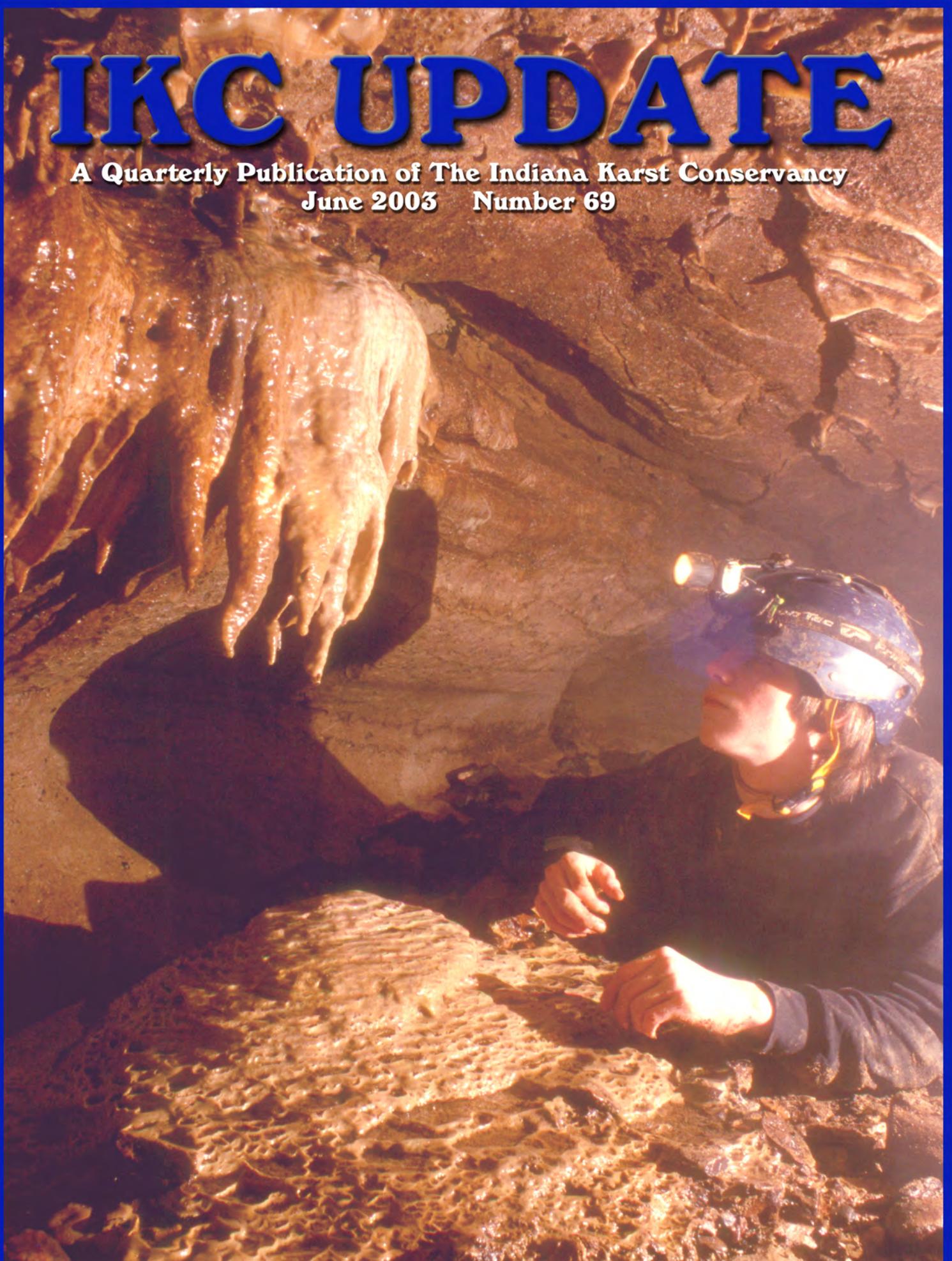


# **IKC UPDATE**

**A Quarterly Publication of The Indiana Karst Conservancy  
June 2003    Number 69**



# 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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### Grotto Cave

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\*grottos with access agreements

Cover: Landon Parks in Birdless Pit, Lawrence County. Photo by Dave Everton.



# QUARTERLY MEETING REMINDER

**SATURDAY, JUNE 14th, 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 (Under-Earth Day, Orangeville Rise, etc); Report from the Treasurer; Update on the land acquisition opportunity being pursued; Other Land Acquisition Committee activities; HNF inventorying project; Buddha kiosk display; 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

- 14 JUN = IKC QUARTERLY MEETING, Bloomington (see above)
- 14 JUN = HNF COMMITTEE MEETING/FIELD WORK, contact Kriste Lindberg
- 19 JUL = HNF FIELD WORK DAY, contact Kriste Lindberg
- 04-08AUG = NSS CONVENTION, Porterville CA
- 16 AUG = HNF COMMITTEE MEETING/FIELD WORK, contact Kriste Lindberg
- 20 SEP = HNF FIELD WORK DAY, contact Kriste Lindberg
- ?? SEP = IKC QUARTERLY MEETING/COOK-OUT (location and date TBD)
- 25 OCT = HNF COMMITTEE MEETING/FIELD WORK, contact Kriste Lindberg
- 13-17OCT = NATIONAL CAVE & KARST MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM, Gainesville FL

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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## RAMBLINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT...

*"A man is rich in proportion to the number of things he can afford to let alone."*

*H D Thoreau*



Back in the early 70's when I was doing most of my caving in Indiana, it was nothing to go to several caves on any weekend. No planning required; just hop in the car (my cavemobile was a 1960 Mercury Comet with pop

rivets holding up the floorboard) and go. Partly that was the irresponsibility and freedom of youth; but mostly, it was the availability of nearly unlimited access to lots of caves. At Eller Cave, you could just leave a note for the owners, hop a fence and go caving. At the Dry Entrance to Blue Springs, you just crossed behind the owner's property to the little trash can set into the rock. All they asked was that you not disturb them. Salamander -- no problem; and, of course, there were Wayne's, Coon, Grotto, Shaft -- all come and go as you please.

Things changed. Insurance companies got involved and threatened owners, people began to fear lawsuits, the pressures of population increases and the popularization of "country living" led to urban sprawl -- all with the result that caves began to be closed. Can you blame the landowners? If you owned a cave, you would have strange people showing up on your doorstep at two in the morning to use the phone (or in the case of friends of mine who had the misfortune of living down the road from Buckner's -- asking to use their shower!). Why should you let them in? What would you think when you found out that some of them were using drugs and alcohol in the cave? How about them hauling in trash and writing obscenities on the walls? Any cave I owned would not be open to the general public.

For a while, there was much agonizing that this was the beginning of the end of caving in America; and so it might have been if not for the efforts of organizations like the Indiana Karst Conservancy. We have accepted that in order to meet our two seemingly contradictory goals of protecting the caves and keeping them open, we have to give up some of what we came to regard as our rights and freedoms. We now have to accept that the ones with the real rights are the landowners and managing entities. The lone ea-

gle, sneak in at midnight caver has no rights to access. I'm sorry, too bad -- this isn't the Wild West anymore. If you can turn back the population levels, put people back in the cities instead of an hour's drive from work and get rid of most of the lawyers, then maybe, maybe we can have the freedom we once enjoyed.

When I shifted to project caving in Kentucky, I found that it was necessary to actually befriend the landowners and get them to take an interest in us. This meant things like putting a new roof on somebody's river cabin and building new outhouses or just sitting and talking about family and marveling at the owner's arrowhead collection. Sometimes actual in-cave time suffered for this; but now, a decade or so later and after some of the landowner/friends have passed away, I find that these memories are clearer and more important than those from the caves (except for some new discoveries -- those are hard to beat). Surveying and writing trip reports seemed like work at first but became part of the fun. Caving had a mission.

The IKC has a mission and it is a big one, one that will go on into the future. We will protect our state's karst resources while trying to maintain the best balance of access. We will do so by *buying* the best properties where possible, as there is no substitute for having the rights of ownership. We will also partner with other groups such as The Nature Conservancy and with state and federal agencies -- the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the Hoosier National Forest. Conservation easements are another tool.

Can we afford this? Can we afford to give our hard earned dollars to buy holes in the ground? Can we afford to give up our "rights" to unlimited access and use? Some in the business and political arenas would say that the best use for Sullivan Cave would be as a gravel quarry or a housing development. Some at the fringe of the caving community would have the gate off and a beer keg in the Mountain Room. We are the richest nation in the world. We are arguably the richest nation that has ever existed. That is not to say that we have no poverty, indeed we do; but if we don't work to preserve our resources now -- be they karst or otherwise -- then we will find that the opportunity is gone, possibly forever. Surely we are rich enough to leave some things alone.

*Richard Vernier*

## NEWS BRIEFS...

- ❑ IKC elections on March 22nd yielded a few changes to the Executive Board. Dick Vernier was elected President. Jim Adams and Keith Dunlap were re-elected Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Directors elected/re-elected were Bruce Bowman, Bruce Devore, Dave Haun, Nick Noe, Tom Sollman, and Jamie Winner. The other Directors remaining on the Board include Kriste Lindberg, Steve Lockwood, Don Ingle, Bob Sergesketter, Bill Tozer, and Bob Vandeventer. We would like to express our appreciation to Kathy Welling who has served as a Director for the many years and declined a nomination in order to encourage “new blood” on the Board.

A total of 86 votes were cast, 75 of them by mail-in ballots. That nearly half of the membership voting, a respectable return for any organization. Of those who did vote, over 40% “power voted” for Directors, casting fewer than the six allowed.

- ❑ As you read through this newsletter, you will see that this spring has been a very busy one for the IKC volunteers. Practically every weekend since mid-March has had some type of major or minor project going on. Fortunately we can now move into “maintenance mode” for the summer (trail and parking area mowing, tree weed control work, etc). For the fall, we can look forward to finishing the fence at the Buddha Property and initiating some new projects that are in the works.
- ❑ Brian Leavell and the Eastern Indiana Grotto are organizing the 2003 Ohio Valley Region’s annual conservation project. This year the task will be to clean up Carcass Crypt Pit in Lawrence County. It is unfortunate that the pit was used for many years as a trash pit, but the current owner is being cooperative and supportive in reversing the damage. The primary project dates are September 20/21. However, the EIG will have several prep trips to stage the trash for hauling up the pit. These dates include June 28th, July 26th, and August 23rd. Please contact Brian Leavell (bleavell@indy.net or 765-552-7619) if you would like more information on this project.

- ❑ Over the past thirteen years, the Indiana DNR and the IKC have been monitoring Coon, Grotto, and Jim Ray’s caves for winter disturbances in these critical *Myotis sodalis* hibernacula. This monitoring is done passively with electronic “speloggers” which are installed near the entrances of the caves and record the date and time of each human disturbance (triggered by light). The information collected is providing a means to determine the effectiveness (or ineffectiveness) of our closure methods in discouraging unauthorized entry. 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 few have been during the core winter months when the greatest impact would occur. This was the fifth year the DNR used the new speloggers designed/constructed by IKC member Dick Vernier. The DNR is also monitoring several other caves using these speloggers.

Winter	Number of Disturbances		
	Jim Ray's	Coon	Grotto
02 / 03	5 <sup>(1)</sup>	0 <sup>(1)</sup>	0 <sup>(1)</sup>
01 / 02	0	0	0
00 / 01	0 <sup>(1)</sup>	0 <sup>(1)</sup>	0 <sup>(1)</sup>
99 / 00	2 <sup>(2)</sup>	0	0
98 / 99	3 <sup>(1)(3)</sup>	0 <sup>(1)</sup>	0 <sup>(1)</sup>
97 / 98	1	1	0
96 / 97	0 <sup>(1)</sup>	0 <sup>(1)</sup>	0 <sup>(1)</sup>
95 / 96	3	9	4
94 / 95	8 <sup>(1)</sup>	8 <sup>(1)</sup>	5 <sup>(1)(4)</sup>
93 / 94	-- <sup>(5)</sup>	-- <sup>(5)</sup>	-- <sup>(5)</sup>
92 / 93	7 <sup>(1)</sup>	3 <sup>(1)</sup>	8 <sup>(1)</sup>
91 / 92	6	1	5
90 / 91	4 <sup>(1)</sup>	8 <sup>(1)</sup>	n/a

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

- ❑ The IKC covers most of its basic expenses and obligations with membership dues. However, we are greatly dependent upon other donations to supplement and support many of our other projects and land acquisition initiative. Since last June, sixty-seven individuals/organizations have donated a total of \$3144. We’d like to recognize those members/contributors who have given a little extra. They include Dave Anderson, John Benton, Ted Bice, Michael Blanski, Bluespring Caverns, Don Bohling, Chris Brown, George Brutchen, Larry Bundy, Barb Capocy, Chris Carpenter, George Cesnik, Martin Church, Jeff Cody, Dogwood City

Grotto, Bambi and Keith Dunlap, Dave Everton, Jeff Farr, Jaime and Scott Fee, Allen Goodcase, Tina Hall, Scott Hammon, Hal Hampe, Dave Haun, Tim Heppner, Tem Hornaday, Pat Jarboe, Glenn Kotnik, Mark Kraus, Jerry Lewis, Robert Masta, Dave McGowan, John McInnes, Jon Miller, William Morrow, Sue O'Sheilds, Ernie Payne, Andrew and Shavon Peacock, Don Peters, Everett Pulliam, Russ Pusilo, Steve Ragsdale, Kevin Rasmus, Larry Reece, Jennifer Reiss, Richard Van Rheenens, Russ Romme, Robert Roundy, Ralph Sawyer, Russel Schavey, Diana and Steve Schuh, Bob Sergesketter, Tom Sollman, Susie Strickland, David Taylor, Dick and Sue Vernier, Mark Webb, Kathy Welling, Tom Willett, Kent Wilson, Kevin Wools, Scott Worpell, and Kevin Wyatt.

- Five new members have joined the IKC in the past quarter. Welcome Jamie Fee (414), Gregg Sherburn (415), Barry and Margarita Nichols (416), Mark Sparks (417), and Burnis Piper (418). The IKC membership now stands at 192.

## UNDER-EARTH DAY AT BUDDHA KARST PRESERVE

by Keith Dunlap

On April 12th, symbolic of Earth Day, thirty-three cavers from all over Indiana gathered at the Buddha Karst Preserve in Lawrence County to continue the work started last year. The main tasks for the day was to plant, flag, and mulch more than 800 hardwood seedlings (oaks, hickorys, and ash). This was to supplement the 1100 seedlings planted last year. The purpose was to enhance the wildlife habitat and biodiversity of the property, while adding some eventual visual screening from the neighboring residents. All of the species planted were native to the area and likely populated the tract before being cleared for agricultural use.

The other main task for the day was to assemble and install the information kiosk near the trail head. The kiosk was designed and constructed by Keith Dunlap. The most unique aspect of the kiosk is that the roof panel also functions as a bat "house". While this is just an experimental design and the wasps may ultimately be the only benefactor, it is another example of our attempt to improve the property's habitat capacity.

In addition to the May 12th workday, several volunteers worked the preceding weekend to unload the 55 bags of mulch and mow and flag the rows for the trees.

Also on April 27th, several more volunteers worked to apply weed control around the trees (both this year's and last) while Clyde Simerman and Bob Vandeventer added a *slate* roof to the kiosk (Clyde -- in the photo -- donated all the roofing materials).

All totaled, volunteers expended about 300 manhours of effort this spring at the Buddha Property. Participants working one

or more days included Bill Baus, George Cesnik, Jeff Cody, Bruce Devore, Bambi and Keith Dunlap, Devon Fegen, Mark Gelzeichter, Wyn and Daniel and Jeanna Laidig, Kevin and Bill Kulwicki, Brian Leavell, Erik Liebhaber, Kriste Lindberg, Gary Maloney, Adam and Zack Manship, Mark Matthews, Everett Pulliam, Tom Rea, Clyde Simerman Robert and Tom Sollman, Mark Sparks, Sue Spicer, Kevin and Shawn Strunk, Bob Vandeventer, Jamie Winner, and Joe Worley.



## INDIANA CAVE SYMPOSIUM 2003

by Dave Everton

The skies were sunny and blue. The temperature had hovered in the mid-60s all day, and was still quite pleasant at 5:00 PM as the wonderful aroma of hamburgers and bratwurst wafted through the shelter house and surrounding area at Blue's Canoes Livery in Taylorsville northeast of Columbus, Indiana on Saturday, April 26, 2003. As the crowd increased and the cooked meat supply continued to be refilled by chef Dunlap, the table reserved for food continued to grow with chips, side dishes, and desserts placed there by attendees at the request of the event joint-organizers, the Indiana Cave Survey and Indiana Karst Conservancy. As usual, the meat, cheese, buns, condiments, soft drinks, ice, paper plates, plastic ware, & napkins were provided by the two host organizations.

As food consumption began to diminish, so did the amount of daylight and temperature, and the program of presentations began around 7:00. Master of Ceremonies Jim Adams started things off in his always-delightful fashion with a welcome and introduction as the faithful audio-visual provider Bob Vandevanter silently manned the equipment and technology he'd provided that enabled the presenters to shine. The presentations given were:

- **Update on the Indiana Cave Permit System:** Todd Webb gave an overview of the IDNR system of granting permits for individuals to go caving on state-owned land and gave a couple of excellent examples of why the system is in place.
- **Creative Partnerships for Water Quality Protection in Karst Areas:** Kriste Lindberg described some of the various groups she's been working with to increase collaboration between local, state, and federal government offices regarding karst protection and education.
- **The Exploration and Survey of Redman Cave:** Brian Killingbeck presented a detailed account of the recent caver access to this long-known and previously visited cave in Washington County which until recently had been mainly inaccessible since the creation of Palmyra Lake in the 1930s.
- **The Subterranean Fauna of the Hoosier National Forest:** Dr. Jerry Lewis took everyone on a virtual aerial tour of various areas of southern Indiana and caves in which he's studied during the last year. He also told of discovering new species of troglobites and how they were assigned names.
- **Indiana Cave Survey On-line Cave Report Form:** Rob Jarboe explained the current effort of the ICS to make available and implement an on-line report form modeled after the current paper version. It will be equipped with on-line tips and helps making it easier for users to complete.
- **Lost River Cave:** Tony Cunningham updated the attendees with results of the latest and greatest efforts in this vast system, which does nothing but continue to produce more leads each time surveying is done.
- **2003 Biennial Bat Census:** Keith Dunlap took us on a chart and graph exploration allowing us to see the results of this year's census and how it compares to previous ones in many southern Indiana caves.
- **Browns Farm Cave:** Bruce Trotter relayed some joys of caving in the eastern karst area of the state by describing and showing this multiple-entrance cave, and has even added a new meaning and dimension to cave radio location.
- **Time Stood Still in Heltonville:** Dave Everton showed his first-ever caving presentation of a small and obscure cave area in northeastern Lawrence County near the Mount Carmel Fault zone containing a few small caves.
- **The Exploration of Big Rock Swallowhole:** Dave Black and Chris Schotter led us into the depths of this Harrison County cave with several in-cave rope drops which at times can collect a substantial amount of water.

Bob Armstrong, Chairman of the Lost River Conservation Association, brought

...continued on page 14 

## BLANTON PROPERTY SINKHOLE CLEAN-UP

by Keith Dunlap

Last year, The Nature Conservancy acquired the 213-acre tract west of Wesley Chapel Gulf to protect the Lost River Cave system. The property, referred to as the "Blanton Property" after the former owners, for the most part was void of trash. The exception was one large sinkhole (which coincidentally also contains one of the entrances to the cave system). This sinkhole had been used as the "family" landfill for years and contained everything from old appliances, to room-size rolls of carpet, to 5-gallon herbicide cans, to rolls of field fence, to a complete grain bin. The Nature Conservancy wanted the sinkhole cleaned up, so the IKC and the St Joseph Valley Grotto volunteered to do it. A reconnaissance trip was made in November to size up the volume and two 40-cubic-yard dumpsters were contracted to be delivered a few days before the cleanup on March 29th.

On the appointed day, 44 volunteers from the IKC, SJVG, TNC, and the Hoosier National Forest (the eventual owners of this property) showed up to haul trash. Because the sinkhole was approximately 1000 feet from the dumpster, we used Terry Clark's pickup and flatbed trailer to shuttle the cargo. In three hour's time, the sinkhole was clean and the two dumpsters were nearly full. The last task was to disassemble an old grain auger located on the south end of the property. A half-dozen volunteers and a torch made quick work of this unwanted piece of equipment.



Tony Cunningham, Tom Sollman, and Steve Lockwood handing up trash during the sinkhole clean-up.

The other activity scheduled for the day as a plaque dedication to honor the Paul and Lyda Blanton, the long time owners. The plaque was requested by the family as part of the sales agreement. Mark Deebel handled getting an attractive natural slab of limestone moved to the property and cut to accept the plaque. During the dedication



Several generations of the Blanton family stand behind the plaque honoring Paul and Lyda Blanton for their dedicated stewardship of the property and their desire to keep the land from being developed.

ceremony, several of the family members spoke, as well as Tony Cunningham for the SJVG and Steve Grubbs from TNC. I think everyone was pleased that the property will see responsible stewardship which will protect the cave below.

Participants included Terry Clark, Kristie Collins, Ian, Leslie, Sean, and Tony Cunningham, Kim DeCero, Mark Deebel, Bambi and Keith Dunlap, Doug Fitzgerald, Steve Grubbs, Dave Hanson, Charlie and Sidney Hawkins, Greg Inman, Ellen Jacquart, Mark Kraus, Bill and Kevin Kulwicki, Kriste Lindberg, Steve Lockwood, Gary Maloney, Dan McDowell, Jake Morris, Bill Pea, Nate Peterson, Burnis Piper, Everett Pulliam, Kelle Reynolds, Patty Ruback, Sam Russell, Sherry Sloan, Tom Sollman, Wes Steiner, Dave Tibbets, Greg and Wayne Tucker, Bob Vandeventer, Dick and Sue Vernier, Beth Wells, Jamie Winner, and Bob Zatarski.

An extra special thanks to the Hoosier National Forest for funding this project.

## TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA DAY 2003: THE PATTON CAVE TRAIL MAINTENANCE PROJECT

by Dave Everton

The early morning started overcast. Very overcast, actually; at least in Bloomington. Was the weather forecast inaccurate again? It had been projected to be a gorgeous, clear day with temperatures in the 70s. It certainly didn't look like it as the clock advanced through the 7:00 hour and then on past 8:00. However, patches of blue started appearing here and there, and by the 9:00 kick-off meeting at Shelter #1 at the Hardin Ridge Recreation Area south of Lake Monroe in Monroe County, beautiful blue had overtaken most if not all of the morning sky.

I'd never seen so many people at the shelter. It looked like a hub of activity as it overflowed with volunteers lined up in individual groups behind small signs, with one or more Hoosier National Forest (HNF) employee(s) at each one. The groups began to disperse as Landon Parks and I searched for the specific one we came to participate in: The Patton Cave Trail Maintenance Project. Thankfully, our group hadn't left yet. Whew! We'd been concerned due to our lateness of ten minutes or so and our lack of knowing where the group was meeting and route they were taking to the cave.

Keith Dunlap was at the head of the line. We butted in to talk with him and then took our place in the rear. After deciding who would drive and who would ride in each vehicle, Steve Harriss, one of our coordinators for the day, directed us to follow the green truck. It reminded me of my former Navy days when we used to joke about saying "hey, you in the blue" around a large group of sailors all dressed in blue, just to see how many would turn around. There were certainly plenty of green trucks and personnel in green and tan uniforms on this day! Follow the correct green truck.

Our group then assembled their gear, loaded up vehicles, and followed our particular green pickup truck to the parking area east of SR 446 and south of Lake Monroe. Introductions were made after everyone had gotten their gear ready. In addition to Steve, Kelle Reynolds was the other team leader for the day. The volunteers consisted of Keith Dunlap, Dick and Sue Vernier, Mark Sparks, Don Ingle, John & Jarod ??, Landon Parks, and me. Our gracious leaders offered leather

gloves in a few sizes and varieties with the option of returning them at day's end, as well as free bottled water in 20 oz containers. Various weapons of destruction (or construction, depending on which task), all named after someone and none of which I can recall, were displayed and each participant selected one to carry. Some safety instructions were given, and off into the woods we headed, except for Steve, who had (perhaps conveniently?) left his lunch back at base camp and told us he'd catch up later. I think he had other motives, such as morel hunting or some other secret.

The pace started out briskly, which prompted some immediate cries including "Are we there yet?", "I have to pee!", "I'm tired!", and "Can we rest now?" I believe this caused nothing more than the pace to quicken. The walk down into the valley was uneventful but splendid, the temperatures being very pleasant and the trail being a very gradual one in gradient. One of the highlights of the trail improvements was a section of carefully selected and placed stones along a steep hill that Keith stated had been one of his prior contributions to it under previous HNF director Larry Mullins. We finally reached our first objective: a junction in the valley bottom of Saddle Creek, where a small sign depicting both a horse and a hiker with the familiar red circle and slash through each had obviously been ignored. The trail was not an authorized one, and our goal was to disguise and therefore discourage further use by mammals (horses & humans, mainly) approaching from the same direction we'd come. There were plenty of dead trees and limbs scattered here and there nearby, and in no time, many were relocated to the area, thereby accomplishing the purpose of hiding it. Care was given to not make it too obvious, though, and although higher lake water levels could quickly make our efforts futile, we'd done an adequate job for now. Up the hill we proceeded on the semi-official trail headed toward Patton Cave (the trail has been decommissioned to discourage visitation to the cave, but retained to prevent multiple user trails from being created). More work was done along the way in several areas to prevent further erosion on the trail by providing



alternate routes for runoff waters to travel, as well as more attempted hiding of unapproved sections of trail.

Lunchtime came around, and I suspect our guides planned the spot. It was a great place, with some neat large limestone rocks that made for a perfect location for all eleven of us to sit and spread out our various goodies. Some talk of peanut butter and marshmallow fluff sandwiches just made me thirstier. "Yuck!" I thought as I nearly finished my provided bottle of water, which was much appreciated, although I'd brought plenty. After pleasant chatting and eating concluded, those of us who wished to visit Patton Cave were given the opportunity to do so. I'd only been to the cave once back in 1984 on a solo through trip (did I say that?), and although I had little recollection of it, was mildly curious what it was like and how I would perceive it now. My choice to participate in this particular workday was a result of wanting to help the project cause and see the cave again. I really had no intention of making a special trip just to visit the cave because other caving pursuits rated way higher on my interest list, so this project gave me the required incentive.

The spring entrance located at the head of a ravine is quite scenic, being walking-sized and shaped like an arch. Since this article isn't intended to be a cave description, I'll refer interested readers to the Central Indiana Grotto Newsletter Volume 35 #5 (May 1991). In that issue, Tom Miller describes the cave, which lies just 300 feet west of the Mt Carmel fault zone, and references other work previously done in and around the area, as well as his extending the cave and publishing a modification of the 1974 map by Powell, Bassett, and Morris. One can make a through trip and come out another smaller



Take Pride in America volunteers working to install water bars on the trail below Patton Cave.

entrance, which I realized upon exiting was very close to our lunch location. During the trip, I managed to con Dick, Sue, Don, and Landon into helping with a couple of photographs.

Play-time was over (or was it just continuing?) after the cave trip. On the hillside paralleling the ravine downstream from the cave, erosion had been wreaking havoc on the trail. Here's where we really started having to work! The three engineers among us suddenly seemed to be catching a lot of flack, which was really just good-natured ribbing. I can't help but think they might have brought that on themselves somehow <grin>. At any rate, a number of water bars were constructed, which required angled trenches to be made across the trail. Logs and downed limbs were then sawed to size and transported, along with flat rocks, which were placed in the trenches alongside the log segments and everything covered over with soil. Soil was then applied and packed down to create a dam of sorts, with an additional trench dug to allow flood run-off to go away from the trail and harmlessly over the hill.

We'd been given instructions not to arrive sooner than 4:30 back at the shelter house, so we paced ourselves accordingly, taking turns carrying the increasingly-growing brown 50-gallon trash bag that up until that time Kelle and Steve had hauled around. We hiked upstream in the bottom along Saddle Creek to start the return trip. Nobody from our group reported finding any morels, and although two mushroom hunters came by claiming to have found 35, I saw no concrete proof but a pack around the waist of one of them did seem to be bulging quite a bit in the back.

The hike back to the cars seemed to take every bit of an hour, although I didn't time it. The weather was still wonderful, though, and although it had warmed up quite a bit, the shade, lack of summer bugs and spider webs, and pleasant trail made the walk very enjoyable. The majority of my woods trekking is never so pleasant and often involves bush whacking, so this was indeed a treat of sorts for me. I'm more of a 'straightest distance between two points' kind of guy, but this trail was definitely not one of those. However, the Hayes Hollow trail to Patton Cave is very scenic and should certainly be considered if you are planning a combination hike and visit to the cave.

## ORANGEVILLE RISE NATURE PRESERVE FENCE PROJECT

by Keith Dunlap

The IKC has owned the Orangeville Rise in Orange County for approximately four years. When we accepted the property from The Nature Conservancy, we outlined a number of projects needing attention, but none were pressing. The first order of business was a general property clean-up and replacement of the old TNC routed sign with a smaller and less obtrusive IKC version.

In 2001, we had the property re-surveyed as only one permanent boundary marker could be relocated. The result of this re-survey made it apparent that the old fence line on the western boundary was not the property line as we had assumed (note that the fence existed before the property was sub-divided in the early '70s). So this spawned another project -- to install a fence along the true boundary.

On May 17th, this fence project was initiated and completed. The weather that morning was not very cooperative and light rain falling. Despite that, an eager crew of volunteers, spearheaded by Property Manager Steve Lockwood, showed up to build the fence.

The first task was to clear a path to the work area and unload the posts. Next we unspooled approximately 500 feet of string and stretched it between the survey markers at either end of the western boundary. We then hand "wacked" the grass along the sight line and measured out the post spacing, plumed the location directly below the



Steve Lockwood, Everett Pulliam, Mark Sparks, and Keith Dunlap operate the counter-balanced power auger to drill a 12-inch diameter post hole 48-inches deep.

string, and marked these locations with flags.

Next came the "fun" part -- power augering the holes. The first two holes (optimistically to be 12-inches in diameter by 4-foot deep) met with great resistance, hitting rock almost immediately. After much manual persuasion, the end post was eventually sunk three foot deep and the adjacent support post maxed out at two feet. Since we



The new fence posts (behind Everett Pulliam on the right) mark the true property boundary. The old fence line (assumed to be the property boundary before the re-survey) was in the tree line to the left.

were securing the posts with concrete, this was not too much of a concern. The remaining sixteen posts all went full depth, much to our relief.

With the posts all set, stretching five strands of high-tension wire was the last order of action. No one there had ever strung a high-tension fence so it took some trial and error to figure out the finer details, but we eventually got it done.

Just as we were finishing up, a heavy downpour let loose and everyone got soaked as we packed up the tools and equipment.

Participants included Bambi and Keith Dunlap, Don Ingle, Steve Lockwood, Everett Pulliam, Bob Sergesketter, Robert and Tom Sollman, and Mark Sparks.

The IKC would like to express our appreciation to Mr Collins for allowing us access via his property and for removing the old fence row.

## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

by Kriste Lindberg

In the March *IKC Update*, we touched a bit upon keeping the human aspects of working with people in mind to accomplish conservation goals, especially those involving education. Some of the tips included being a team player, being open minded, being up front, and so on. Basically, the things your parents taught you as you were growing up! It helps as whether you're working with individuals or groups, all can benefit, including ultimately the resources.

Now, I'd like to expand upon it... We work mostly with agencies. Agencies are made up of individuals... humans... at all levels -- local, state, national, and international. Sometimes it helps to focus more on local issues in order to benefit levels beyond that. That is the approach I am taking.

Having recently accepted a position offered to me by the Mayor of the City of Bloomington on the Environmental Commission, I will be focusing on issues that involve our community... not only karst but other environmental influences that effect it, including those which are man-made (incidentally, I am finishing up certification as a Master Naturalist, which provides a good, general background in natural resources). Over the years, I have found that it is best to work with others that are working with karst to help them do it with as little adverse impact as possible. This type of attitude has been quite successful in getting the conservationist word heard and understood amongst various groups of people. Of course,

it has not always been easy and there will be more times when it will be quite challenging! This realistic attitude has caught the attention of those with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). I recently presented, "Creative Partnership for Water Quality in Karst Areas," at the "Drinking Water Protection in Karst Terrain: A Ground Water Conference and Field Seminar" in Abingdon, Virginia from May 21-22. It was very well received. As a matter of fact, a few folks have already contacted me about it! They liked the way I "bridge the gap" between various interest groups. Also in attendance from Indiana was Mark Goldsmith, a Storm Water Specialist with the IDNR. Mark did his presentation on, "Construction Site and NDPS Water Quality Issues in Karst." Basically, it covered how to protect karst features that are in or near construction zones. It, too, was very well received. Both were quite timely, as well, as were the others. Other presentations focused on municipal water supplies in karst areas, security issues, depletion of water supplies by overuse, etc. We were later treated to a variety of field trips. It was good to network with others of similar interest from around the country, including Terri Brown of Terrane Environmental Company in Tennessee who helped coordinate the conference, Geary Schindel of the Edwards Aquifer in Texas, Carol of Zokaites of Project Underground and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Joey Fagan and Will Orndorff who are both Karst Protection Specialists with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, and Jim Wilbanks of the Southeastern Cave Conservancy.

Just before the EPA conference, the City of Bloomington and Monroe County Parks and Recreation hosted EarthFest on May 17th. This years' focus was "Water: Go with the Flow." The EarthFest committee came up with this emphasis on purpose as we are doing much with water quality in the area, including working the concerted effort spearheaded by the county which involves several agencies. We sure got what we touted -- water... and lots of it... in the form of rain! We, unfortunately, had to cancel the tours we had scheduled at Leonard Springs Nature Park because the trails were too



Kriste Lindberg (center) setting up for the karst education session at the EPA karst conference.

muddy to be enjoyable and it would have caused them damage but the rest of the show went on at the county's Karst Farm Park (interestingly, the sinkholes at this park drain to LSNP!). It was a good networking opportunities for those who participated, including the Lost River Conservation Association (both Bob Armstrong and Val Frazee), Monroe County Solid Waste Management District, Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District, Project Wet, and Hoosier Riverwatch.

I'd like to take this opportunity to mention a bit more about local Hoosier Riverwatch efforts. We now have a new intern at LSNP -- Morgan Peters-Darling. She is a student at IU and will be working on monitoring water quality at the park. Also, the City of Bloomington is hosting both Hoosier Riverwatch Levels 1 and 2 training on June 13 and 14, respectively. We are working on adopting out all of our parks with flowing water to this timely and exciting endeavor! In order to help facilitate this, I have recently been certified as a Project Wet facilitator and will now be able to teach PW classes.

Back in April, The Nature Conservancy hosted a day-long open house, their "Spring Fling" at the Nature Center in Wyandotte Woods. Being a beautiful, spring day, in southern Indiana, it was attended by many people from the area around Corydon and Louisville. The IKC's display and karst groundwater model were there, as well. Thanks to Don Ingle for helping out with this event! Afterwards, Don, Dave Black, a few others and I enjoyed a tour of the hay press which has been reassembled on the grounds.

Also over the past three months, IDNR Resource Specialist, Frank Hodges, was busy

with his Lost River Conservation Project, a collaboration between area landowners and many local, state, and national agencies. You can read more about this initiative in the article he has put together elsewhere in this issue.

Not one to rest on their laurels, during the last week in May, I'll be helping to host a wetlands plant class, a collaboration between IDEM and Indiana University, at LSNP. We're mainly curious how the plants filter the water which flows through the park.

During the first week in June, I am working on an education collaboration between the City of Bloomington and WonderLab, the science museum in Bloomington, to host "Caves, Crystals, and Critters", a day camp focusing on caves, how they fit into the overall environment, their formation, conservation, and ending with a little trip to LSNP. This is a first of its kind!

During the second week in June, the city of Bloomington and Hoosier Heartland RC&D are collaborating to put on a Project Underground facilitator workshop in Bloomington. I will be the instructor for this class.

The Storm Drain Marking Program in Bloomington is moving right along. We're collaborating with area SWCD's to do a mass order of curb marking buttons and our new, color brochures are in!

If you visit the Buddha Karst Preserve in the near future, check out the new kiosk. Bob Vandeventer and I are working on some educational material on the preserve for it. It will be discussed at the June IKC meeting in Bloomington.

Please contact me if you would like to join our efforts, there are many opportunities to get involved!

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The air smelled delightful with the aroma of tubular prime rib (hotdogs) and another form of steak (hamburgers) as we arrived back at the Hardin Ridge Shelter in time for a few minutes to rest and clean up prior to indulging in the HNF provided picnic, complete with very peppery beans (as Steve had forewarned us), several varieties of chips, condiments, soda pop, and bottled water. A tent was also set up where participants could collect a free TPIA t-shirt and certificate. The food line formed at the 5:00 announcement, and went smoothly as plates were

filled. The sun shone brightly still and the grassy, gentle hillside near the shelter made a comfortable place to eat. The final activity of the day was waiting in anticipation for your number to be called for one of the many door prizes up for grabs. It was a nice way to conclude an absolutely wonderful day.

This was my first participation in the HNF's Take Pride in America Day, and in every way left a very pleasant taste in my mouth. I'll have to give serious consideration to attending again, especially if the cave trip is longer!!

## LOST RIVER CONSERVATION PROJECT

by Frank Hodges

After an e-mail to Kriste Lindberg explaining an idea I had about combining the knowledge of the Indiana Karst Conservancy concerning the underground system, and my efforts toward best management practices (BMP's) on the surface, her networking expertise kicked in and the *Lost River Conservation Project* was born. It is a loose collaboration of agencies (IKC, HNF, IDNR, NRCS, TNC, and other acronyms) whose interest is in preserving the integrity of the amazing Lost River Cave System. I was named coordinator (although I don't remember an election), because I work so closely with the folks in the field who have the most impact on water quality in the Lost River drainage basin. I spend my time working with the ag community, industry, and residential developments giving technical advice as well as cost share assistance to apply the best land treatment practices. My primary focus is the agricultural aspect of land treatment. Using practices such as no till farming, filter strips along the river and around sinkholes, riparian areas along the river and around sinkholes, winter cover crops, nutrient management, and Conservation Reserve Program, just to name a few, the IDNR/NRCS partnership has made great progress in protecting the river in Orange County.

The IDNR has funded a land treatment project for the past two years. Money that is collected from boat registration fees is used for land treatment projects throughout the state. In Orange County, our focus was entirely on winter cover crops of wheat. We were able to apply cover to over 2700 acres of land that might otherwise be exposed to the

elements and cause sediment to enter the underground system through sinkholes. The wheat can be helpful when it's time to surface apply chemicals in the spring in preparation for planting crops. The herbicide used to "burn down" the wheat can be tied up in the wheat plant which will become mulch and serve as a moisture retainer for crops during the growing season and at the same time prevent the chemical from entering the underground system.

On April 5, I was privileged to be a part of an "agency tour" of the cave system on the newly purchased Blanton Farm. I finally got a chance to see what it was I had been working the past 16 years to protect. It was an unbelievable experience that few will have.

The enthusiasm that the St Joseph Valley Grotto folks have is evident in the way they work. They had spent the week before cleaning out a sinkhole just above the entrance to Lost River Cave. They had collected enough stuff to fill two very large dumpsters. After the tour, we re-seeded the steep slopes of the sink to prevent further erosion. The enthusiasm is contagious and makes you want to return.

The future of this project could be as large as becoming a model for other karst areas or as small as continuing efforts on land treatment locally. One thing is certain. Our knowledge of this unique system is going to increase and can only help in the attempt to do a better job of conservation on the land.

*Frank is a Resource Specialist for the Soil Conservation Division of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.*

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along his cam corder and videotaped the presentations. He encouraged anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the completed recording to contact him at 317-253-6951.

As the evening gave way to night and the temperatures continued to drop into what seemed like an unseasonably-chilly late April evening, the presentations concluded at around 11:15 and the crowd quickly dispersed as a result of being in an outdoor

venue in such conditions, especially those individuals not prepared with adequate clothing to combat the cold. However, the event was successful, and as always, is certain to foster ongoing vital sharing of information as well as creating new partnerships, relationships, and hopefully inspiration to continue the combined goals of both organizations, thus ultimately having a positive impact on all of Indiana speleology.

## INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY TREASURY REPORT

### Income/Expense Statement From January 1, 2003 to March 31, 2003

**INCOME:**

Dues Apportionment and Residuals	688.75	
Donations - General	2220.80	
Donations - Land Acquisition Fund	725.82	
Interest	49.87	
	688.75	\$3,685.24

**EXPENSES:**

IKC Update (printing, production, mailing)	298.28	
Membership (renewal letters, etc)	102.89	
Other Stewardship/Conservation	865.01	
Property taxes	42.47	
Business (Bank service charges)	12.00	
Transfers to/from other restricted funds	752.82	
	752.82	(\$2,073.47)

**NET OPERATING EXCESS (DEFICIT) THIS PERIOD: \$1,611.77**

### Balance Sheet March 31, 2003

**ASSETS:**

Cash in Checking/Saving Accounts/CDs	57238.37	
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>\$165,251.53</u>

**LIABILITIES & OPERATING EXCESS:**

Land Acquisition Restricted Fund	19359.02	
Deferred Dues Restrctited Fund (189 members)	3030.00	
Stewardship Endowment Fund	10881.00	

Previous Operating Excess	22356.58	
Net Excess (Deficit) This Period	1611.77	
	1611.77	
Current Operating Excess	23968.35	
Real estate liquidity	108013.16	
	108013.16	

**Total Liabilities & Operating Excess \$165,251.53**

# IKC ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, March 22, 2003, Greenwood, Indiana

## BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

The Annual Business Meeting was called to order at 10:01 AM at the Greenwood Public Library in Greenwood, President Bruce Bowman presiding. The minutes of the Spring Director's meeting were approved as published in the March 2003 *IKC Update*.

Treasurer Dunlap reported \$165,000 in total assets. Of that, \$57,000 is liquid with \$19,000 in the Land Acquisition fund, \$11,000 in the Stewardship fund, \$2,000 in the Dues fund, and the remainder in the General fund. Due to lowering interest rates in our saving account, \$40,000 was transferred into short-term Certificates of Deposit. The membership stands at 190 with 129 members already renewed for 2003.

Elections were the next order of business with Bill Tozer serving as the Election Teller. Vernier was elected as President. Adams was re-elected as Secretary. Dunlap was re-elected as Treasurer. Directors elected to the three-year terms were Bowman, DeVore, Haun, and Sollman. The one-year terms were filled by Nick Noe and Jamie Winner. Tozer indicated 86 ballots were cast of the 186 sent out (46%). Haun moved to destroy the ballots, Welling seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Annual Reports were given by Adams (Shiloh Patron), Jeff Cody (Buddha and Shaft Patron), Dunlap (Sullivan Property Manager and Coon/Grotto Patron), Lockwood (Orangeville Rise Property Manager), Tom Rea (Buddha Property Manager), and Vandeventer (Sullivan Patron). These reports will be published in the June 2003 *IKC Update*. Reports from Tom Willett (Wayne's Patron), Ronnie Burns (Suicide), and Richard Newton (Indian Creek CE) were not received/presented.

One action item from the Annual Reports needing follow-up is that the Shiloh lease agreement will expire this year and will need to be renewed.

Upcoming events include the Blanton sinkhole clean-up on March 29th, replacement tree planting at the Sullivan Property on April 5, preparation work at

the Buddha Property on April 6th, Under-Earth Day at the Buddha Property (tree planting, kiosk installation) on April 12th, and the fencing project at the Orangeville Rise on May 17th.

There was a general discussion on geocaches and specifically on the geocache located at the Orangeville Rise. The location is causing a trail and erosion problem. Lockwood is to contact the group involved and ask them to remove it from the property.

Bowman discussed the probable open position of the Bloomington Indiana Grotto liaison that would replace Erik Liebhaber and Anmar Mirza. It was mentioned that Dave Everton has expressed an interest and the Board had no opposition to that appointment (note: the BIG Executive Board does the selection, not the IKC Board).

The Indiana Cave Symposium will be April 26th near Taylorsville, Indiana. Sergesketter moved (seconded by Ingle) that the IKC co-sponsor the expenses, not to exceed \$50. Motion passed unanimously.

Rea updated the Board on the MOU being worked on between the IKC and Spring Mill State Park. There are several projects to be conducted under the MOU including the closure of a "hole" in Donaldson Cave to reduce erosion.

There were a number of potential land acquisition projects being investigated.

Tozer gave an update on investment strategies for the Stewardship fund. For the short-term, the money will be kept in CDs. Longer-term we will likely utilize the National Speleological Foundation to manage the fund.

During Under-Earth Day at the Buddha Property, the kiosk will be installed, but the three panels will be blank. We will need to compose the displays in the near future. The members of the Education and Outreach Committee were asked to prepare a proposal.

Discussion ensued with respect to boundary markers at both the Orangeville Rise and Buddha Karst Preserve. The group agreed to request five of the standard concrete monuments from Nature Preserves. Bowman will follow up.

Vandeventer passed out the 2003 calendars to the Board and others.

Next meeting, Saturday, June 14th at the IU Geology Building.

Vandeventer moved to adjourn. Lockwood seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:31.

Submitted by Bambi Dunlap, Acting Secretary.

## ANNUAL CAVE PATRON / PROPERTY MANAGER REPORTS

Each year at the Annual Business meeting, the cave patrons and property managers are asked to submit a written report summarizing activities and incidents in CY2002 (unless otherwise stated). The following is a compilation of these reports:

### **BUDDHA PATRON - Jeff Cody**

I accepted the Buddha Cave Patron position on April 1, not long after the March meeting. I took over for Bill Tozer who was serving as interim patron. Since that time during 2002, there were numerous trips to Buddha. According to records provided to me by Bill, along with my records, there were a total of eighteen trips. One trip in early April was to place a SpeLogger, and I know of one trip where a permit was issued and the trip was called off due to the trip leader forgetting a helmet. Records show a total of seventy cavers were involved in these trips.

All trips went without incident, except for one in early October. In this trip there were a total of six cavers. The incident was a fall at the climb-up near the entrance. I have been told a hand line was used but the caver was wearing a pack while attempting the climb. I was told the caver fell a distance of approximately ten feet and landed on his back. He was escorted out of the cave, driven to the top of the hill and taken to the Emergency Room in Bedford. X-Rays were taken and turned up negative. This person was able to drive himself home that same day. I feel that this could have been prevented by passing all packs up the climb instead of wearing a pack while climbing. The pack was heavy due to regular cave gear and vertical gear.

Before issuing a permit, I ask that the leader check to see if the parking spot is wet before allowing cars in. I also remind the leader about proper vertical gear and to be careful at the climb-up. I feel it is also important to ask the trip leaders not to trust any bolts because we do not know their history. Also, a large group was on the property April 13 for Under Earth Day. On this day, surface work was done and four cavers entered the cave.

### **BUDDHA PROPERTY MANAGER - Tom Rea**

During 2002 tree and shrub seedlings were planted around the south, east, and north sides of the property, a fence was started to mark the south property line, and a 4000 square foot parking area was laid out at the entrance gate. A dozen or more discarded rolls of fencing were removed from Chase Pit Cave and other sinkholes on the property. A nature trail past the cave entrances and around the perimeter of the property was laid out and partially mowed. At the first 2003 work session on April 12 the last step of fence construction, stringing the wire, will be completed, more trees will be planted, and addition-

al posts will be set to delimit the boundaries of the parking lot. The parking lot is on the highest part of the property and it appears that no hardening will be necessary. Continuous use during 2002 did not create a problem.

### **SULLIVAN PATRON - Bob Vandeventer**

This report is for the IKC on the activity at Sullivan Cave from March 2002 to March 2003.

It's my pleasure to start out by saying that had another very active and safe year of cave trips to Sullivan. The cave is very popular and I'm sure it is our most visited property at this time. There are several groups that now make a visit to Sullivan cave every year and plan for it well in advance which sure does help me in scheduling. I have been contacted by many people who have been on the IKC web page and want more information or want to see the cave.

More Boy Scout troops have contacted me for trips and I did go on several visits with the Scouts and some were from out of state. I had no problems with the boys and was good to see young people interested in caving with that mix of adventure and education.

I was able to go on several trips this year with first time cavers and others who have been to Sullivan in the past and as always had a great time on each one. One question that is that I do get quite a bit is how many times I have been in the cave. I guess I don't know the answer to that myself but even with several hundred times for sure I never get tired of going there.

The cave is in very good condition with only the items falling out of pockets or official cave duct tape being picked up now and then. The only major repair was to the gate where the safety latch arm broke off. I was glad to get that fixed that gate is very heavy.

The new rock for the driveway and parking area sure was a great improvement. It should help in keeping the ground in good condition.

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

### **SULLIVAN PROPERTY - Keith Dunlap**

During the IKC's fourth full year of ownership, a number of projects were continued, and in some cases, completed.

On April 6th, Everett Pulliam and myself replanted about 150 hardwood seedlings (Chinkapin, Persimmon, and White Oak), replacing trees that had not



survived the previous summer (flagged in the fall of 2001). The persimmons from the 2001 planting had about a 75% mortality rate due to the very dry spring. The replanted trees did very well due to a more favorable spring.

The summer months saw mostly tree maintenance. All of the trees had one spot application of weed control (RoundUp) and approximately half of the trees also received a mowing prior to the weed control (the half that did not have weed control in 2001). Some of the Tulip trees from the 2000 planting are now 8-10 foot tall compared to some Hickorys planted in 2001 which as still only 6 inches tall.

The "camping/clearing" area was mowed three times as was the area by the driveway out by the road.

The other half of the large tree on the north trail fell in the spring. It landed on the gate post, causing the gate to be inoperable. This tree still needs to be cut up.

The vinca treatment done in December of 2000 (approximately half of the infested area) seems to have made a significant reduction without noticeable difference to the other vegetation. Retreatment needs to be done and the other half of the infested area needs to be treated.

The major project for 2002 was the re-hardening of the driveway and parking area. Approximately 103 tons of crushed stone was rough spread by Hanna Trucking (supervised by Bob Vandeventer) and finish graded by Tom Rea, Bob Sergesketter, Keith and Bambi Dunlap.

Several members took advantage of the camping area and firewood over the past year. Several firewood donations were received as well as other donations from those who visited the cave.

There were no major problems or concerns encountered during 2002. The only tasks needing attention are the cutting up of several trees and the construction and installation of the kiosk, which hopefully will be completed by the fall of 2003.

#### **ORANGEVILLE RISE - Steve Lockwood**

The property continues to yield trash due to the large road frontage but is remaining relatively clean between trash pickups. Trash was collected from the property in June 2002, September 2002, December 2002, and March 2003. Every quarterly cleaning of the property yielded a large garbage bag full

of trash or less. The trash consisted of glass bottles, plastic bottles, plastic jugs, signs, plastic bags, golf balls, etc.

During the March 2003 cleanup of the property, the reported geocache at the rise was located. The geocache is located near the small seasonal spring above the rise. This area of the property above the rise pool is receiving more foot traffic then before due to the geocache location.

The property owner to the west of the rise (Mr. Collins) has granted IKC permission to cross his property on May 17, 2003 to remove and build a new fence along the west property line of the rise.

#### **SHILOH PATRON - James Adams**

The system of permitting up to six trips into Shiloh Cave for the general caving community continued in 2002. Each trip is limited to ten participants. Six recreational trips were taken this year into Shiloh Cave.

On April 13 a group from the Western Indiana Grotto visited. On July 20, a group of non-cavers visited from Belmont, Michigan. On September 7, the Cave Patron led the annual Central Indiana Grotto trip.

Two trips were scheduled on October 12, both led by cavers from the St Joseph Valley Grotto. The final recreational trip took place on November 17 when the Eastern Indiana Grotto visited.

A survey trip also took place in October to push through the breakdown around the Church Entrance sinkhole. This passage, called the North Extension, added 285 feet to the mapped passage of the cave. The North Extension continues and another trip will survey additional passage. A draft map was published in the December 2002 Indiana Cave Survey Notebook.

2002 is the last year of a five year lease and a new lease agreement will need to be signed with the landowner in May 2003.

#### **WAYNES PATRON - Tom Willett**

This year has been a rather slow year for Waynes. There was a three month period with no visitors. All told there were 21 trips taken into Waynes cave this past year with a total of 112 visitors. Most of the activity is in the spring of the year with late summer and fall hardly seeing any visitors. I am sad to report that some of the visitors this past win-

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ter left more trash than they took and I have had a report of some new graffiti, even though I have not had a chance to look for myself. One group, who have been to the cave several times left a load of beer bottles in the parking area this spring (I happened to be there the next day). I have contacted them and let them know they are no longer welcome. I picked up the sign and took it home for repair and repainting and it should be back up within the month.

**COON/GROTTO PATRON - Keith Dunlap**

There were no incidents/problems reported to the Patron during CY2002. There were 7 recreational trips to Coon Cave involving 67 cavers. There were 5 recreational trips to Grotto Cave involving 28 cavers.

There were 2 trips into each cave, for scientific/conservation purposes (to remove and install various equipment/service the alarm systems).

An above-ground workday was organized this year on June 1st (but most of the effort was spent at Shaft Cave). We did install a cable "extension" at the Grotto/Shaft pull-off to discourage an ATV that was by-passing the cable. This seem to have worked.

The annual report to the property owner was drafted and mailed on 12/20. I made several "drive-by" checks of the property during the past year.

There were no unauthorized visits recorded in either

cave by the monitoring SpeLoggers during the hibernacula closure period (9/2001 to 4/2002). This is the fifth consecutive period without any violations.

The temperature monitoring project continued in both caves (started the 9th-year deployment on 9/15).

The caves are remaining in good condition and no in-cave clean-ups are planned.

There is a downed tree across the end of Spicer Lane (still within county maintenance). There is no current plan to remove the tree as there is still room to park several vehicles without blocking the neighbor's driveway.

**SHAFT PATRON - Jeff Cody**

This year there were only three known trips to Shaft. In addition to these trips, we visited the entrance area during the June 1 workday. One trip in early February involved members of the Windy City Grotto. In early March, I made my annual trip to inspect the cave for anything out of the ordinary. The pit and the cave beyond the pit appeared to be in good shape with no noticeable trash, outside of some small logs on the bottom of the main pit.

The highlight of the year was the installation of the new fence on November 23. This new fence looks great. The old wire fence was in bad shape. Two Bloomington cavers did the pit during our fence installation. The trail and the parking area for the most part look free of excess trash.

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

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