

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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*grottos with liaison agreements

Cover: Kevin Eve in a Crawford County cave. Photo by Aaron Atz.



QUARTERLY MEETING REMINDER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6th, 10:00 AM

SOUTHPORT, INDIANA

Home of Nick & Carita Noe, 1291 Priority Place

The quarterly meetings are for the elected Board to conduct business and for our members and other interested persons to have an open forum to talk about cave and karst conservation and related topics. Past, present, and future IKC projects are discussed to solicit comments and input from our members and the caving community as a whole. The meetings are informal, and everyone is encouraged to attend and participate. The IKC Board *wants* your input.

Preliminary Agenda Items: Brief recaps of last quarter's activities; Wayne Cave post-acquisition status (fund-raising, appointment of Property Manager); Update of other land acquisition projects; Grotto Liaison Agreement revisions; Spring Mill State Park MOU status, HNF cave inventory proposed changes; and more....

Meeting directions: The Noe's condo complex is 1/2 block east and 1/2 block south of the intersection of Shelby Street and Stop 10 on the southside of Indianapolis. **Note that they have moved to the other end of the development.** Call or e-mail Nick (see contact info on page 2) if you need more specific directions. After the meeting, we will probably patronize a nearby eatery.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

06 DEC = IKC QUARTERLY MEETING (see above)

?? MAR = IKC ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING (date and location TBD)

?? APR = UNDER-EARTHDAY (date and location TBD)

Dumpster nirvana at Carcass Crypt Pit. See page 10 for the complete story on this Eastern Indiana Grotto project.



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

"The luck, she is still running good."

-- Ernest Hemingway, after walking away from a plane crash in Africa.



Once more the IKC members and supporters are coming through. We have gone from a \$76,000 dollar debt resulting from the purchase of Wayne Cave to around \$13,000 in just six months. At this rate we would be

paid off in less than two months! Unfortunately, the last mile is always the hardest, so as an added incentive, Dick Blenz has agreed to match contributions -- more about this on page 6.

I don't want to declare premature victory but I think it's time to begin to recognize some of the organizations and individuals and to take pride in what is shaping up to be another success. Special thanks should go to those who have made large donations, the Central Indiana Grotto, the National Speleological Society, and IKC member Bob Decker. Huge thanks should also go to the Indianapolis Power and Light Company (IPALCO) for their award of a \$10,000 Golden Eagle environmental grant. This is the fourth award we have received from them in the past six years. Thank you IPALCO for supporting land (and cave) conservation in Indiana! Thanks to the five members who made zero-interest, unsecured loans to allow swift action in the purchase of the property. Thanks to Keith Dunlap for driving this pro-

ject and for writing the grant proposals. And finally thanks to the rest of us for donations large and small. A complete list of donors is printed elsewhere in this issue and on our website.

Other IKC things going on include re-vamping the Grotto Liaison Agreement and revitalizing the Hoosier National Forest karst inventory project. Substantial parts of the Liaison Agreement were out of date so it seemed time for a redo. In the process we hope to clear up some issues about what the liaisons can and can't do and to update the section on policies and guidelines. No major system changes are intended.

Regarding the Hoosier National Forest project, productivity at the meetings and fieldwork has fallen off and attendance has slumped as several members have had increased outside demands on their time. In addition, Kelle Reynolds, the Karst Specialist for the HNF and a strong supporter of the project has transferred to Utah in pursuit of career advancement. Rather than let this valuable relationship stagnate we have put together a plan for some changes in how the inventory is done and have met with personnel at the HNF to discuss our proposals. These proposals have been favorably received by those involved and we look forward to implementing them. Details will be available soon.

Again, thanks to everyone for their support in preserving Wayne Cave and bailing us out of a big debt position but please remember that there is still \$13,000 remaining before we can truly declare victory.

Richard Vernier

NEWS BRIEFS...

- At the September IKC quarterly meeting, the Board approved the Management Plan for the Wayne Cave Preserve (this can be viewed on our website: www.ikc.caves.org). The plan calls out several personnel responsible for enabling the policies in the document. The cave stewardship is primarily performed by the Cave Patron, who will remain Tom Willett. The other important position is the Property Manager whose primary responsibility is to watch over the surface resources and carry out the improvements identified in the plan (eg, oversee the installation of the parking area and driveway upgrade, establish and maintain one or two primitive camping spots, occasionally pick up trash along Gardner Rd). This position is not glamorous, but is important to protect our investment, enhance the experience of our visitors, and be a good steward to this natural area. The appointment of the Property Manager



will be made at the December 6th quarterly meeting. If you have an interest in volunteering to be the Property Manager, please contact Dick Vernier prior to that meeting to discuss details. Dick's contact information is on page 2 of this newsletter.

- ❑ If one ever questions the urgency of acquiring cave properties to prevent development, one only has to look as far as our own preserves. At the Buddha Preserve, there are four new modular homes on the original 114-acre tract. Had the IKC not acquired the 37-acre property when we did, it likely would have been sub-divided into three or four additional homesites. At the Sullivan preserve, the tract of land directly to east of our property has been cleared and a new house/modular will be constructed there in the near future. And of course the Wayne property likely would have been purchased and sub-divided into several lots for home sites. As time goes on, rural development will only increase as our road system and commute tolerance facilitates expanded sprawl.
- ❑ On November 8th, sixteen volunteers spent the day at the Buddha Preserve finishing up several tasks that were incomplete from the past workdays. Last year we installed all of the fence posts along our southern property line. This workday we installed and stretched the fence wire. Also we installed the four remaining posts to delineate the parking area. And to correct an installation problem with the kiosk (affectionately dubbed "the leaning kiosk of Buddha", the support posts were dug out, the kiosk jacked level, and concrete poured under the posts to anchor the kiosk in place. Finally, several downed trees on the nature trail were cut and moved. Participants included George Cesnik, Keith Dunlap, Greg Inman, Kriste Lindberg, Everett Pulliam, Tom Rea, Bob Sergesketter, Robert and Tom Sollman, Bob Vandeventer, Dick and Sue Vernier, and Kent, Terry, and Willy Wilson.
- ❑ Several years ago, IKC volunteers installed bat-friendly gates on four abandoned mine openings on the Hoosier National Forest. In recognition of this effort, Kelle Reynolds submitted a nomination to the Forest Service. As a result, the IKC was recently honored with 2003 Forest Service Outstanding Service Award. Kelle presented the award to the Executive Board at the September quarterly meeting. A big thanks for everyone that participated in the HNF mine gate projects.
- ❑ The IKC's website is a valuable source of general information on caves and karst within Indiana as well as much specific information on the caves and properties the IKC own or manage. The site is hosted under the NSS's server and thus has had a rather long URL. Several months ago, the NSS started offering shorter sub-domain names so the IKC website can now be accessed simply by typing in **ikc.caves.org** or **www.ikc.caves.org**. Of course the old URL and your bookmarks will still work as before.
- ❑ Seven new members have joined the IKC in the past quarter. Welcome Gary Roberson (427), Carla Striegel (428), Nate Newkirk (429), Anthony Pope (430), Crystal Jenkins (431), Robert Sollman (432), and Joey Fagan (433). The IKC membership now stands at 192.



WAYNE CAVE PRESERVE	
\$10,000 or more	
IPALCO Golden Eagle	
\$5,000 to \$9,999	
Bob Decker	
Central Indiana Grotto	
National Speleological Society*	
\$1,000 to \$4,999	
Bruce Bowman	
Keith Dunlap	
Eric Higbie	
Kriste Lindberg	
Steve Lockwood	
Tom Rea	
Bob & Phyllis Sergesketter	
Tom Sollman	
Kevin Strunk & Jeanette Holland	
Bruce Trotter*	
Dick & Sue Vernier	
\$250 to \$999	
Dave Black	
Tony & Leslie Cunningham	
Mark Deebel	
Tem Hornaday	
Bill Tozer	
David Weliever	
Bob Zatarski	
Evansville Metro Grotto	
Saint Joseph Vally Grotto	
\$100 to \$249	
David Anderson & Susan O'Shields	Don Peters
John Basset	Everett Pulliam
Barb Capocy	Richard Van Rheenen
Chris Carpenter	Russ Romme
Larry Coker	David Taylor
Bambi Dunlap	Steve Taylor
Scott Fee	Jamie Winner
Jack & Sandra Hissong	Bluespring Caverns Park
Don Ingle	Dayton Underground Grotto
Paul Johnson	Greater Cincinnati Grotto
Don Martin	Northern Indiana Grotto
Dan McDowell	
\$50 to \$99	
Jeff Cody	Lynn & Jane Miller
Jack Dorsey	Andrew & Shavon Peacock
Jaime Fee	Gary Roberson
Dwight Hazen	Robert Roundy
Ken Huffines	Josh Rubinstein
\$5 to \$49	
John Benton	Jon Miller
Jim Braswell	Robbie Miller
Chris Brown	Kevin Morris
Paul Butler	Ernie & Jacqueline Payne
Chris Carpenter	Danny Rice
George Cesnik	Ralph Sawyer
Steve Clark	Kristie Schavey
Jim Crouch	Steve & Diana Schuh
Jack Derry	Ray Sheldon
Mike Dowden	Mark Sparks
Dave Everton	Brandon Stephens
Scott Hammon	John Stigall
Dave Haun	Susan Strickland
Mark Kraus	Kevin Wyatt
Paul Lundberg	Mark Webb
Adam Manship	Kathy Welling
Bill Morrow	Lost River Conservation Association
Robert Masta	Tri-State Grotto
David McGowan	Western Indiana Grotto
Donations/Pledges:	\$43,900
Prior Acquisition Fund:	\$18,662
Total Funds:	\$62,562
Amount remaining:	\$12,906

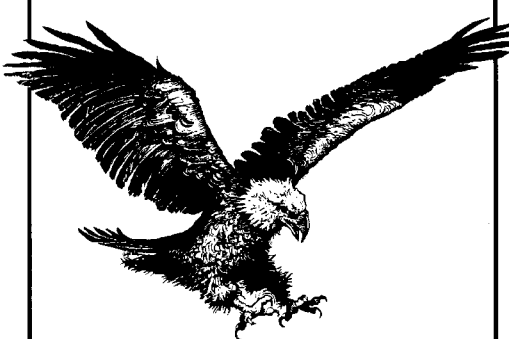
WAYNE CAVE PRESERVE

by Keith Dunlap

Over the past three months, much has happened administratively pertaining to Wayne Cave. In September, the IKC Executive Board approved the preserve's Management Plan. This document, which can be found on the IKC's website, prescribes the management policies of both the cave and the surface resources.

As for fund-raising, the past quarter has been very productive. The IKC received a \$10,000 grant from IPL (see the award plaque below) as well as a \$5,000 grant from the National Speleological Society. The Central Indiana Grotto also stepped up in a big way to donate \$5,000 (basically their entire income from the 2002 and 2003 Cave Capers!). There have also been four more \$1,000 donors and dozens of other donors, each giving what they can. In total, we now have almost 100 donors on our list which have donated or pledged almost \$44,000 in less than six months. Coupling this money with our previous Land Acquisition Fund, brings us to within \$13,000 of paying off the debt of acquiring the 20-acre Wayne tract.

As an added incentive, Dick Blenz of Bloomington has agreed to match dollar-for-dollar all remaining donations. So we hope you will take advantage of this offer and make a first-time donation or add to your previous donation.



IPL
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2003
Golden Eagle Grant Recipient

WAYNE CAVE PRESERVE ACQUISITION
THE INDIANA
KARST CONSERVANCY, INC.

MARENGO CAVE DISCOVERY DAY CELEBRATION

by Don Ingle

On September 13th I had the pleasure of representing the IKC at Marengo Cave at their 120 Year Discovery Day Celebration. This was to be an event of no small magnitude, as it became obvious upon my arrival. I was greeted by none other than Gordon Smith, who was wearing an old tan Marengo Cave tour guide jacket with the name "Willy" over the breast of the jacket (later he was to notify me, laughing, that he was "traveling incognito" that day... Willy, apparently, was the name of a tour guide there at Marengo Cave who had been a fixture there for quite a long time.) He seemed to be pleased that the first IKC contingent had finally come rolling in, and directed us to where we could unload our stuff. Already, many of the exhibitors had arrived and were setting up. Tents and tables were lined up for what seemed to be everywhere in what was normally the parking area, though it was still pretty early.

Assisting me with the display was John Benton, fellow IKC member, and all-around good guy. And lest I forget, my wife Kathy. We were set up in the lobby of the Cave Café, which was closed for the day, which was not a bad thing, as there were many booths scattered about offering a variety of food there. After awhile, the other exhibitors in our area came filtering in, a graduate student of Dr. Bill Pearson, who was there to educate the masses about cave biota and his display; and a young lady whose job was to stand there next to the display of historical Marengo Cave memorabilia and the selection of some of Gordon Smith's personal carbide lamp collection, where I was to see my first Guy's Dropper lamp. I had always heard of that particular kind of lamp, but had never seen one, so I thought that was pretty neat. Myself, I'm an electric caver. My status as such was much more permanently guaranteed one day when I had seen one of my home grotto members caving helmet become enveloped in flames on one of our grotto cave trips to Sloan's Valley Cave after he had made a carbide change. But I have always found them to be interesting before and since then (in more ways than one). We were also set up immediately outside Marengo Cave's endurance crawl, (aptly named "The Crawl") thus guaranteeing us a steady stream of parents to talk to while their children ram-

bled though the innards of their indoor obstacle course.

We had the IKC display board and the slide show set up there, and a wide selection of pamphlets, and I had additionally brought a small television and VCR with a few cave videos to play, partially to educate, but also to pass the time away in the more slower moments of the day (so call me selfish). We had Journey To Amazing Caves, Living On Karst, and Mysterious Life Of Caves there for the viewing pleasure of us all.

Many activities were planned throughout the day, only a few of which I was personally able to see, being as how I was mostly chained there to the IKC display, with a few brief forays outside to take pictures, eat, and indulge my curiosity. But, for the day, the cave had rolled back prices to 1880 levels (50 cents), and additionally, the Dripstone Trail tour had historical figures from Marengo Cave's colorful past interact with the tour guests, thus making the tour, I would imagine, much more entertaining. Somehow, I suspect "Willy" put in an appearance in there somewhere. Also, wagon rides were available, live bands were playing most of the day, and many old time craft displays were in abundance. And, somehow, I managed to escape the lure of The Bat, their tyrolean traverse that they have set up just outside the parking area, which was very, very popular that afternoon. The event reached its' zenith from about 1 PM when there were at least a couple of hundred people there in the parking lot. I finally left around 3 PM to go to work, and John took over caretaker duties from there. A fun time was had by all.



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

by Kriste Lindberg

The holiday season is upon us! Where has the year gone? It has flown by, but it's been a good and productive one. Kind of puts things in perspective when you read over past issues of the *IKC Update*. I've been doing that lately in order to prepare for the upcoming *NSS News* conservation issue, March 2004. That deadline is coming up soon... In the meantime, let's look at some of the most recent activities.

Lately, we've been talking about working on local levels to expand outward. This article will continue on that theme. We've been doing a lot locally, and traveling around a bit to get the word out and network with others involved with similar endeavors in other areas.

The direction we have been going lately is into the realm of karst and land use, mainly planning. We've been working with folks all over the country on this mission, including those in Florida, Virginia, Illinois, out west, and even Washington, DC. Below are just a few examples:

In September, Ray Sheldon of the Indiana Cave Survey and I gave presentations to an organization of professional surveyors near Versailles, Indiana. It helped them see the value of karst and realize that there are people out there to work on it with them. In working together, we will benefit each other by informing one another where sensitive karst features are located and how we can work with them to protect the resources as well as construction sites and their associated buildings and other structures... This has opened the doors for more opportunities on this topic around the state!

In October, I attended the National Cave and Karst Management Symposium in Gainesville, FL, which focused on water quality protection in karst areas. I presented in a session which concentrated on agency partnerships and education. It consisted of the following:

- Joey Fagan, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Natural Heritage Karst Program, "Going for the Gold Award: Girl Scouts, Cavers, and Government; Working Together for Cave and Karst Sourcewater Protection"
- Kriste Lindberg, City of Bloomington and

Indiana Karst Conservancy, "Creative Partnerships for Water Quality Protection in Karst Areas"

- Louise Hose, NCKRI, "National Cave and Karst Research Institute 2003: Working Through Partnerships Towards America's Future"
- Carol Zokaites, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Natural Heritage Karst Program, Project Underground, "Successful Karst Protection Depends on Education".

Other familiar faces were seen at the Symposium including Dr Jerry Lewis, cave biologist, and Kelle Reynolds of the HNF. They presented, "Proactive Cave Management on the Hoosier National Forest".

After the Symposium I made a trip up to Washington, DC to visit with Indiana's 9th District Congressman, Baron Hill, and his staff. Conveniently, he has most of the counties that contain karst! Back in August I gave some of his staff a tour of the Lost River Cave System as part of an outreach effort on the acquisition of the cave by the Hoosier National Forest. Hill's staff in turn, offered me a tour of the Capitol. We had a chance to network a bit on karst while visiting the nation's nerve center. It was quite an experience. Congressman Hill even says he wants to go caving!

Closer to home, I've been moving right along with our collaboration with the Storm Water Environmental Education Team (SWEET), which is a group effort on the subject between various agencies in the area. Brad Muise of Indiana University's Environmental Health and Safety Department, a handful of students, and I have been working on video shorts to be utilized in presentations, websites, etc. They include interviews with people on the street concerning what they know about storm water, footage inside storm sewers as viewed by storm drains, skits on oil changes and what to do with the oil, etc. Good stuff! We will be holding a televised public information meeting on our endeavors on the evening of March 10 in Bloomington. Stay tuned!

As a matter of fact, Brad invited me to do a little demo on cave safety for a safety train-



ing class that he teaches at the university, Instructional Strategies for Safety Training. I even included some video footage of a piece I helped WTIU Public Television with in 1995 concerning a rescue in Bloomington and a piece Bambi Dunlap and I did for WISH-8 at The Children's Museum in Indianapolis on their IMAX presentation of "Journey Into Amazing Caves". This presentation dovetailed nicely with one of the student presentations that was being done that evening on safety in confined spaces. Good timing! Important things to include in such presentations include props for demonstration purposes, related stories to boost interest, the use of multi-media, an interactive format, and of course making eye contact.

Through Hoosier Riverwatch, I was introduced to Sarah Engel of Environmental Services & Consulting (www.es-and-c.com), which is based out of Blacksburg, VA. They are opening an office here in Bloomington. Sarah also teaches biology (specializes in benthic macro invertebrates) at the Bloomington Ivy Tech campus and plans to help with our Hoosier Riverwatch endeavors, most likely at Bloomington Parks and Recreation's Twin Lakes park, where we are working on a stream restoration project with the IDNR. I look forward to working with her more in the future.

Teacher David Christman of Harmony School has been back to monitor water quality using Hoosier Riverwatch methods at Leonard Springs Nature Park. This is his third year on so doing! Thanks to David and his science class for all of their help.

We are getting more detailed information on LSNP from Dr Jerry Lewis. He's been working on a critter study there for about two years. It should be finished in December. We look forward to seeing the results and presentation. Between his work at LSNP, on the HNF, and beyond, he is putting together a rather comprehensive view of cave invertebrates in the state and region.

One of the things he, the coordinators of Hoosier Riverwatch, Sarah Engle, and I have talked about is adding a karst component to Hoosier Riverwatch methods. I'd like to start on that this winter.

Another supporter of ours in this area is Lucille Bertuccio and her Ecological Landscaping class which she is teaching through IU. She asked me to give them a tour of LSNP which focuses on karst, invasive

plants in the area, and the like. They came on a day when it was pouring rain. In so doing, they were treated to an impressive display of high volumes of water flowing from the springs. One could stand just about anywhere and see several springs flowing from various elevations in the basin as most of the leaves have left the trees for the winter. Beautiful.

In order to understand our watersheds better, in November I attended two workshops at the IDNR's Natural Resources Education Center, at Ft Harrison State Park: Healthy Water, Healthy People and Protect Our Watersheds (POW!). Lessons and planning strategies learned in these courses will help with our endeavors.

Speaking of Ft Harrison... in October, Linda Thompson, the Chairman of Bloomington's Environmental Commission, and I attended the Governor's Conference on the Environment. It was a haven for those interested in the environment to network. We even shook the hand of the new Governor! During the day, we attended sessions on Planning with POWER and other planning venues focusing on health benefits of good planning (read decreasing sprawl). While there, we learned that The Nature Conservancy is organizing an inter-organizational effort to bring all of us together as a consolidated lobbying force. More on this later.

As you can see, there is much interest and cross over in the environmental/conservation community... whether it be with classes (school, college), other agencies, and so on. They will serve to help our planning efforts.

Hope you have a happy and safe holiday season!



Carol Zokaites giving a presentation at the National Cave and Karst Management Symposium.

CARCASS CRYPT PIT CLEAN-UP

by Brian Leavell

When the Ohio Valley Region, along with the Eastern Indiana Grotto, decided to attempt a cleanup of Carcass Crypt Pit, no one involved had any real idea of how to get the job done beyond the obvious: just tie the junk to a rope and haul it up. Of course it wasn't quite that simple but one thing was clear, before all that trash could take the nylon highway to garbage nirvana, it would have to be prepared for the trip. Most of the stuff was half buried in natural debris, and the rest was so scattered that just gathering it together would require a lot of effort. Beside that, with numerous large, jagged, rusty, metallic relics of the industrial age protruding from every crack and crevice, the floor was down right dangerous. So, we started at the bottom. How we would get it out could wait.

Three trips were scheduled to dig out, sort, and pile the refuse prior to its removal. These workdays occurred on June 28th, July 26th, and August 23rd. On the first date no one showed but I had a swell time chatting with the owner and searching her property for an elusive cave she recalled, with a wave of her hand, to be "back that way somewhere." The second and third workdays were well attended and most of the trash was excavated, gathered, and placed in easily accessible piles. During all the excavation we kept an eye out for anything that appeared to be historically significant. Since people had been dumping stuff in the pit ever since there have been people in the area, the chances of finding something seemed high. There had also been a bear skeleton discovered in the pit back in 1969 so we took a close look at each bone as well. Alas, nothing of interest was discovered other than curiosities like Halloween masks, numerous shoes, and automobile odds and ends. We did take care to place all glass, broken or not, and other small, sharp objects in buckets for safe removal. Everyone was relieved that we did not find any hazardous waste such as oil or pesticides and the like. A total of twelve volunteers labored for about ten hours in these preparation efforts.

Ok, the trash is ready, now how do we get it out? Just getting the stuff from the bottom to the top was simple enough but moving the loads aside to clear the large sink proved very problematic. Then there was the question of how to bundle the trash. We considered a military-surplus cargo net but when we tried

to find one we discovered they just weren't available. It seemed if a net was usable it was either in Iraq or loading stuff bound for Iraq. Several other nets were investigated but in the end we acquired a safety net made from nylon strapping with grommets in all the right places and deemed it ideal. Next Howies' Harness, provided us with two long three-inch nylon haul straps. A tarp was used to line the net. Then, with the help Bambi Dunlap's sewing skills, the straps were crossed under the net and attached to the corners. This made an excellent tear-drop-shaped bag capable of handling odd-shaped objects. This was all well and good but the final haul out date was approaching and we still didn't quite know how to get the stuff out of the pit.

After much discussion over several rigging and haul systems, EIG member, Joe Carter, came to the rescue. Joe is one of those rare people who is a "jack of all trades" and a "master" of most of them. His proposal was a complicated series of cables, pulleys, ropes, and a electric-powered capstan. Wrapping the rope three times around the capstan's hub provided plenty of lift as well as enabling the load to be slowly lowered if it became snagged.

The final weekend of the project began Friday, September 19th, with installation of the rigging. This took four of us about three hours to accomplish. On Saturday morning volunteers began arriving and by noon we were ready to start. Our system needed a little tweaking but in no time at all we were hoisting loads to the surface where they were deposited on the ground then wheel barrowed to a nearby dumpster. Occasionally the haul net would snag on the pit wall but with direction from below via the radios and Joe's expert handling of the capstan this wasn't too much of a problem. While this was going on, a couple of others began digging post holes for the new fence. Surprisingly they reported encountering very few rocks or tree roots. We had expected the opposite so the easy digging was quite a relief. Around 6 PM we were all ready to call it a day and broke for the evening. Most of the participants opted to camp for the night so we threw together a fine chip-in dinner followed by the telling of tall tales and cave gossip round the campfire.

Sunday morning found us back at work by 10 AM. Encouraged by the eagerness of a few fresh volunteers, we had no trouble getting



NORTH AMERICAN SYMPOSIUM ON BAT RESEARCH

by Patty Ruback

I attended the 33rd North American Symposium on Bat Research (October 8-11) in Lincoln, Nebraska. The gathering was a wonderful opportunity to meet bat researchers from North America and other parts of the world. The presentations and posters covered an array of subjects, from anatomy to zoogeography. It was also pretty cool to be in the same room as Merlin Tuttle (founder, Bat Conservation International).

Because the Indiana Karst Conservancy is actively involved in protecting Indiana bats, I would like to share some issues that were presented.

1) Use of Bat Gates in Protecting Bat Hibernacula: Questions about the effectiveness of bat gates in protecting populations have been addressed. Bat gates are designed to be installed at the entrance of cave openings, preventing people from entering critical cave environments and allowing bats to pass through. However, some recent studies have shown that the current bat gate design may be preventing some bats from entering these gated sites. According to bat biologist Genevieve Spanjer from York University, Ontario, "most improvements in gate design have been based on anecdotal and observational evidence rather than experimental data." When a new gate is installed, the incidence of collisions and circle/fly retreats is high. After the bats learn that the gate is there, the rate of these circle/fly retreats decrease. But, how many bats avoid these caves all together by not coming back?

In Fort Huachuca, Arizona, they have found that low disturbance monitoring, *gate removal* and cave protection have yielded

dramatic increases in population size of *Leptonycteris curasoae* (southern long-nosed bat), *Choeronycteris mexicana* (Mexican long-tongued bat) and *Myotis velifer* (cave myotis). In addition, instead of installing gates at the openings of caves, they erected fences that prevented people from gaining access by road or trail to the caves. The military also suppressed damaging fields of agave plants during their operations.

2) Bats and rabies: As stated on the Center of Disease Control website, "rabies is an acute fatal viral inflammation of the brain." Over the last hundred years, we have seen a shift in rabies detection from domestic pets to wildlife. This is primarily due to required rabies vaccination in our dogs and cats. Rabies has always been in the wildlife populations, but we are more aware of it now. With that said, the majority of people can avoid getting rabies by simply not handling wildlife. And, if you come in contact with an injured or orphaned animal you can either call a wildlife professional to assist or use proper personal protection (ie, thick gloves, a net and a carrier) when handling the animal. For those who work with wildlife, a pre-exposure rabies vaccination is recommended. This vaccination is costly, but necessary for those who are in a position where they may be repeatedly bitten while handling wildlife. Because of the number of negative side-effects associated with this vaccine, it is not recommended for those who are not handling wildlife, such as the average caver. For more information on bats and rabies, please visit www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/rabies/introduction/intro.htm or www.batcon.org

back in the groove. By 2 PM the last of the garbage was out of the pit and most of the fence posts had been set. Once the pit was de-rigged we were all free to work on finishing the fence. There is still a gate to be installed on the fence and the fence itself may need a little tightening but there can be no doubt the project was a success. Over two tons of refuse was removed from the pit and over 200 feet of fence was installed. Although a fair amount of trash is still on the bottom, it is completely buried in a large scree slope. Almost nothing unnatural remains visible.

A huge debt of gratitude goes out to all who volunteered their time and effort: Bill Baus, Joe Carter, Bill Cathy, John LaMar Cole, Donald Conover, Craig Deiner, Bambi and Keith Dunlap, Dave Everton, Joey Fagan, Jamie Fee, Donald Ingle, Robert Jarboe, John Kerr, Brian Leavell, Jim Lewis, Jerry Lewis, Kriste Lindberg, Adam Manship, Anmar Mirza, Landon Parks, David Randall, Tom Reynolds, Eric Schneider, David Short, Mark Sparks, and Guy Wolf.

Thanks also to the organizations and individuals who contributed financial dona-

...continued on page 15

Bat Habitat -- Project to protect winged animals takes flight

By Suzanne Risley/Tribune-Star

MARSHALL, Ind - The trail leading to the abandoned coal mine is steep and littered with natural and man-made stairs, sandstone cliffs and lush greenery.

For those up for the adventure, the trek is worth a little extra sweat to learn about bats and the old Lusk family coal mine on Trail 4 in Parke County's Turkey Run State Park.

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources on Friday officially unveiled the entrance to the mine, complete with three educational panels. The gate was designed to keep humans from entering the mine, which is unstable and dangerous, but still allow bats to gain entrance, said Barbara Cummings, interpretive naturalist for the park.

"Nothing kept people out of that mine. It was an attractive nuisance," she said. Despite numerous efforts to block the entrance over the years, people always found a way into it, she said.

DNR officials believe the mine was used primarily to heat the Lusk family home in the mid-1800s. The surface, or adit, mine follows the coal line until it runs out. The park later used it for about 20-30 years in the early 20th century, Cummings said.

The second state park in Indiana, Turkey Run was established in 1916.

To create a suitable gate that would allow in bats and maintain

the cultural aspect of the mine, DNR officials turned to the Indiana Karst Conservancy. It is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and conservation of karst, which refers to the presence of limestone or other soluble rock, such as the Mansfield sandstone found in Parke County.

The conservancy has helped to build and install similar gates elsewhere in Indiana.

"We had to do all this work on the weekend," said Mark Stacy, project manager and an environmental specialist for DNR's Division of Reclamation. All Karst Conservancy members are volunteers, so most could not work during the week, he said.

About a ton of material was used in the gate, which is constructed of angled-steel slats spaced five and three-fourths inches apart. It's big enough for bats but too small for humans, he said.

The \$1,640 project was funded by taxes that active mining companies pay toward reclamation efforts, Stacy said.

Creating the gate was a challenge in itself, considering the steep terrain surrounding the mine. Volunteers had to haul the heavy, long pieces of steel down a steep hill and across a small stream because vehicles don't have direct access to the mine.

"It was a job," said Bob Vandeventer, an Indiana Karst Conservancy volunteer who worked on the gate. Maneuvering materials

through the dense foliage and over a wooden small, bridge was difficult, he said.

The gate was completed in one weekend in late April 2000, but it took an additional three years before the planned educational displays were ready because of issues with the manufacturer, Stacy said. The displays were recently installed with information about general geology regarding coal formation, the history of coal mining, the history of this mine and the process of building the gate.

Within six months of building the gate, bats began to set up house in the abandoned coal mine.

Three different species of bats have been found in the mine -- northern, little brown, and pipistrelle -- since fall 2000, said John Whitaker, a professor at Indiana State University who has conducted bat surveys at the mine.

Although none of the bats found are considered endangered species, all bats are declining, he said.

"Anytime we can set aside a mine or some place where they can increase is great," he said.

In annual surveys taken since fall 2000, the number of bats discovered at the mine each time has ranged from one to four. Whitaker expects more bats to build their homes inside the mine.

"That is just the perfect outcome for this project," Stacy said.

Reprinted from page 1 of the June 28 issue of the Tribune Star (Terre Haute).

Bob Vandeventer reading one of the interpretive signs on the coal mine bat gate at Turkey Run State Park.



INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY TREASURY REPORT

Income/Expense Statement From July 1, 2003 to September 30, 2003

INCOME:

Dues Apportionment and Residuals	715.00	
Donations - General	270.16	
Donations - Wayne Acquisition Fund	24509.56	
SpeLogger sales	120.00	
Interest	21.61	
		\$25,636.33

EXPENSES:

IKC Update (printing, production, mailing)	319.40	
Stewardship/Conservation	18.05	
Membership/fund-raising expenses	96.28	
Donations/dues (HEC)	150.00	
Business (bank service charges, website)	71.65	
Transfers to/from restricted funds/other adjustments	24537.24	
		(\$25,192.62)

NET OPERATING EXCESS (DEFICIT) THIS PERIOD: \$443.71

Balance Sheet September 30, 2003

ASSETS:

Cash in Checking/Saving Accounts/CDs	40601.25	
Accounts Receivable	11075.00	
Outstanding short-term loans	-34000.00	
Wayne Cave Preserve (20.00 acres)	75000.00	
Sullivan Cave Preserve (28.00 acres)	72000.00	
Buddha Karst Nature Preserve (36.84 acres)	29000.00	
Orangeville Rise Nature Preserve (3.07 acres)	7000.00	
Indian Creek Conservation Easement (valued at \$1/acre)	13.16	
		<u><u>\$200,689.41</u></u>

LIABILITIES & OPERATING EXCESS:

Wayne Cave Acquisition Fund	-21700.92
Deferred Dues Fund (188 members)	2505.00
Stewardship Endowment Fund	10935.68

Previous Operating Excess	25505.94	
Net Excess (Deficit) This Period	443.71	
		25949.65
Current Operating Excess		25949.65
Real estate liquidity		<u>183000.00</u>

Total Liabilities & Operating Excess \$200,689.41

IKC FALL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, September 13, 2003
Cloverdale, Indiana

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

The third quarter meeting of the Indiana Karst Conservancy was called to order at 2:10 PM at the property of Tom Rea, President Dick Vernier presiding. All Directors were represented.

Minutes of the June Special Meeting on Wayne Cave and the Summer Quarterly Meeting were approved as published.

Treasurer Keith Dunlap reported \$37,953 in cash and investments, \$10,800 in receivables including the Golden Eagle grant, \$183,013 in land liquidity and \$34,000 in outstanding loans yielding \$197,766 in net assets. We have 186 paid members and 16 members with delinquent dues.

Kelle Reynolds, Karst Coordinator for the Hoosier National Forest presented an award from the Chief of the Forest Service to recognize the IKC's volunteer efforts in the recent mine gating project. Vernier accepted the award on behalf of the IKC and then presented the award to Dunlap as being the project driver.

Vernier noted that working with the HNF has been a pleasure for the IKC as well. Reynolds is moving out of state having taken a new position with the Forest Service in Utah and Vernier wished her well in her new position.

Kriste Lindberg noted highlights of recent education and outreach work. A more complete report was published in the September *IKC Update*.

Steve Lockwood noted that the geocache at the Orangeville Rise is still there but there appears to be very little activity and the trail has healed. An email note has been sent to the party that originally left the stash noting that their cache violates several "rules" of geocaching and should be relocated. No response has been received.

James Adams reported on the Shiloh Cave lease situation. Five years ago when the five-year lease was

due for renewal, the landowner preferred to keep a verbal lease in effect and did not feel a written lease was necessary. The relationship continues to be good. Adams apologized for not keeping the Board informed at the previous meeting. There was discussion on approaching the landowner again to reaffirm the current situation.

Dunlap reported on the Hancock Property acquisition status.

Two HNF public meetings have been held to discuss alternatives for the forest management plan revision. The IKC was well represented at both meetings. Kelle Reynolds noted that it is hoped that the discussions will yield four proposed alternatives.

September 20 and 21 have been designated for this year's National Speleological Society's Ohio Valley Region/Eastern Indiana Grotto conservation project. This year, trash will be cleared from Carcass Crypt Pit. Several preparation workdays have been held. There are about \$500 in expenses for this project. Dunlap moved to donate \$100 to the Ohio Valley Region for the clean up. Dave Haun seconded. Motion passed, 15-0-0.

At the Buddha property, a workday has been scheduled for November 8. The primary goal is to finish the fence, straighten the information kiosk, and clear trails.

Many issues were addressed concerning the Wayne Cave acquisition. Dunlap spoke regarding the finances of the acquisition. We have raised \$51,000 toward the \$75,000 commitment. Several other grants have been submitted and are pending. Dunlap believes that the external loans will be paid off by the end of the year. He was disappointed that private donations have not been as plentiful as in the past, but hoped to be in the black by the middle of 2004. A \$10,000 Golden Eagle grant has been awarded. The Central Indiana Grotto has donated \$5,000.

Bill Tozer discussed the proposed management plan. The plan is similar to the Sullivan plan. Tozer pointed out some discussion points for the Board to consider:

- The plan uses Grotto Liaisons in addition to the Cave Patron for cavers to gain access to the cave.
- However, people wishing to camp at the property will still need to contact the Property Manager or Cave Patron.
- The property will be enrolled in the Classified Forest Program.
- An appendix has been included which lists "to-do" items.

Several points regarding the proposed plan were discussed that may lead to changes and refinements



in two areas. Haun moved to accept the management plan with minor word changes. Seconded by Bob Vandeventer. Motion approved, 15-0-0.

A Property Manager is needed for the new acquisition. Dunlap suggested that this position be advertised by various means and have a volunteer targeted to fill this position by the December meeting.

The driveway and parking area also need to be hardened and a gate will need to be installed. These may be completed in the spring. The group agreed that a temporary cable be installed with a combination lock to try to cut down unauthorized traffic to the property.

The Board has received a draft of the Spring Mill contract received from a lawyer for the State. This draft is largely a boilerplate agreement that is quite different than expected. Most Board Members disagreed with many of the provisions. Dunlap moved that we respectively decline the document and work towards a Memorandum of Understanding-type agreement that can be accepted. This MOU should address specific projects individually. Seconded by Kathy Welling. Motion passed, 15-0-0. Vernier will correspond with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

Nick Noe, representing the Hoosier Environmental Council, thanked the IKC for their support. Noe also noted a favorable political climate in Monroe County.

Doug Ingle asked that he be appointed as IKC liaison for the Western Indiana Grotto. Bob Sergesket-

ter moved to establish a Grotto Liaison Agreement with the WIG. Seconded by Kathy Welling. Motion passed, 14-0-1. The WIG will need to appoint that liaison.

Vernier offered thanks to the Central Indiana Grotto for their generous \$5,000 donation to the Wayne Cave Property fund.

Dunlap has copies of an Indiana Academy of Science publication featuring a paper on bats he co-authored.

The Winter Quarterly Meeting will be held on Saturday, December 6, 2004 at the home of Nick Noe in Indianapolis beginning at 10:00 AM.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 PM. Many attendees joined the Central Indiana Grotto annual picnic also being held on the Rea property. The traditional dessert contest was held following a pitch-in dinner. The winners were:

3rd Place (with a four way tie)
 Key Lime Pie - Ladonna Rea
 Chocolate Eclair Cake - Jaime Fee
 Spice Cookies - Allison Lemasters
 Banana Cream Pie - Bambi Dunlap

2nd Place
 Persimmon Pudding - Ladonna Rea

1st Place
 Upside-Down Apple Pie - Keith Dunlap

Submitted by James Adams, Secretary

Continued from page 11....

tions to the project: Bloomington Indiana Grotto, Central Indiana Grotto, Eastern Indiana Grotto, Northern Indiana Grotto, Western Indiana Grotto, Indiana Karst Conservancy, Bambi Dunlap, Elizabeth More-

land, Tom Rea, Mark Sparks, and Don Conover on behalf of Ohio grottos.

A special "tip-o-the-hardhat" to Joe Carter, Bambi Dunlap, Rob Jarboe, and Tom Reynolds for the extra time and materials they contributed to the project.

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.

