have been "inventoried" for values which means there's still lots of effort left to do.

During the January workday, Steve Lockwood and I ran out to the old town of Dockers in Perry County to check on an area that is slated for a prescribed burn to encourage native growth. A few possible cave entrances were reported to be there. We did a pretty thorough search of the grounds and found several sinkholes, most of which seemed to drain to a spring that had a bathtub to catch water. It appeared as though the spring area may be a collapsed cave entrance. Many of the sinkholes that appeared to drain to it had small openings that were either too small to get into (see photo) or filled with large piles of trash, mostly from the 1950's and 60's -- old cars, other metal items, tires, and so on. It was quite a study in land use history and succession! Thanks to our reported findings, the sinkholes will be cleaned before the burn takes place.

February's field day found us checking out a property north of Huron. It is a potential acquisition for the HNF and of interest because it is within the boundaries of the Tincher Special Area. Keith Dunlap, Steve

Lockwood, Dick and Sue Vernier, and myself walked the property to see what we could find. As it turned out, the weather was lousy and it started sleeting as soon as we left the vehicles. Despite that, we did investigate a very unique "depression". Obviously a sinkhole, but we joked that it looked more like a meteor crater due to its hemispherical shape. Several other springs and sinkholes were found, but not caves.



### ORANGEVILLE RISE WORKDAY MAY 17th, 10 AM

Two years ago as part of our continuing stewardship at the Orangeville Rise, we had the property resurveyed to locate the boundary corners. As a result, we found that the west boundary was not where we thought it was (the old fence line), but rather out in the neighbor's livestock field. The neighbor has been very cooperative and supportive of delineating the true boundary, so we plan to install a high tension fence along the boundary. We should be able to complete this project in one day. No special skills are required to help. We will so do general trash pickup on the rest of the property.

If you need further directions or information, contact Steve Lockwood (812-849-5766 or [Steve.Lockwood@dana.com](mailto:Steve.Lockwood@dana.com))

## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

by Kriste Lindberg

It's time to take a break from the traditional, 'ol report... Rather expand a bit more on what I touched upon in the December 2002 *IKC Update* -- taking the emotional aspect of natural resources conservation into account. I've found over the years that most agencies, landowners, and others don't want to purposely harm resources, they just need to know the consequences of some of their actions, and what they can do to help prevent them. Education can be a great way of helping them with this process as it can be seen as neutral, thoughtful, and a non-threatening way to get the point across.

For example, in order for a change in behavior to take place, the following sequence of events needs to occur:

Awareness → Education → Acceptance

Once someone is aware of something, they can learn more about it and be more receptive to the behavioral changes that need to take place. Working *with* them on it is key, not against them. Time can be a big ally, too. Remember those little words of wisdom your mother taught you? Well, there is some basis for them. They really do work in the real world!

Below are a few key points on what it takes:

- *Get involved!* Understand the hot topics such as water quality.
- Be proactive, not reactive.
- Be a *team player* -- it adds to resources and increases expertise in different areas. You can get more done when you're not territorial and work together. Be as neutral as possible and keep the big picture of what you're doing it for in mind -- natural resource conservation.
- *Network* -- you can meet all sorts of interesting folks with similar interests.
- Align yourself with those that "can do" and be one of them.
- Be *open-minded* -- you'll meet all types out there. Realize that people are in positions for a variety of reasons.
- *Communicate effectively* -- simply and in a timely manner! In all forms - electronically, phone, and in person. Don't ever ignore a communication, people will begin to mistrust you and your ability to get things done.
- Be *direct, open, honest, up front* -- call it like it is and cut to the chase.
- Be a good *listener*.
- Be *diplomatic* and *fair* -- people will respect you for it. Again, neutrality helps.
- *Include others* and *give credit* where it's due.
- *Coordinate* -- share information and help each other out.
- Remember body language counts. Make eye contact -- a knowing glance -- smile! That can go a long ways, even in rough times. It's not all clear sailing.
- Take time to think things through. If you have questions, ask! Don't make assumptions -- ASSUME (makes an ASS out of U and ME)
- In the words of conservation media producer/director, Dave McGowan, "It's a difficult position to be in but it's more effective to prevent problems and be annoying than to be stoic and deal with disasters."
- *Don't take things too personally* -- most reactions are a form of projection from others.
- Be there for each other! We're not all perfect, sometimes we have bad days. However, if someone is having too many, make alternate plans.
- Recognize signs of dysfunction -- poor communication, inconsistency, ignoring, distancing, withholding, anger, making things up, backstabbing, passive aggression.
- Take time to (try to) fix the problems.
- *Give things time* - some things take lots of it.
- *Forgive* and don't hold grudges. People *can* truly change for the better.
- However, realize and accept that not all players are effective -- go around them if necessary.
- Keep good records. You may need to refer back to something.
- Don't burn bridges by being dysfunctional yourself and/or talking poorly of anyone. Trust is key!
- Overall - keep a *positive attitude*. It is helpful -- you can turn something bad into something good.
- A good sense of humor is always appreciated! It can help "break the ice".
- If it's right, it will build momentum like a

- snowball, but be careful of avalanching.
- If something doesn't go to plan, deal with it *constructively*. It may be for a good reason. Be flexible.
  - *Do what you can*. Sometimes you may need to cut back. Delegate if you need to.
  - Strike a good *balance* and do your best!
  - *Grow* with it!

Anyway, that's what has worked for me... at least so far! We have some rough roads ahead, though. I'll share those experiences with you along the way, as well, as they are all part of the whole experience. Live and learn!

As an aside, something to keep in mind along the way as we strive to take care of our natural resources, is that we can allow them to take care of us, as well. They can be great places to think things through, and can reach us at various levels. After all, domestication is a relatively new thing to us in the history of our species so our roots to the natural go way back and are deep-seated, although sometimes we get so caught up in our daily lives that we lose touch with what it has to offer! No matter what kind of day you're having, you can go out to a natural area, such as a water source in a karst area, and relax and remember why you're doing what you're doing and reflect on how to do it better...

Personally, I've been to the point where things have gone so well that they have become a bit much and take way too much of your time. They can take over if you let them. Don't let that happen. Keep modulating until you strike a good balance. Cut back and delegate if you need to. It helps. I've found that putting more emphasis on a local level helps with what I do on a national level -- it allows me more time to concentrate on it, creating good examples for those to follow all around. Here are a few:

The Monroe County Storm Water Quality meetings, chaired by MC Drainage Engineer, Todd Stevenson, have been picking up momentum. We have focused to the point that we have formed an Education Committee. It consists of representatives from each agency and others in the area involved with storm water -- Monroe County, City of Bloomington, Indiana University, Monroe County Airport, and Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District. I, of course, am adding a much-needed karst component to it all. It brings us all together so we can join forces and coordinate.

Recently I attended national conference on urban storm water in Chicago. I represented several of the agencies in the above collaboration and more, mainly the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation/Natural Resources Division and Utilities Departments. Attendees at the conference were mainly agency engineering and education people such as myself, and afforded us the opportunity to network with others in the same positions all over the country! It was really interesting from a social perspective, too. It's great to see the various personality types working together to come up with mutually beneficial solutions to challenges. A lot of humor was used -- you can imagine the Dilbert jokes going around! Many presentations were used, some including video and other powerful media. I found out that Monroe County is about in the middle as far as our compliance with upcoming Phase II requirements are concerned -- some are further ahead yet many haven't even started! I came home with all sorts of wonderful ideas to share on programs that work, filtration systems, and ways to implement them.

While in Chicago, I networked with Bob McCormick, the Coordinator of the Planning with POWER (Protecting Our Water and Environment Resources) program. It is based out of Purdue University and focuses on land use while protecting natural resources. We're talking about adding a karst component to it, as well. He and I and others interested in this pro-active endeavor are meeting in the near future to brainstorm and take a tour of Bloomington-area water/karst resources. To learn more about Planning with POWER, visit: [www.planningwithpower.org](http://www.planningwithpower.org)

I also met with Dave McGowan, a media Producer/Director out of Chicago to discuss the possibility of doing a water quality video. Of course, we've discussed a karst component there, as well!

Some of you may have seen the Lost wonderland: *Nature Conservancy buys land to protect rare species in the Lost River Cave System* article in the Living in Indiana section of the *Indianapolis Star*, written by environmental reporter George McLaren. It presents yet another fine example of successful collaboration between agencies, particularly the Hoosier National Forest, The Nature Conservancy, the IKC, and the St Joseph Valley Grotto of the NSS. There is a pull quote from yours truly stating, "What goes around, comes around. It gets in the



water cycle. Just because it's out of sign doesn't mean it's out of mind." Newspapers are yet another successful venue to get the word out, or can be, as long as it is done responsibly! You wouldn't believe how many non-caver types have mentioned that they had no idea anything like this system existed. The more folks out there know about them, the more likely they'll take care of them. The Nature Conservancy is interested in carrying this message to the public involving other venues, such as television. I am working with them on it, as well.

Along the same lines, Frank Hodges of the USDA Service Center in Paoli (IDNR) is starting to head a collaboration in the Lost River area to educate landowners regarding farming practices. We're hoping to include all involved in this one, including the HNF, TNC, Lost River Conservation Association, and others... It has great potential!

Not surprisingly, the City of Bloomington and Monroe County Parks and Recreation Departments are hosting yet another Earth-Fest this year, and the focus is, "Water: Go with the flow!" How appropriate! This is one of the benefits of coordinating our local efforts. Since all know more about what each others' doing, we're better able to help support each other in our mutual goals and come together to support all. It will be held on May 17 in Bloomington at the county's Karst Farm Park. Among other conservation activities, we'll be doing tours of Leonard Springs Nature with an emphasis on water quality - including water quality monitoring sites along the way.

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

## INDIANA CAVE SYMPOSIUM 2003

by Keith Dunlap

The eleventh annual Indiana Cave Symposium will be held on Saturday, April 26 at the Blue's Canoes Livery in Taylorsville, Indiana. A hot-dog/hamburger cook-out will begin at 5:00 PM in the campground shelter house and talks will begin promptly at 7:00 PM. Please bring a covered dish and/or dessert to share. The hot-dogs/burgers, sandwich fixings, soft drinks, paper and plastic ware, and ice will be provided. Camping is be available for a small charge. The Indiana Karst Conservancy and Indiana Cave Survey are co-sponsoring the event.

The purpose of the symposium is to assemble the active caving groups to share and discuss their projects, and for cavers and cave researchers to network. Presently, speakers for the symposium are being solicited from caving groups within Indiana and neighboring states. The emphasis will be on exploration, surveying, science, and conservation projects. It is preferred that the talks be on activities within Indiana. Talks will be from 5 to 30 minutes in length. A slide projector, computer projector, and an overhead projector will be available. The symposium is an excellent media to showing off your grotto's recent projects.

At this time, there are eleven presentations scheduled:

- **You, too, can be a Cave Conservationist** -- Kriste Lindberg
- **The Exploration and Survey of Redman Cave** -- Brian Killingbeck.
- **Update on the Indiana Cave Permit System** -- Jeff Cummings.
- **The Subterranean Fauna of the Hoosier National Forest** -- Dr Jerry Lewis.
- **The Cleanup of Carcass Crypt Pit** -- Brian Leavell.
- **ICS Online Cave Report Form** -- Rob Jarboe.
- **Lost River Cave Status Report** -- Tony Cunningham.
- **2003 Biennial Bat Census** -- Keith Dunlap
- **Browns Farm Cave** -- Bruce Trotter.
- **Time Stood Still in Heltonville** -- Dave Everton and Jerry Lewis.
- Title to be determined -- Dave Black.

For more information, contact Ray Sheldon at (812) 579-6481 or e-mail RSheldon@iquest.net. Also visit the ICS's website ([www.caves.org/survey/ics](http://www.caves.org/survey/ics)) for the latest information and location map.



### INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY TREASURY REPORT

#### Income/Expense Statement From October 1, 2002 to December 31, 2002

## INCOME:

Dues Apportionment and Residuals	691.25	
Donations - General	400.00	
Donations - Land Acquisition Fund	146.54	
Buddha Stewardship (Indiana Heritage Trust)	1794.80	
SpeLogger sales (6)	720.00	
Misc (hat sales)	20.00	
Interest	65.80	
	65.80	\$3,838.39

## EXPENSES:

IKC Update (printing, production, mailing)	204.93	
Buddha fence	1016.05	
Sullivan driveway/parking area hardening	622.20	
Shaft fence	227.25	
Other Stewardship/Conservation	289.43	
SpeLoggers (10)	980.45	
Insurance	547.50	
Business (Bank service charges, PO box rental)	56.00	
Transfers to/from other restricted funds	107.90	
	107.90	(\$4,051.71)

NET OPERATING EXCESS (DEFICIT) THIS PERIOD: (\$213.32)

#### Balance Sheet December 31, 2002

## ASSETS:

Cash in Checking/Saving Accounts	51020.23	
Accounts Receivable <sup>1</sup>	2394.80	
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	
	13.16	<u><u>\$161,428.19</u></u>

## LIABILITIES &amp; OPERATING EXCESS:

Hancock Property Maintenance Fund <sup>2</sup>	0.00	
Land Acquisition Restricted Fund	18633.20	
Deferred Dues Restrcted Fund (183 members)	1571.25	
Stewardship Endowment Fund	10854.00	

Previous Operating Excess	22569.90	
Net Excess (Deficit) This Period	<u>(213.32)</u>	
Current Operating Excess	22356.58	
Real estate liquidity	<u>108013.16</u>	

Total Liabilities & Operating Excess \$161,428.19

## NOTES:

- 1) Receivables for Indiana Heritage Trust Stewardship funds and TVA SpeLoggers
- 2) Hancock Property Maintenance funds has been used up and will be eliminated

# IKC WINTER QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, December 7, 2002  
Indianapolis, Indiana

## BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

The December quarterly meeting of the Indiana Karst Conservancy was called to order at 10:02 AM at the home of Nick Noe in Indianapolis, President Bruce Bowman presiding. All Directors were represented with two proxies accepted. The meeting minutes from the September meeting were approved as published in the December *IKC Update*.

Treasurer Keith Dunlap reported on our financial condition:

Assets	\$160,700
Cash	\$52,700
Unrestricted Funds	\$21,200

Regarding the Stewardship Endowment Fund, Bill Tozer reported that Dave Luckins of the National Speleological Foundation is receptive to managing IKC funds into investments that will fit our goals. The NSS investments generally yield about 5% per year. The Directors were polled on their feelings of risk vs return and the general opinion seemed to be that there would be little risk to the principal and we should look for a better return. The IKC is probably not qualified to make those investment decisions; however, the NSF record appears to be stable and somewhat conservative. \$10,800 (plus accruing interest) has been earmarked for the Stewardship Endowment Fund. A straw vote was taken and the Board agreed that the NSF investment option should be pursued. Tozer will continue to investigate and hopefully have a formal motion at the March meeting.

Spring Mill State Park: Tom Rea reported that he has been in contact with Mark Young of Spring Mill State Park and indicated to him that the IKC is willing to accept conservation easements. Jeff Cummings has also been made aware that we are willing to renew and update our Memorandum of Understanding with the Park. Spring Mill State Park had previously expressed an interest in photo

monitoring karst features in the park. Anmar Mirza and James Adams volunteered to assist, but no other information has been received. These issues are in their court and we will have to wait until they initiate further activity.

A Greenwood resident has inquired if the IKC would consider entering into an agreement whereby they would be able to inter their pets on our property and be assured that the area would be undisturbed. In exchange, they will make a significant donation. There appears to be no interest on their part in monuments or caskets. There was discussion in both directions. The Sullivan property might be a candidate for this activity. Dunlap moved to pursue this opportunity and the drafting of a contract for consideration at a future board meeting. Kathy Welling seconded. Adams volunteered to be the liaison with the resident. Motion approved, 8-7-0.

There have been two complaints about our management of our nature preserves. Vehicles have been sighted beyond the parking area at the Buddha property. Dunlap reported that one instance was his own vehicle assisting an injured caver. All Terrain Vehicles (ATV) have also been reported on the property. Another person complained that there were weeds and trash at the Orangeville Rise. It was revealed that this person might be expecting us to mow the property and make improvements that are prohibited by the DNR's Master Plan.

Dunlap also reported that we have received inquiries for more information on the Lost River due to our sign at the Orangeville Rise.

Treasurer Dunlap did not pay the fall installment of the Buddha property tax because he has been told that it's already been paid.

There has been no progress on the classified wildlife habitat designation.

The Department of Natural Resources has a new process for requesting Indiana Heritage Trust Stewardship funds. Right now, the IKC is caught in the middle of their policy change. We'll have to work through their process but no one has any worries.

A new hole has opened up in a sinkhole at the Buddha property. This is being investigated.

Dunlap plans to work on the kiosks during his Christmas break.

Kriste Lindberg reported that the city of Bloomington might want to gate Shirley Spring Cave at the

Leonard Spring Nature Preserve. The IKC might be able to assist. Dr Jerry Lewis is going to be doing a bio-inventory at that cave. Bowman noted that the IKC would like to see a formal management plan before we became involved further in any projects on this cave.

Bowman noted that there has been some logging at Leonard Springs Cave, located on private property. This is an Indiana bat hibernacula. Lindberg will notify Scott Johnson of the Department of Natural Resources.

US Fish & Wildlife reviews Indiana highway upgrade projects in karst areas and has recommended that the IKC also review the documents. Dunlap reviewed plans to upgrade SR 37 from Mitchell to Paoli. The same thing is also planned on US 50 from Paoli to West Baden. This second project seems to have more karst impact, however the documentation was less complete than Dunlap expected.

The closure date for comments on the I-69 extension was November 7. Many comments were reported to have been received. The Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Interior have come out as opposed to new-terrain routes. There was a report that Senator Lugar is also opposed to the new-terrain routes.

Lindberg reported that water lines are being installed in Orange County and workers have broken into what appears to be cave passage near the True Rise of Lost River. Lindberg and various agency contacts will meet on Monday.

Lindberg also noted some USFWS grant opportunities. She is soliciting ideas for putting together a proposal.

Dunlap noted that Dick Vernier has been building speloggers. Dunlap has ordered ten to fill orders for five and maintain some inventory. The IKC clears \$30 per unit.

A tentative date for fence construction at the Orangeville Rise was set for May 17, 2003.

The Spring Director's meeting will be on February 15 at 7:00 PM at Kriste Lindberg's in Bloomington. The annual business meeting and elections will be held on March 22 at the White River Library at 10:00 AM. Adams will make the reservation.

Meeting adjourned at 11:44 AM.

Submitted by James Adams, IKC Secretary

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continued from page 7...

The greatest benefit seemed to be for most of the major karst players in the area to meet and get to know one another, just in case a similar situation were to arise again where the cave does continue. Especially since no one really has jurisdiction over caves in Indiana. As Mike said, "They kind of fall between the cracks." Literally!

In the future, I believe we will be better prepared to deal with these types of situations, as more expansion into karst areas is imminent. We're in the process of coming up with a plan. It will probably involve a caver checking out the hole out first! Working together will help protect the resources.

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Continued from page 8...

terranean river, it follows a more direct path of only eight miles from where it disappears, to where it rises at two places to make the Lost River flow again. The subterranean portion of the river flows 60' to 150' beneath the surface. A spring roughly 160 feet deep forms where a portion of the river reappears at the True Rise of the Lost River. One mile upstream, the Orangeville Rise (protected by

the Conservancy in 1972) provides the outlet for the rest of the subterranean flow. It then flows along the surface again into southern Martin County eventually reaching the east fork of the White River.

The Lost River system is still very much a frontier-with much more to explore, document and learn.

**DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR DUES**

# IKC SPRING DIRECTOR'S MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, February 15, 2003  
Bloomington, Indiana

## BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bruce Bowman, President  
James Adams, Secretary  
Keith Dunlap, Treasurer  
Don Ingle (by proxy Sue Vernier)  
Kriste Lindberg  
Steve Lockwood  
Nick Noe  
Tom Sollman  
Bob Vandeventer  
Richard Vernier

## BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bruce DeVore  
Dave Haun  
Bob Sergesketter  
Bill Tozer  
Kathy Welling

The February Directors' meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM at the home of Kriste Lindberg in Bloomington, Indiana, President Bruce Bowman presiding. One proxy was accepted, Sue Vernier for Don Ingle. The meeting minutes from the December meeting were approved as published with one correction changing "various county contacts" to "various agency contacts" in reference to a cave that was dug into during road construction.

Treasurer Keith Dunlap reported \$54,655 in the bank. Dunlap also noted that a bank representative of someone trying to refinance property next to the Buddha property contacted the IKC and explained that we still owed \$36.42 in property taxes, which has now been paid.

Regarding short-term investments, Dunlap moved to put \$40,000 into CD investments. Seconded by James Adams. It was clarified that this includes the stewardship fund plus money from the general fund, and the funds would be accessible without penalty within 30 days if needed. Motion passed, 10-0-0.

Richard Vernier accepted a nomination as President. Adams accepted a nomination as Secretary. Dunlap accepted a nomination as Treasurer. Nominations for six Directors positions included: Jaime Winner, Everett Pulliam, Barb Capocy, Nick Noe, Dave Haun, Bruce DeVore, Tom Sollman, Kathy Welling, Patty Ruback, Sue Vernier, Carita Noe and Bruce Bowman. Four of the Directors positions will carry three-year terms and two will be for one-year terms. Dunlap moved to accept the ballot pending acceptance of all nominations. Steve Lockwood seconded. Motion passed, 10-0-0. *[Post-meeting note: Kathy Welling did not accept her nomination for a Director position, therefore her name will not appear on the ballot.]*

Bill Tozer or Tom Rea will be asked to serve as election teller. Bowman will follow-up before the March meeting.

Dunlap noted several land acquisition opportunities. There was discussion of these opportunities.

The Department of Natural Resources has asked how we would like to list the Buddha property on the DNR web site. Detailed information for "open" sites or no listing at all for "closed" sites are two options. A third option is to have a dot on a map and provide contact information as a "restricted" site. The Directors preferred this third choice and Bowman will follow-up with the DNR. Bowman will also post similar information on the IKC website.

Dunlap has been working on the kiosk project. The first kiosk is scheduled to be erected at Under Earth Day at the Buddha property. Carita Noe warned that careful thought should be given to the message on the kiosk. Tom Sollman suggested that a sign be placed in the entrance room of Buddha Cave. Bowman asked that the Education Outreach Committee prepare a draft of possible signage options for the summer meeting. Concern was also expressed that the originally-planned location (near the parking area) would attract too much attention. Tom Rea will be asked to check on permission from the DNR to erect the kiosk and confirm the exact location.

A cleanup at the Blanton property is planned for March 29. A plaque will be placed at that time.

The IKC has recently been recognized by the DNR for Honorable Mention as Conservation Organization of the Year.

Access at Buckner Cave is still being monitored.

Adams noted that the idea of using a plot on the Sullivan property as a pet cemetery is a dead issue. The pet lover has found an alternate property.

May 17 has been designated as a fence workday at the Orangeville Rise. The adjacent landowner needs to be notified and permission obtained to access the fence area via his property.

Lindberg noted that a geo-cache has been reported at the Orangeville Rise.

Bob Vandeventer passed out the 2003 IKC calendar to the Directors.

The March annual business meeting will be on Saturday, March 22 at the Greenwood Public Library at 10:00 AM. Meeting adjourned at 8:54 PM.

Submitted by James Adams, Acting Secretary



# ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

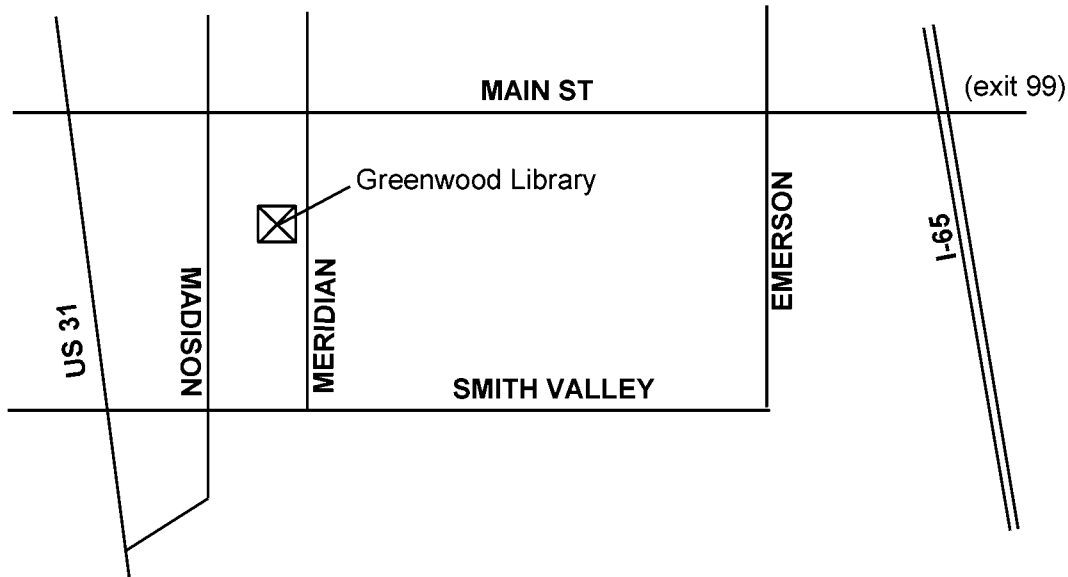
## SATURDAY, MARCH 22nd, 10 AM

### GREENWOOD, INDIANA

### GREENWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

**DIRECTIONS:** The Greenwood Public Library (310 S Meridian, 317-881-1953) is located three blocks south of Main St in "old" Greenwood. From I-65 (exit 99), take Main Street west. After crossing the railroad tracks, turn south on Meridian (first traffic light). The library will be on your right. From SR-37, take Smith Valley Road west all the way to US 31. Continue on Smith Valley to Madison (next traffic light) and turn north. Just past the Greenwood middle school, turn right into the library's parking lot.

Enter the library's front entrance and turn left just past the main desk. Go down the hall and turn left again to the meeting room.



**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.

