



IKC UPDATE

A Quarterly Publication of The Indiana Karst Conservancy
December 2006 Number 83

INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY, INC.

PO Box 2401, Indianapolis, IN 46206-2401

<http://www.caves.org/conservancy/ikc>*Affiliated with the National Speleological Society*

The Indiana Karst Conservancy is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation and preservation of caves and karst features in Indiana and other areas of the world. The Conservancy encourages research and promotes education related to karst and its proper, environmentally compatible use.

EXECUTIVE BOARD**President**

Richard Vernier (2007)
(812) 385-5058
rsav1@juno.com

Secretary

Bob Sergesketter (2007)
(812) 482-5517

Treasurer

Keith Dunlap (2007)
(317) 882-5420
Keith.Dunlap@juno.com

Directors

Dave Haun (2009)
(317) 781-1996
DEHcave@onet.net

Don Ingle (2007)
(812) 847-4406
D.Ingle@insightbb.com

Jerry Lewis (2009)
(812) 280-8052
LewisBioConsult@aol.com

Kriste Lindberg (2008)
(812) 339-7210
Lindberg@kiva.net

Steve Lockwood (2007)
(812) 944-8097
SKNALockwood@aol.com

Nick Noe (2007)
(317) 782-3442
NickNoe@msn.com

Bruce Silvers (2009)
(219) 471-9908

Tom Sollman (2009)
(812) 753-4953
Sollman@juno.com

Bill Tozer (2008)
(765) 778-3259
WTozer@aol.com

Bob Vandeventer (2008)
(317) 888-4501
VandeventerBob@netzero.net

Sue Vernier (2008)
(812) 385-5058
rsav1@juno.com

Jamie Winner (2007)
(765) 945-7343
jawaiter@gmail.com

COMMITTEES/CHAIRPERSON**Education/Outreach**

Kriste Lindberg
(see E-Board list)

Web Technologies

Bruce Bowman
ikc@tds.net

Update Editor/Publisher

Keith Dunlap
(see E-Board list)

Hoosier National Forest

Steve Lockwood
(see E-board list)

Rescue Coordinator

Anmar Mirza
(812) 339-1506
AMirza@indiana.edu

Buddha Property

George Cesnik
(812) 339-2143
GeoCesnik@yahoo.com

Orangeville Rise Property

Steve Lockwood
(see E-board list)

Robinson Ladder Property

John Benton
(812) 683-2733
JBenton@fullnet.com

Sullivan Property

Keith Dunlap
(see E-Board list)

Wayne Property

Robert Sollman
(812) 753-4953
SollmanCaver@hotmail.com

Indian Creek CE

Richard Newton
(812) 365-2495
Cedarman@netpointe.com

GROTTOES & LIAISONS**Bloomington Indiana Grotto***

Dave Everton
(812) 824-4380

Central Indiana Grotto*

Keith Dunlap
(see E-Board list)

Dayton Underground Grotto

Mike Hood
(937) 252-2978

Eastern Indiana Grotto

Brian Leavell
(765) 552-7619

Evansville Metro Grotto*

Ernie Payne
(812) 477-7043

Harrison-Crawford Grotto

Dave Black
(812) 951-3886

Near Normal Grotto*

Ralph Sawyer
(309) 822-0109

Northern Indiana Grotto*

Bruce Silvers
(219) 471-9908

St Joseph Valley Grotto*

Mark Kraus
(574) 295-6673

Sub-Urban Chicago Grotto

Gary Gibula
(630) 393-6746

Windy City Grotto

Jack Wood
(773) 728-9773

*grottos with liaison agreements

MANAGED CAVES/PATRONS**Buddha Cave**

Jeff Cody
(317) 888-9898

Coon & Grotto caves

Keith Dunlap
(317) 888-5420
Keith.Dunlap@juno.com

Robinson Ladder Cave

John Benton
(812) 683-2733
JBenton@fullnet.com

Shaft Cave

Jeff Cody
(317) 888-9898

Shiloh Cave

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

Suicide Cave

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

Sullivan Cave

Bob Vandeventer
(see E-Board list)

Wayne's Cave

Dave Everton
(812) 824-4380
DEverton@indiana.edu

Cover: Valley view looking up to Rogers Cave, Owen County.
Digital image by Mark Sparks (2005).



QUARTERLY MEETING REMINDER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2nd, 10 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; Treasurer's report; Education/Outreach report; Preserves topics; 2007 NSS Convention exposure/activities; Cave Biota video; Spring workdays planning; 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. Call or e-mail Nick (see contact info on page 2) if you need more specific directions.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

- 02DEC = IKC QUARTERLY MEETING (see above)
- 23DEC = BUCKNER WORKDAY, Bloomington (see page 5)
- ??FEB = IKC DIRECTOR'S MEETING (date and location TBD)
- ??MAR = IKC ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING (date and location TBD)
- ??APR = INDIANA CAVE SYMPOSIUM (date and location TBD)
- ??APR = BUDDHA TREE PLANTING (date and location TBD)
- ??APR = UNDER-EARTH DAY (date and location TBD)

For more information on the Indiana Karst Conservancy, visit our web site at <http://www.caves.org/conservancy/ikc> or write to our PO box. Membership to the IKC is open to anyone interested in cave and karst conservation. Annual dues are \$15. Please see inside back cover for the membership application form or to make a much appreciated donation.

The *IKC Update*, distributed for free, is published quarterly for members and other interested parties. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep the membership and caving community informed of IKC activities and other news related to cave/karst conservation. Submission of original or reprinted articles for publication is encouraged.

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Congratulations to Carla Striegel and Jamie Winner on their recent nuptials ■■■▶

RAMBLINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT...

The future will be better tomorrow.

-- Dan Quayle



The man in the corner with the guitar sings about crawlways, mud, and rocks. Some of the onlookers grin while others look puzzled. The singer is Paul Ash, father-in-law of Carla Striegel and the occasion is the re-

ception for the marriage of IKC Director Jamie Winner to IKC member Carla.

As you get older, you tend not to get invited to as many weddings so I make the best of it. There are photo ops with an ox, tomahawk throwing behind a log cabin, an ornate box turtle in the O'Bannon Woods Nature Center, lots of good people -- including cavers, music, and even better -- food!

We express our thanks to Carla and Jamie who listed the IKC in their gift registry and offer them congratulations and best wishes for a long and happy marriage!

December is traditionally the time for a summing up of the year and we have had a good one. The major accomplishment was, of course, finishing off paying for the Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve. Again, many thanks to Keith Dunlap for his efforts in the implementation and funding of the project. Education and outreach has been going full steam ahead thanks to Kriste Lindberg -- with much help from Don Ingle and Bob Vandeventer. In addition to presenting programs on karst and karst conservation at various conferences and school groups, Kriste is coordinating the development of a teaching guide to be used with the upcoming Cave Biota video. Property stewardship efforts have included tree planting at Buddha Karst Preserve; driveway improvements at Wayne, Robinson Ladder and Sullivan; efforts to control invasives at Robinson Ladder and Buddha; and completion of the property survey at Robinson Ladder. Also, members Tom Rea and Wayne Tucker made some dandy "personalized" concrete corner posts for Robinson Ladder so all of the boundaries are now clearly and, hopefully, permanently identified.

What's in store for next year? For one thing, planting more trees on our Buddha property. Also we will probably have to do

some work and spend some money to harden the drive up to the barn at Robinson Ladder. While Tom Sollman was able to cut some diversion ditches with his tractor, we expect that the lane will still deteriorate when we have more heavy rains.

The NSS Convention will take place in Crawford County in 2007 and the IKC expects increased traffic at its preserves as a result. This will be a good venue to showcase our properties to the NSS and to the cavers who have supported our good works. We are hopeful that the Cave Biota video will be completed in time to be entered in the Video Salon. Rumor has it that there will be some stiff competition this year; apparently, David Attenborough and the BBC will be submitting an entry. Ah well, too bad for them, we will have Dr Lewis and his psuedoscorpions, springtails, and millipedes and all they have will be annoying base jumpers free-falling into Golondrinas, the usual giant cockroaches, and the boring old Chandelier Ballroom in Lechugilla.

We also expect there to be challenges and opportunities. The political picture has changed as of this election cycle -- primarily at the Federal level anyway. While it is true that Congress has been pretty hostile to conservation issues for the last twelve years and this may now be somewhat improved, I don't expect a major change for the IKC as we work mostly at the state and local level.

The biggest single threat to karst in Indiana remains the "new terrain" I-69 highway proposal and this seems to be a bipartisan pork barrel. To date, there has been no significant proposal to mitigate the consequences of this linear disaster to Indiana's karst region. There has been some "sensitivity" in the micro-scale routing of the corridor, at least with respect to caves with significant populations of Indiana bats, but there has been no consideration given to the impacts of the sprawl and congestion resulting from the introduction of a major international transportation corridor into a rural landscape.

At present, it seems inescapable that the highway will bring with it major increases in ground water contamination resulting from an acceleration of population influx into presently forested and undeveloped areas. Land will have to be cleared and the resulting increase in erosion will transport much greater amounts of sediment into the underground water system. This doesn't just mean that those crawlways will get tighter and muddier; many cave critters simply can't survive if

their clear, clean streams are gummed up and turned into slurry. Then there's the sewage and contaminated runoff. A fancy name for this is "non-point source pollution", but it still smells the same. Lax laws and enforcement are not expected to be fixed to counter the problem.

Direct and immediate things that you will see will include an increase in cave closures. As McMansions and doublewides alike pop up for miles around interchanges, the new owners will not be glad to see you show up in their driveways on weekends. Even if they don't care, their insurance companies will see to it that they change their minds.

While the IKC generally avoids involvement in legislative matters and lawsuits, we do encourage our members to exercise their democratic rights and to write to their State Representatives, newly elected US Congressional Representatives, Senators, Governor, and newspapers, or to support the Hoosier Environmental Council in its current action on the matter.

Concerns about sprawl led the IKC to its current acquisition program and I-69 will make that effort even more critical. I hope someday soon to be able to come to you with another appeal to purchase and protect another cave or significant karst feature -- I don't know which one, but we do keep a wish list. Ideally it would be a property that we

could use Indiana Heritage Trust Fund money to help us with the acquisition as we did with Buddha. Not only does this make fund raising much simpler, it pretty much guarantees that the property and cave will be afforded the additional, lasting, protection of being designated as a State Nature Preserve.

As sprawl accelerates, education will become one of our most important tools. We must reach the future generation and this is what we hope to do with the Cave Biota video that we have been working with the Hoosier National Forest and Ravenswood Media to produce. Kids relate strongly to the audio-video medium and getting it out to them will be a priority. The production of a teaching component will help to get it into the school science curriculum. If we reach the kids, we also reach the parents.

Now I read that there's another "new terrain" toll road that's been proposed. This one will circle Indy to the south and east and link Martinsville and some other towns. Oh well, at least this new road won't directly hurt any caves... uh oh, I just pulled out my yellowed and crinkly copy of the fold-out map from my ancient copy of *Caves of Indiana* -- if the route runs four or five miles due west of Martinsville it will land right on top of Porter Cave! Here we go again.

Richard Vernier

NEWS BRIEFS...

- ❑ The Buckner Cave Graffiti Removal project has switched to a single workday per month and volunteers are still being solicited. Participants have found the project very rewarding with much progress made in the T-Room and Signature Room. The next workday will be Saturday, December 23rd, starting at 9 AM. The IKC would like to encourage our members to support this effort. Camping is available, but please notify Dave Everton of your intentions. Dave can be contacted at DEverton@indiana.edu or 812-824-4380. Visit www.caves.org/grotto/big/rbnc/rbnc.htm learn more about Graffiti Removal Project and the Richard Blenz Nature Conservancy.
- ❑ On November 11th, IKC members Carla Striegel and Jamie Winner were married near Corydon, Indiana. As part of their "registry", they listed donations to the IKC. Kathleen Ash, Amy Drake, and Jane & Don Stafford made donations on their behalf.
- ❑ Congratulations also to Hoosier National Forest's Cindy Basile and Eric Sandeno. They were married on September 23rd at the Eagle Pointe Resort.
- ❑ Donations to the IKC have also been received from George Brutchten, Glenn Lemasters, and Jane & Lynn Miller in memory of Robert Dunlap, father of member Keith Dunlap.
- ❑ Two new members have joined the IKC in the past quarter. Please welcome Shannon Obeendorf (458) and Marlin Heinlein (459). The IKC membership now stands at 179.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

by Kriste Lindberg

If you can't bring them to the cave, bring the cave to them!

As you may recall from the last *IKC Update*, a traveling cave we created for WonderLab has become quite a hit. Therefore, we decided we need one of our own. So, we contacted Black Lumber of Bloomington to see if they would sponsor it. They said, "Yes!" We are thrilled. Construction will begin in December.

Speaking of "traveling" caves... one was created by Bob Vandeventer and Mike & Brenda Rilenge for Outdoor Adventure Day for the Muscular Dystrophy Foundation. It was held at the Wayne Township Fire Department of Marion County and hosted by the three as well as members of Marion County's finest. As a matter of fact, a whole floor of the fire tower was transformed into a maze-like "cave". It offered "formations", "cave critters", projected images of real cave scenes, real dripping water in the background, and other facsimiles of the real thing. The kids were taken through the "cave" as part of an awareness activity. Afterwards, they were given a checklist to mark off what they had seen and received a free t-shirt. As you can imagine, this went over extremely well. We are invited back for next year. I have the feeling this will be an ongoing opportunity for us.

The cavebiota.com project is really taking off as well. We are busy incorporating it into the state standards, "Project" programs such as Project WET (Water Education for Teachers), Project Wild, and of course, Project Underground. As a matter of fact, the steering committee recently met with Mon-

roe County Community School Corporation representatives and a grant writer to discuss the infusion. All are excited at the prospect. We're also applying for an EPA grant for more funding to expand the educational aspect of cavebiota.com. Keep your fingers crossed!

We are also pleased to announce that Bloomington Parks and Recreation has hired two new education assistants -- Sara Beatty and Elizabeth Tompkins -- to help with the increasing workload. You'll likely be seeing and hearing from them soon. We are putting a big push on working with the schools to expose student to karst education.

Other recent education activities have included:

- **Clear Creek Christian School.** We put together a real neat bat program by enlisting Steve Harriss of the HNF and Laura Hohman of Bat World International. Basically, I started the program with an introduction to caves, including cavebiota.com clips on bats and other critters, Steve followed up with a demo on bat boxes, and Laura showed her live Big Brown bat, Luna (see photo). The kids were enthralled! It was really neat to see the lights come on in their eyes and learned more about the bats and actually experienced the presence of one. We plan to do more of these programs in the future.
- **Indiana Master Naturalist Program.** General presentation on karst and land use, including cavebiota.com. It focused on what one can do as an individual to help with conservation efforts.
- **Environmental Education Association of Indiana.** These folks had already seen the general karst and land use presentation so it was time to work with them on cavebiota.com and how they can fit it into what they do. They were even treated to a Project Underground, Cave Critter Creations, where they created their own cave critters. This workshop was very well received. We have formed a little subcommittee of sorts and are keeping in touch along the way...
- **Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society.** General presentation on karst and land use, including cavebiota.com. It focused on plants in karst areas and how



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ROBINSON LADDER CAVE PRESERVE WORKDAY

by Keith Dunlap

On October 14th, a number of volunteers gathered at the IKC's Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve to work on several projects.

The primary task of the day was to better mark the results of our recent boundary survey. The surveyor had installed the four corner "pins" (actually 18-inch long pieces of rebar that extend only a few inches out of the ground -- see arrow in photo) so we wanted to mark these pins before they were lost in the brush. While we could have used metal T-posts, they only have a life span of 25 to 50 years and they too can be lost or destroyed (e.g. mowed over by a neighbor). A more durable method is to use concrete "monuments" which should last at least 100 years. Tom Rea volunteered to make the 5-inch square, by 42-inch concrete posts. He had assistance from Wayne Tucker who made the form and fabricated the "IKC" embossing letters for the posts. The posts are then buried 30-inches in the ground adjacent to the surveyor's pins making the pins easy to re-locate in the future. To add to the visibility, a T-post with a five-foot PCV cover tube was also installed.

From a surveyor's standpoint, only the corner pins are important. However, from a surface management perspective, it's generally good to know where your property lines are at any position between the corners. Since the property is not flat, and line-of-site is obscured by trees, we had our surveyor "unofficial" stake four or five places along each boundary to allow for easier delineation. We marked these points using T-posts protected with the PCV tubes. In total we installed 24 posts, including the corners.



The next task of the day was to remove the newly discovered deer stand. While it looked fairly well constructed, it actually was dismantled with little effort.

Finally, several of the volunteers worked on grapevine eradication, although we ran out of time and this project will have to be continued next year.


Participants included John Benton, Keith Dunlap, Don Ingle, Tom Rea, Wayne Tucker, and Dick & Sue Vernier.

they can help with conservation efforts, including what native plants favor karst areas, tree plantings, buffer zones, and so on, as well as how they can help protect life underground.

- **Second Annual National Cave Conservation Forum.** These folks have already seen many of our other presentations so it was time to shower them with cavebiota.com. This was a great forum, overall.
- **Brown County Elementary School.** We partnered with Carroll Ritter of the

Sycamore Land Trust to do a presentation for the school which included Project Underground's Cave Critter Creations.

On the national level, we plan to take advantage of the NSS 2007 Convention taking place in Indiana next July and put one heck of a push on education! In the meantime, we're continuing to build upon the NSS Partnership Building Forum where we are working with the development community

...continued on page 13 

SULLIVAN CAVE - CLASSIFIED FOREST INSPECTION REPORT

by Keith Dunlap / Justin Schmal

Every five years properties enrolled in the Classified Forest Program are inspected by the DNR District Forester (or designated assistant). The inspection of the Sullivan Cave property was performed in early August and their report promptly forwarded. Excerpts from the report are as follows:

“This tract is well-stocked, with a few areas being overstocked. There are many large yellow poplar, American beech, and oak trees throughout the tract. There are lot of oak and hickory regeneration in the under story. There are a lot of large red oaks in the south edge of the tract. The under story in the south edge is very open. Seedlings planted in the south field are showing stress from deer browse.”

“Species present on the tract include sugar maple, red maple, white oak, chinkapin oak, black oak, red oak, scarlet oak, sassafras, sycamore, white ash, shagbark hickory, bitternut hickory, black cherry, persimmon, blue beech, ironwood, American beech, yellow poplar, black walnut, redbud, dogwood, spicebush, paw paw, and bloodroot.”

“Timber Stand Improvement work has been done in regards to cutting grapevines. There is a small amount of wind damage on the tract. Erosion has been controlled on the northeast corner of the tract by the construction of a path to Sullivan Cave.”

The only recommendation made was to re-post the missing Classified Forests signs on the borders of the property.

GRAPEVINE ERADICATION

by Keith Dunlap / Janet Eger

Over the past six years, the IKC has acquired a number of cave properties. In addition to being good stewards for the caves, we have also put a lot of effort into properly managing the surface resources. This includes improving our forested areas using Timber Stand Improvements as outlined under the Indiana DNR's Classified Forest Program.

One of the simplest improvements that can be undertaken is the eradication of grapevines. Grapevines are the most detrimental plants growing in Indiana woods. These vines compete with trees for sunlight and water, and due to their habit of heading toward the crowns of trees, they add considerable weight to the tree tops. Species such as yellow poplar have brittle tops that cannot tolerate the additional weight of the grapevines, especially during periods of heavy wet snows or high winds.

Grapevines also tend to grow on good sites such as north and east slopes, or in well-drained bottom lands. These sites are also where some of the most valuable timber species grow such as black walnut, white ash, yellow poplar, and sugar maple. Besides the added weight in the crowns of the

trees, the leaves of the grapevines compete for sunlight with the host tree. Sunlight is converted by plants into food, and thus energy for the plant to grow and thrive. When a tree is deprived of this energy, it will grow slower, be more subject to insect and disease attacks, and in severe cases, may actually die.

Deadening grapevines can make immediate improvements in the woods. Vines should be cut within 12 inches of where they emerge from the ground, and if an herbicide is applied, the tops and roots will be killed. Without herbicide, the tops will die, but sprouting may occur.

Grapevines do provide a source of food and nesting material for wildlife. To help balance the needs of the trees and wildlife, grapevines can be left along the edges of the woods. In addition, a few vines can be left in cull trees in the middle of the woods as long as they are not encroaching over into good trees where they will cause damage.

The IKC has pretty much covered the Sullivan property and has started at the Robinson Ladder property. The Wayne and Buddha properties need attention too as time permits.

INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY TREASURY REPORT

Income/Expense Statement From July 1, 2006 to September 30, 2006

INCOME:		
Dues Apportionment and Residuals	683.75	
Donations - General	221.00	
Donations - RLCP / Land Acquisition Fund	964.00	
Interest	883.19	
	883.19	\$2,751.94
EXPENSES:		
IKC Update (printing, production, mailing)	131.21	
Stewardship/Conservation	1448.37	
Education / Outreach	406.61	
Membership services	96.45	
Robinson Ladder boundary survey	2370.00	
Tranfers to/from restricted funds/other adjustments	-1107.54	
	-1107.54	(\$3,345.10)
NET OPERATING EXCESS (DEFICIT) THIS PERIOD:		(\$593.16)

Balance Sheet September 30, 2006

ASSETS:		
Cash in Checking / Saving Accounts / CDs	78336.41	
Wayne Cave Preserve (20.00 acres)	75000.00	
Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve (40.40 acres) ¹	75000.00	
Sullivan Cave Preserve (28.00 acres)	72000.00	
Buddha Karst Nature Preserve (36.84 acres)	29000.00	
Orangeville Rise Nature Preserve (3.01 acres)	7000.00	
Indian Creek Conservation Easement (valued at \$1/acre)	13.16	
	13.16	\$336,349.57
LIABILITIES & OPERATING EXCESS:		
Land Acquisition Restricted Fund	27795.80	
Deferred Dues Restricted Fund (173 members)	2902.50	
Stewardship Endowment Restricted Fund	24697.60	
Previous Operating Excess	23546.83	
Net Excess (Deficit) This Period	(593.16)	
Current Operating Excess (unrestricted funds)	22953.67	
Real estate liquidity (basis value)	258000.00	
	258000.00	
Total Liabilities & Operating Excess		\$336,349.57

NOTES:

1) Value of property increased by \$1,000 to reflect property survey

IKC AUTUMN BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, September 23, 2006 -- Cloverdale, Indiana

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jerry Lewis
 Kriste Lindberg

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 PM at the property of Tom Rea, President Richard Vernier presiding. Kathy Welling was accepted as proxy for Bill Tozer. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as published in the September 2006 *IKC Update*.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Dunlap reported total assets of \$336,584.44. Our land holdings are valued at \$258,013 and we have cash in the various funds totaling \$78,584. A detailed Treasury Report will be published in the *IKC Update*.

Dunlap said that the boundary survey of the Robinson Ladder property has been completed and the cost was \$2,400. The acquisition of the Robinson Ladder property is now complete and the final cost was \$84,000, including the contribution to the Stewardship Fund.

Dunlap said that our cash funds, which are invested in Certificates of Deposit and Money Market accounts, are generating about \$300 a month in interest. This is about \$1,000 more per year than we collect in dues.

Membership now stands at 193. Twenty of those members have not yet renewed and have not responded to reminders and so they will be dropped after the December mailing of the *IKC Update*.

Robinson Ladder Cave Acquisition

As reported above, the boundary survey is complete. John Benton, Property Manager for Robinson Ladder, was not present to give a report. Dunlap reported that he received an e-mail from a guy who does herbicide application offering his services. Vernier thought that it's probably too late in the year for anything other than one more mowing. Dunlap didn't think it was worth mowing any more this year. Winner has been mowing the area around the barn, keeping it nice for camping. Vernier said that he will get with Benton and check on the status

of the restoration.

Dunlap said that he still hasn't figured out the property tax situation. The first year the bill was about \$400 and last year the tax was only \$90 so it's not as urgent that we get the property into Classified Forest status. Vernier said that there is a time frame on the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP), funds so we don't want to delay too long.

There will be a workday at Robinson Ladder on October 14. Dunlap said that the four corners of the property are now marked with steel pins but he would also like to set concrete posts at each corner. This would make it much easier to locate the corner pins in the future. The surveyor placed wooden stakes at locations around the perimeter that should be replaced with metal posts. These posts, while not official, would help in knowing where the boundaries of our property are. About twenty steel fence posts would be needed and this work could be done on the workday. Dunlap said he thinks that Tom Rea and Wayne Tucker are going to make the concrete posts.

Sollman suggested using "T" fence posts and placing a capped white plastic pipe over it for greater visibility. There was some discussion and then Haun moved to spend up to \$250.00 for materials to properly mark the boundary of the Robinson Ladder property, seconded by Welling. The motion passed 13-0-0.

Dunlap said that other projects for the October 14 workday include removing another tree stand that was recently discovered and continuing the cutting of the grapevines in the woods. Anmar Mirza asked about the purpose of the grapevine eradication program. Dunlap said that it is partly to improve timber production. Mirza said that the grapevines provide soft mass and that perhaps complete eradication was not the best practice. It might be a good idea to leave some vines in the non-valuable tree species to provide the soft mass for birds. Dunlap said that he plans on having an article in the next *IKC Update* on grapevine management. He didn't disagree with Mirza that a certain number of grapevines may be desirable, but he thought that since we probably won't get them all anyway, it will work out.

Sollman asked if there are plans to put gravel on the road that goes to the upper field. He said that if we don't do something we're going to lose the road to erosion. Winner said that the road is so steep that it will continue to erode even if we keep putting gravel on it. Dunlap said that a properly placed fabric base could keep the gravel in place. Sollman said that we must decide if we want to keep the road and if we do, we have to do what it takes to keep it up. Winner said that we need access to the upper field. He asked if anyone thought about access from the Clark's Ford Road that runs along a portion of the upper field. Dunlap said that he had. Winner

said that we could probably come in that way in dry weather only. Dunlap thought that we need to solve the problems with the existing road. Sue Vernier said that we need to keep gravel on the road at least until restoration work is done and everyone agreed that the road leads to the best camping area on the property. Mirza asked if we've thought about using pipes or timbers in building water diversions. Dunlap said that they get washed out. Sollman said again that we need to decide as a group if we want to keep the road. Once we decide that, the property manager and anyone else who wants to become involved can work out a plan. Several people said that we need to keep it and Vernier said that he will talk to John Benton, Property Manager, to see if he wants to put a proposal together. Dunlap estimated that it would take \$2,000.00 worth of stone and Vernier said that, based on our experience at the Wayne Cave property, it could take a year or two to do the job right. Sollman said that we can't grade it down any more because the road is already lower than the surrounding land. He agreed to assist Benton if needed. Vernier said that there will surely be increased visitation during the 2007 NSS Convention and we may want to have it in good shape by then if possible.

Noe asked if there were any surprises uncovered during the survey. Dunlap said that some of the existing fencing on the east and west boundaries is several feet off of the true line but we don't plan to make a fuss over it.

Education and Outreach

Vandevanter reported that he and Lindberg attended the National Cave Conservancy Forum. The three-day event is held every other year and this year it was in West Virginia and was very well attended. Vandevanter said that many interesting programs were presented on various topics. One session that he thought was very good was on volunteer values in which they discussed what monetary value could be placed on all of the unpaid hours of work that is spent on conservancy projects. Lindberg presented the Cave Biota program and it was well received.

Vernier noted that Lindberg and Vandevanter had considerable out of pocket expenses to attend this event and that the IKC might want to fund part of their expenses. After a short discussion Haun moved to donate \$150 to offset some of their expenses, seconded by Sue Vernier. The motion passed 12-0, with one abstention.

Vandevanter also said that the IKC received the highest rating of all the cave conservancies in the country. There will be an Education and Outreach report in the *IKC Update*.

Barry Welling said that the West Virginia Cave Conservancy does a lot of cave related trinket selling at the various regional events and they seem to be making a lot of money at it. Vernier asked if anyone was interested in doing anything along those lines to benefit the IKC. There was much discussion about what kinds of IKC promotional items we might sell and everyone seemed to be in favor of

doing something but no action was taken. Kathy Welling said that she has several catalogs of promotional items and she will present some options at the next meeting. She strongly suggested that the IKC should have name tag lanyards for sale at registration at the 2007 NSS Convention. Barry Welling suggested that we not date any promotional material as this limits it's usefulness in the future. Dunlap suggested having IKC sweatshirts for sale at the 2007 Photo Salon. The salon will be held in the Marengo Warehouse complex which is an underground facility that used to be a stone quarry. Haun said that a hot chocolate stand at the Photo Salon would be appreciated. No action was taken.

Cave Biota Video

Dunlap asked when will the video be done? He said that the contract said it would be finished by December 31, 2007. That date is looming and McGowan is still filming. Vernier said that there will be a Hoosier National Forest meeting on September 30 and the video will surely be a topic of discussion on the agenda. We would like to have it ready to be presented as a finished product at the 2007 NSS Convention Video Salon.

I-69

Noe reported that the Hoosier Environmental Council is getting ready to sue the Federal and State governments for having picked the "new terrain" route for I-69 and not fully considering the US-41/I-70 alternative, probably by the end of the month.

HASTI

Noe asked if the IKC wants to get involved with the next Hoosier Association of Science Teachers Incorporated convention, commonly known as the HASTI convention. It will be held at the Indianapolis Convention Center on February 7-9, 2007. It is an annual conference of Indiana science teachers and it usually has 1,500 to 2,000 people attending. They will have a big exhibition hall as well as workshops. To be an exhibitor requires a booth space which costs \$400 but there is tremendous traffic and it is a great opportunity to get our message out to the people who are in daily contact with young people. Noe said that he thinks that this would be a natural venue for the IKC to present our ideas of conservation of karst resources. Included with the booth registration is the opportunity to give a 45 minute presentation at one of the workshop sessions. He thinks that this would be a great outreach for the IKC and he has the time to do it if we are interested.

Vernier wondered if we could work out a co-sponsor arrangement with the HNF in order to split the cost. Noe said that he would bring it up at the meeting on September 30. The deadline for registration has passed, but they are holding a space for us until the end of September when we must let them know if we are in or out. Dunlap moved that we allocate up to \$400 to rent a booth at the HASTI convention, seconded by Welling. The motion passed 13-0-0. Noe will man the booth.

Wayne Cave Preserve

Dunlap reported that the driveway is in good shape



in spite of all the rain and that someone has burned a significant portion of the brush pile.

Buddha Cave Preserve

Dunlap reported that 500 trees were planted in the past year and that Property Manager Cesnik would like to plant 500 more next year. The trees need to be ordered by October 17 in order to get in on the first round of the lottery so Dunlap moved to allocate up to \$250.00 for the purchase of 500 trees from the state nursery for the Buddha property. Haun seconded the motion and it passed 13-0-0.

Dunlap also reported that Cesnik treated the multi-flora rose plants at Buddha sometime during the summer but the treatment didn't kill them, only stunted their growth. Another treatment next summer may kill them or maybe a stronger dose of herbicide will take care of them. The trees that were planted last year are doing well. Only a few were chewed off by deer.

Sullivan Cave Preserve

Dunlap reported that the outhouse is still on the Haun and Dunlap action list.

The camping area leveling project is still on hold. Much drier conditions are needed before work can proceed on that project.

Dunlap said that some kind of broadleaf is taking over the grassy area in the clearing. It needs to be identified and treated. Mirza said that he will stop by the property and take a look at it on his way home today. Haun made a motion that we allocate up to \$100 to take appropriate action to eradicate the encroaching broadleaf, once it is identified. The motion was seconded by Dunlap and passed 13-0-0.

Orangeville Rise

Lockwood and Dunlap will repair the plaque and re-attach it to the monument stone.

BCI Project at Wyandotte

Dunlap said that Rich Peine of Peine Engineering in Indianapolis contacted BCI expressing interest in doing a bat project. BCI suggested doing a temperature and wind velocity monitoring study in Wyandotte Cave. In late July, Dunlap was invited to a meeting with Merlin Tuttle and Jim Kennedy of BCI and Rich Peine at which Dunlap presented his ideas about the project and what he would like to see done. Dunlap gave an explanation of the monitoring system that was placed in the cave over the course of several work days in late summer. Terry Clark and several other IKC members volunteered their time to work on this project. Peine Engineering is donating material and services at least for the initial system.

Sollman asked who will have access to the collected data. Dunlap said that anyone with an interest in it will be able to have access.

Board Member Vandevanter had to leave at this time.

Beck's Mill

Ingle said that he has nothing to report other than he is still trying to get on the e-mail list of the organization that wants to restore the mill. He is going to attempt to contact them again to get on their list so that he will be notified of meetings.

RBNC / Buckner Cave

Anmar Mirza presented an update on the restoration activities at the Richard Blenz Nature Conservancy. The sandblasting has reached the Signature Room area. Particular attention is being paid to preserve historic signatures. Vernier asked if they have been able to identify any of the really old signatures. Mirza said that they have been able to identify many with the aid of old photos. He said that all of the 1840 signatures have been identified. They are now preparing to build scaffolding to get to the upper areas and ceiling. A photo album was passed around which showed the progress of the restoration of Buckner Cave.

Mirza said that Dick Blenz has been talking to the NSS about gifting the property to the NSS rather than leaving it to the NSS in his will. The NSS Board of Governors will be discussing this at a future meeting.

He said that they usually get two or three requests for visitation per week. This is less than what was going on before the RBNC took over management of the property.

Patty Cummings said that she would like to see some IKC members at the workdays. There have been a lot of changes for the better at the RBNC and they would like us check it out. They are getting a lot of help from Indiana University students as well as students from other schools, hiking clubs, and church groups. A lot of these people need the proper conservation message and the IKC could provide that, both in person and by having information at the RBNC kiosk. Vernier asked if the Bloomington Grotto and the Central Indiana Grotto have information at the kiosk. Cummings said that they have meeting information posted. She said that they are getting 15 to 20 people per workday showing up. The main job right now is getting lumber back into the cave to build the scaffolding.

Mirza said that the resurvey project has finished surveying the loop passage of the circle route and it is a little over 2,400 feet. The cave is now over two miles long. He highly recommends a trip to the cave for anyone who hasn't been to Buckner for a few years. The above ground area is also much improved.

Cummings reiterated that volunteer help is always needed and appreciated. The dates of the workdays are listed in various publications and work begins at 9:00 AM.

Items From the Floor

Ingle asked if anyone had any information about a web site advertising the location of American Bottoms Cave. He said that he had heard that there

had been some discussion from Dave Everton about contacting the landowner to see if they knew anything about it. No one had any additional information on that matter but Barry Welling said that at caves.com there is a link to an Indiana Caving page that has photographic trips through several Indiana caves. Cave locations are not given nor was there any information listed about who took the photos or who actually runs the website.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Saturday, December 2, 2006, at Nick Noe's home in Indianapolis. The meeting will begin at 10:00 AM, Eastern Standard Time.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bob Sergesketter, Secretary

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for win/wins, update websites, and move forward with plans.

Other upcoming events in the near future include two Project Underground activities (Cave Critter Creations and Going Batty) offered through Bloomington Parks and Recreation, a trip to Marengo Cave offered through Bloomington Parks and Recreation's Adult Community Center, and a trip to Bloomington Parks and Recreation's Leonard Springs Nature Park for MCCSC 6th graders.

Special thanks this Fall go to Sara Beaty, Tim Hanson, Steve Harriss, Laura Hohman, Black Lumber, Mike and Brenda Rillenge, Carroll Ritter, Sycamore Land Trust, Elizabeth Tompkins, and Kim Williams.



Participants go "caving" during the Muscular Dystrophy Foundation's Outdoor Adventure Day.

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 _____

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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.

