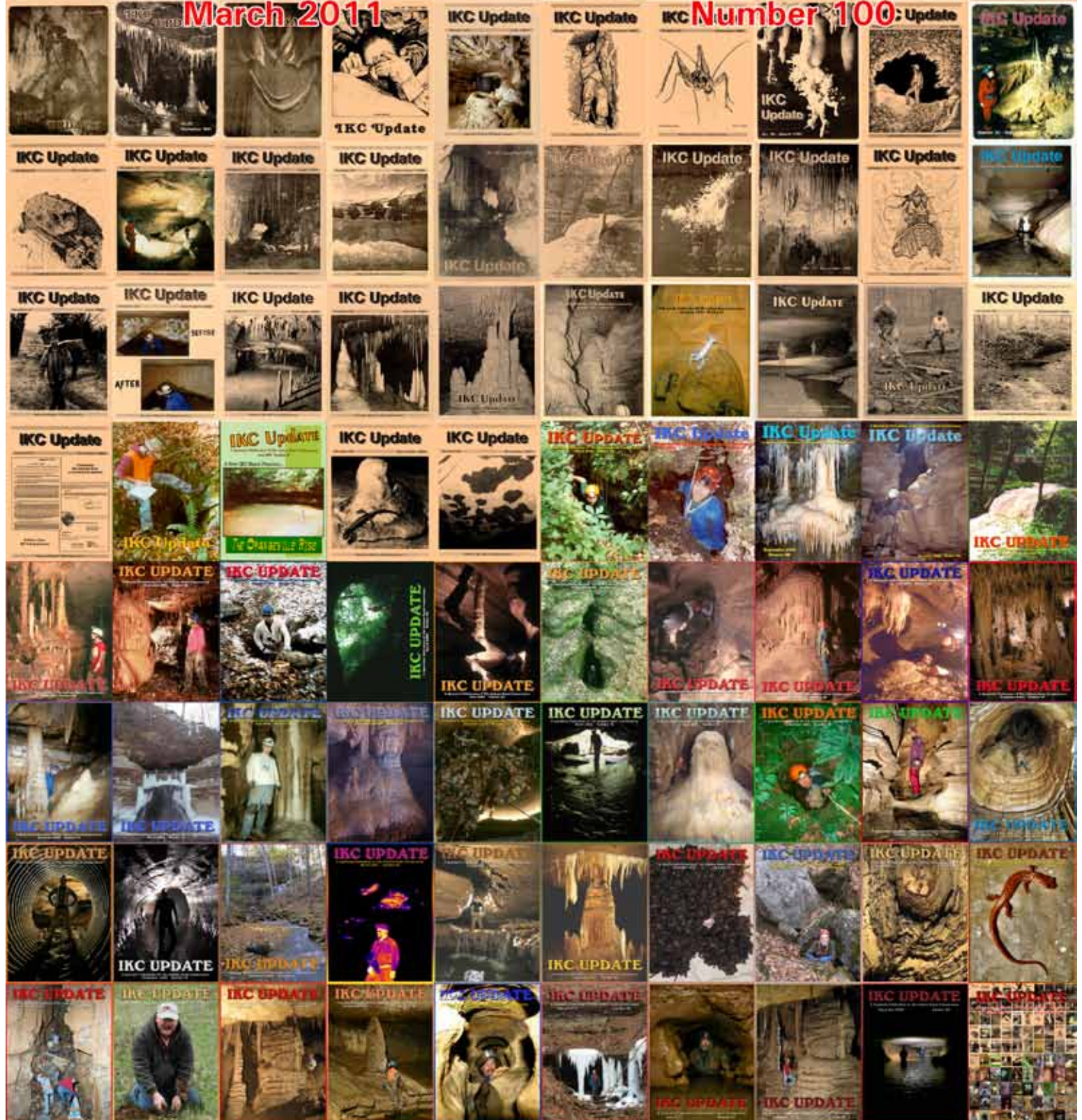


IKC UPDATE

A Quarterly Publication of the Indiana Karst Conservancy

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Number 100 Update



INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY, INC

PO Box 2401, Indianapolis, IN 46206-2401

ikc.caves.org

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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Cover: The obligatory mosaic of the IKC's first 100 newsletter covers (April 1986 to March 2011). Compilation by Keith Dunlap.



ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING REMINDER
SATURDAY, MARCH 12th, 10:00 AM EDT
GREENWOOD, INDIANA
GREENWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Annual Business meeting is for the purpose of Board elections. Annual reports from the IKC Cave Patrons and Property Managers are also presented. And as always, the meeting is for members and other interested persons to have an open forum for talking about cave and karst conservation and related topics. Past, present, and future IKC projects are discussed to solicit comments and input from our members and the caving community as a whole. The meeting is informal, and everyone is encouraged to attend and participate. The IKC Board wants your input.

Preliminary Agenda Items: Elections; Cave Patrons/Property Managers annual reports; Upcoming workdays at our preserves; Indiana Cave Symposium; White-nose Syndrome update/IKC bat cave access policy for 2011; Financial reports; Land acquisition activities; I-69 Conservation Easement forest mitigation status; and more....

Meeting directions: See page 15 (inside back cover) for map. *Note this is at the Greenwood Public Library in Old Town Greenwood, not at the White River Public Library where the meeting has been the last few years.*

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Mar 12 – IKC Quarterly meeting (see above)

Mar ?? – Tree Pruning Sullivan Cave Property (see page 5)

Apr 30 – Indiana Cave Symposium (see page 8)

May 14 – Take Pride in America volunteer day on the Hoosier NF

May ?? – Weed Control Buddha Karst Preserve (see page 5)

Jun ?? – IKC Quarterly Board meeting (date & location to be determined)

For more information on the Indiana Karst Conservancy, visit our website at ikc.caves.org or write to our PO box. Membership to the IKC is open to anyone or any organization interested in supporting cave and karst conservation. Annual dues are \$15. Please see inside the back cover for a membership application form or to make a much-appreciated donation. Donations can also be made by credit card using the donation button located on our website's home page.

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...

This month marks a significant milestone for the IKC... the 25th year anniversary of our founding. It is an honor and a privilege to be at the helm on this auspicious occasion and I want to take this opportunity to chat a little about where we are, and coming attractions.

The IKC was founded in 1986 by a small group of people with a vision for making a difference in the conservation of caves and karst in Indiana. If you look at the IKC Articles of Incorporation you will find the names of five people: William Wilson, Keith Dunlap, Cynthia Riley, David Haun, and Thomas Rea. Five people with a vision, starting from scratch. The first land acquisition was made in 1998 with the purchase of Sullivan Cave, one of Indiana's premier caves with almost 10 miles of surveyed passages. If I had to choose, I might consider Sullivan to be the IKC's flagship cave. It was our first acquisition, remains our most extensive cave, and is a treasure of biodiversity. Sullivan Cave is a paradigm of IKC cave management. The cave has been known since the 19th century, and parts of it had suffered the abuses of unenlightened visitors. Traces of graffiti are still visible in parts of the Backbreaker passage despite restoration work that has been conducted. Today, both the property and the cave are gated, and visitation is carefully regulated. An IKC Cave Patron maintains a mindful eye on the cave, which is our most-visited site. In a typical year several hundred persons will visit Sullivan, many of them on their first cave trip, frequently led by the Patron or another IKC member. The cave is used as a hands-on workshop for cave and karst education. Likewise a Property Manager oversees the above-ground activities keeping the camping area mowed, the reforestation efforts progressing, and invasives in check.

After Sullivan, other properties came along. In 1999, we received the tract containing the second largest spring in Indiana, the Orangeville Rise, from The Nature Conservancy (TNC). The following year we accepted ownership of the con-

servation easement on the Sinks of Indian Creek in Harrison County (again from TNC). In 2001, with the assistance of the Indiana Natural Heritage Trust, Buddha Cave was purchased and became the Buddha Karst Preserve, a dedicated state nature preserve (as is the Orangeville Rise). Next, Wayne Cave (the second longest cave in Monroe County) was acquired in 2003. Finally, Robinson Ladder Cave was acquired in 2005 and through the generosity of TNC, this preserve was substantially increased in size last year. Each of these properties is a jewel in their own ways. All are

inhabited by cave fauna endemic to Indiana, and most have species that are known only from within the bounds of the individual preserves. For example, Buddha and Wayne caves are each inhabited by species of cave beetles known only from those individual caves, and nowhere else on earth.

It's easy to appreciate our preserves, which are tangible, but the IKC is a lot more than that... it is a grassroots network of people working together toward conservation goals. A great deal of effort is put forth constantly to get the karst conservation message "out there". Under the leadership of Don Ingle, our Education Coordinator, the IKC does presentations and disseminates information at functions like the Hoosier Association

for Science Teachers Inc. (HASTI) annual conference or the annual Indiana State University Bat Festival. Don and his minions on our karst Education Committee do presentations at schools and organizations statewide.

You are currently reading another example of our outreach... the *IKC Update*. It is no small feat to publish this quarterly newsletter that functions to keep the membership and other interested parties informed on the organizations activities. The *Update* is now being archived on the IKC website (ikc.caves.org) and represents excellent documentation of the history, events, and accomplishments of the organization. [Editor's note: I am working to eventually have all back issues of the newsletter



available electronically.]

In the field the IKC has a network of volunteers (Cave Patrons, Property Managers, and Grotto Liasons) who donate their time to arrange trips, lead groups through the caves, do face-to-face karst education, along with trail maintenance, keeping the grass mowed, and all the other mundane chores and tasks necessary to properly manage our properties and keep the organization functioning.

Over the course of time and through a great deal of work by many IKC members, I believe that the organization has earned the respect of other agencies with which we have formed partnerships of various sorts. Respect is not something that happens overnight, nor does it just pop out of thin air. When I became president of the IKC a couple of years ago, I took the reins from a chain of former presidents and their boards who had worked very hard to get us to where we were. It is upon that foundation that we are able to build, as evidenced by TNC's recognition of our stewardship. Last year TNC presented the IKC with acreage to nearly double the Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve worth approximately \$90,000. Take a moment to reflect on the magnitude of how far the IKC has

come...

The work continues. In the past month I met in Bedford with Melany Glossa, the new Forest Supervisor at the Hoosier National Forest, and Steve Harriss, the Coordinator at the HNF. Last week I was a speaker for the annual staff enclave of the IDNR – Division of Nature Preserves in Indianapolis. A few days later I attended the kick-off meeting for the Lost River Watershed Project along with, among other persons, three of our IKC Board members. That's how networking is done, partnerships formed, relationships nurtured, and conservation accomplished.

The adventure continues. There are tens of thousands of children in Indiana who are mostly blank slates in respect to what they know about caves, karst, and life underground. There are more education opportunities awaiting us than anyone could imagine. There are caves to acquire, karst to conserve, and biotic communities to safeguard. On our preserves there are exotic plants to spray, seedlings and saplings to nurture, and prairies to restore. The opportunities abound... come be a part of it as we start the next 25 years.

Jerry Lewis

NEWS BRIEFS...

- ❑ We have not scheduled an Under-Earth Day this year, but we do have several stewardship projects to accomplish during the next few months. Before the end of March, we'd like to work on pruning some of the larger trees planted 10 years ago at the Sullivan Cave Preserve. Pruning while they are still dormant is preferred, but not critical. Pruning them gets rid of multiple trunks and lower limbs so they are easier to maintain. Later in the spring (late May and early June) at the Buddha Karst Nature Preserve we have about 15 acres of weed treatment to do around the trees planted there in 2009 and 2010. Because this spraying is labor intensive, we likely will have to contract some of this work out. Contact Keith Dunlap (Keith.Dunlap@juno.com) if you are interested in volunteering.
- ❑ The IKC has not made any progress on the negotiations with the State on the offer to place a mitigation conservation easement on the Wayne Preserve, but other cave properties are progressing. The owner of Eller Cave accepted an agreement and contacted the IKC to see if we were interested in buying his restricted property. Unfortunately, the easement clearly includes language that the Mitigation Party (USFWS) has complete authority over cave access so there is little incentive for the IKC to invest in and acquire this property. The owners of Coon/Grotto/Shaft caves and the owner of Salamander Cave are also contemplating easements. There are likely other cave owners who have been offered easements.
- ❑ The IKC recently learned that long time supporter/member and former Hoosier National Forest Karst Coordinator, Cindy Sandeno, was named as the new National Cave and Karst Coordinator within the Forest Service, replacing Jerry Trout who retired at the end of 2010. Cindy indicated this is a "part-time" position and she will continue her duties with the Monongahela National Forest. Congratulations? to her with these new responsibilities.

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SULLIVAN CAVE HAS A NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

by Anthony Owens

This is my first year officially taking an active role in managing Sullivan Cave for the IKC, having been appointed the Cave Patron in December. However, I have a long history with the cave and my grandfather, Willie Owens, owned and operated the cave and adjacent campground for many years. I was five years old the first time I ran through the Back Breaker, and I think there is a chance I would have beat Elza Marvin's record had it not been for my parents slowing me down. I spent a lot of my childhood on the property just above the cave and can remember many afternoons spent playing around the entrance. As a small child that was one of the best places to go hang out until those "mean cavers" put a locked gate on the cave. I'm a little older now and realize those "mean cavers" might have saved my life or, at the very least, a lot of search parties for me inside the cave. Now that I'm a little older and hopefully a little wiser, I've actually been entrusted with helping to manage the cave.

Toward the end of 2010, Bob Vandeventer asked if I would take over as Cave Patron for Sullivan Cave. I was honored that he would ask, and the Board accepted me. Bob has been active with Sullivan for as long as I can remember (being one



of those "mean cavers"), and I'm sure he will continue to remain active in leading trips.

I have set up an easy to remember e-mail address (SullivanCave@gmail.com) for inquiries about arranging access or other questions. I am also experimenting with a shared gmail scheduling calendar that may reduce trip, parking, and camping conflicts for the Grotto Liaisons.

A DAY SPENT INSIDE SULLIVAN CAVE

June 4, 2011

My wife Carrie and I are currently working with other IKC members to host three or four scheduled trips a year into Sullivan. Destinations within the cave will likely rotate, but will always be appropriate for novice cavers. This would be a great opportunity for us to responsibly expand access to the cave and cater to smaller groups or individuals who have not been able to visit the cave because of minimum group requirements or lack of trip leaders. There will be a section on the IKC website about these trip, and we encourage IKC members to participate and invite people who would be interested in attending.

Prior to the trip, we plan on having a basic "class" on caving responsibly, the proper way to decon your gear before and after a trip, and a little information about WNS.

If you would like to assist in leading one of these trips, teaching a class, or if you have suggestions, please e-mail me (SullivanCave@gmail.com). The first trip will be Saturday June 4th 2011.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

by Don Ingle

The time is upon us once again, dear friends. Time to go into the dungeon to dust off the inflatable cave once again. Ignoring the cries both the deranged and the damned, I go deeper into the bowels of the crumbling edifice known as Castle Ingle and slowly, painstakingly, enter the darkened final chamber where the Knights Templar of the Education/Outreach Committee keeps its infamous Barefoot Cave. Lighting the wall sconce to my right with flint and steel, I set the chamber alight, and see the brooding shadows vanish instantly into the gloom revealing the bulk of the cave itself. Containers of varying sizes and shapes surround it, and it is in these I begin my search, knowing that, if I am to represent the IKC once again, I must locate our proud banner so that we may fly our colors high for king and country. Slowly a sense of unease builds within me as I fail to locate the banner, and my dread search then intensifies, becoming more frantic and desperate with each passing second....

And I never did locate that stupid IKC banner, either. That would come later, afterwards, when Bob Vandeventer would dive into his own personal dungeon to find it after the fact. In a long unmarked mailing tube. Hallelujah. We are delivered.

Hello, Don Ingle here once again for the IKC Education/Outreach quarterly report. There is only one event to report this time around. The annual HASTI conference signals the beginning for us of a new year of activity. A sort of halfway point in our annual long winters nap of inactivity. Though locating all the materials to put forth a good karst education show isn't nearly as melodramatic as stated above, rediscovering where you put things you need to do it three months ago and more importantly, who might have now taken possession of them is sometimes problematic. Usually it's the formations. But not this time. Kriste had those.

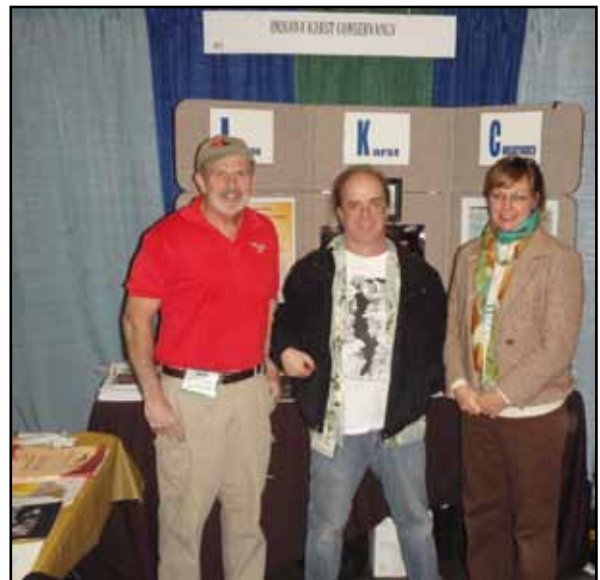
The HASTI Conference (The Hoosier Association of Science Teachers, Inc.) comes every year at the beginning of February at the Indianapolis Convention Center downtown in the heart of the concrete jungle. This year, it happened to be on February 9th, 10th and 11th. The first day for the exhibitors is merely a setup day, but the teachers have a great number of conferences and presentations on a myriad of subjects they can attend all day. But we didn't do any of those. Wasn't what we were there for, you see. But Bob and I did

amuse ourselves in part of that time by setting up the booth and getting ready for the big day that was to come on Thursday. With two people working, this didn't take long, and by 1 PM or so we had pretty much done all the damage we could do, and he went off to go tend to other things and I went to go find a reasonable inexpensive motel.

Thursday is when HASTI comes to life. The days activities are spread out over a longer period of time, it is the first day the exhibit hall is open, and there is a social that concludes the day where free food is provided for all who attend on serving trays by smiling caterers who bustle about showing their wares. For those who could not wait until 5 PM to eat, they were kind enough to open a concession stand this year. The booths remain open until they shut it all down for the day at 6:30. Or until the food runs out, whichever comes last.

And best of all, this year, we got permission to set up the inflatable cave. Getting permission to use electricity to run the box fans that keep it all inflated was a different matter entirely. Going into it, we did not yet have that but we brought all the needed materials anyway, hoping for good fortune. You have to set that up with a different contractor that covers the electrical needs for each individual exhibitor. And the fees they want for said services made your friend and humble narrator rather horrified and awestruck. Uh-huh. *I don't think so.* Since I am a cheapskate at heart, I went into this with two portable power sources and an inverter, and hoped for the best. I figured

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2011 INDIANA CAVE SYMPOSIUM PREVIEW

by Dave Everton

The 19th annual Indiana Cave Symposium, co-sponsored by the Indiana Karst Conservancy and Indiana Cave Survey, will be held on Saturday, April 30, in the Community Building at the Lawrence County Fairgrounds just west of Bedford on US50. The customary free cookout (burgers, brats, and other assorted meats and non-meat offerings) and pitch-in side dishes (please bring a cover dish or dessert to share) will start at 5 PM EDT. Presentations will begin at 7 PM. The tentative presentation titles and presenters (not in any particular order) include:

- Harrison County Cave Project – Jerry Lewis/Salisa Lewis/Kevin Smith
- Permit Caving in a WNS World – Todd Webb
- Get Down: Connecting with Our Underground Resources – Kriste Lindberg/Bob Vandeventer
- Happy 25th Anniversary, ICS – Randy Jackson
- Lucas Project Part One – Chris Schotter
- The IKC at 25 years, A Look Back & Forward - Jerry Lewis/Keith Dunlap
- The Indiana Cave Connection – Dave Haun
- The 2011 Indiana Bat “Census” - Keith Dunlap
- Binkley and Blowing Hole Caves Update – Dave Everton

For more information about the Symposium, contact Dave Everton (deverton@indiana.edu or evening phone 812-824-4380) or visit the Indiana Cave Survey website (www.caves.org/survey/ics).

▶▶ *Continued from page 7...*

we might even get a couple of hours out of the power source (if we were lucky) allocated for the inflatable cave before it would run out of juice, and planned to fire it up later on during the busier part of the day. Charles Flack, the exhibitors' contact person, friend and all-around good guy dropped by early on to ask if we had sorted our power needs out for the cave. When I told him of our plans, he hurried off to see what he could do about a more permanent solution and came back a half an hour later with very good news indeed. He told us that the *Powers That Be* consented to allow us to tap into a neighboring series of booths and after a union electrical man came out to give us an extension cord (I already had two of these, but *they* have to be the ones to provide one and then plug it in), we soon had it up and running for the duration of the conference. Thanks to the Indiana Geological Survey for allowing us to tap into the grid. It was much appreciated. And kudos to Charles Flack also for being there for us, as well.

Having good weather on our side this year, as opposed to last year's event, when a blizzard shut us down early Friday and even scared a third of the peo-

ple into leaving early on Thursday, the attendance was way up over 2010. Interest in our booth this year was dramatically better over last year too, and we kept quite busy. The recent news release of WNS being discovered in an IDNR cave provided us with a good many of the questions we were posed over the course of the day and we did our best to answer all questions, and directed those with more detailed inquiries to the appropriate organizations. I'd even had the opportunity to demonstrate the karst ground water model over and over again for an appreciative audience until my arm grew quite tired from working the hand pump used to siphon the colored water out of the unit. This year's new featured video on display on the laptop was *Mammoth Cave: A Way To Wonder*, an excellent video put out by public station WKYU, though the old standby *Caves: Life Beneath The Forest* was featured prominently as well. It never hurts to have a little eye candy on hand to draw in the passersby. Whatever works.

Speaking of which, the lovely and talented Kriste Lindberg was also on hand for us to do a presentation called “Connecting Citizens With Projects For Advanced Storm Water Quality” and

Continued on page 9 ▶▶

WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME CONFIRMED IN INDIANA

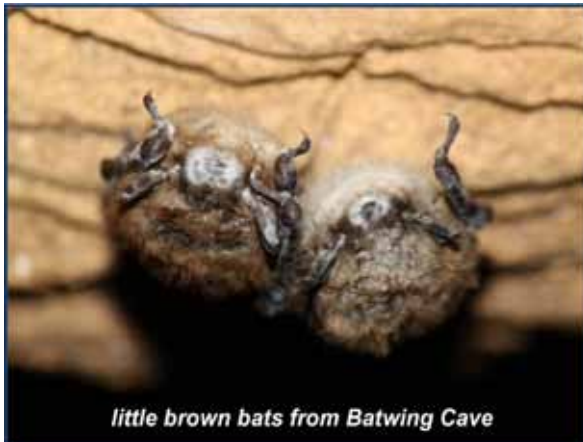
by Keith Dunlap (with details provided by Scott Johnson)

As most of our readership probably already knows, the DNR posted a press release on February 1st indicating that the fungus associated with White-nose Syndrome, *Geomyces destructans*, was found in Endless Cave in Washington County. Subsequent tests were positive for the fungus in Batwing Cave, Wyandotte Cave (both in Crawford County), and Coon Cave (Monroe County). The existence of the fungus classifies the caves as “suspect”. WNS is “confirmed” when the fungus is found to invade the wing membranes of suspect bats. Thus far, only the bat recovered from Endless has been “confirmed”, although there are other indications that WNS is here and impacting our hibernacula. Most telling were odd behavior of bats at Wyandotte roosting outside the cave, a characteristic symptom observed out east.

Because of the likelihood that WNS would show up this year, the planned biennial Indiana bat census was drastically changed. Rather than the typical 25-

30 caves visited, the scope was originally reduced to just ten caves, although the selected caves contain 98 percent of the population. The survey methods were also changed to rely considerably more on photographing clusters (to be post-processed later) rather than measuring them in the cave. This methodology is more accurate and reduces the time in the caves which should decrease disturbance, critical if the bats have already been compromised by WNS. Additionally, strict decontamination procedures were implemented to assure the fungus was not transported between caves by the personnel conducting the surveys. Of the ten planned caves, all but Wyandotte were visited. It was decided to not enter Wyandotte to avoid inducing any further stress on the likely-compromised colony.

The process of counting the bats via photographs is very tedious and thus it will be months before the population information will be available (compared to days using prior methods).



little brown bats from Batwing Cave



Photo credits: DNR & ESI

►► *Continued from page 8...*

Slide Show Bob and Kriste headed off to attend to that around 2:30. Kriste reported attendance had quadrupled over last year's conference and she was quite pleased with this, though more than a little bit tired. I can empathize. I feel her pain. These last two weeks have been a whirlwind of activity for me, with many places to be and things to do. I am racing to finish this article to meet yet another deadline that sort of just snuck up on me (Hi, Keith). Sometimes there just isn't enough hours in the day. But her contribution was quite welcome and we had even directly had a noticeable increase in visitation to the booth as a result of

her presentation. Thanks for all your hard work, Kriste! We couldn't have done it without you!

Overall, this year's HASTI was a rewarding experience in more ways than one. I have made contact with all the teachers who had signed up for more information, and already one contact is already bearing fruit for us, and will probably result in an appearance up in Fort Wayne this April. More details on this on the IKC's Education/Outreach Facebook page will be forthcoming later which can be found at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Indiana-Karst-Conservancy-EducationOutreach-Committee/195227115939>, as well as many other tidbits

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BUDDHA KARST PRESERVE 2010 WINTER BIRD SURVEY

by Jerry Lewis

In the world of birding there are usually two surveys each year, timed to coincide with the presence of resident birds characteristic of the season. Earlier in 2010 Ronnie Burns and I did a summer bird count at the Buddha Karst Nature Preserve (see the *IKC Update* No 98, September 2010). Summer bird surveys are generally conducted sometime after migration has ended (in southern Indiana the spring migration peaks about the second week in May). Generally the summer count is considered a breeding bird survey. In the late summer and fall some of the birds depart and migrate to warmer climates in the southern United States or South America.

Our December bird survey is a record of what species are present year-round, what birds appear only in the winter, and conversely, which ones depart during the non-nesting season. Thus, on December 31, 2010 Ronnie and I teamed up again to conduct the first winter bird survey at Buddha. It was an unusual day for that time of year, with the temperature reaching a balmy 64 degrees by noon. In general, January is the coldest month of the year in southern Indiana, so on New Year's Eve a temperature hovering around freezing would have been more typical than the shirt-sleeve weather that we experienced. A weather front was moving through the area as we started the survey so

Buddha Karst Nature Preserve																						
J. Lewis, R. Burns, 31 December 2010 (10:10AM - 12:10PM)																						
Start conditions: 54 degrees, overcast, wind to 20-30 mph																						
End: 64 degrees, overcast with periodic rain through bird count, strong winds																						
Station	Mourning Dove	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Northern Flicker	Blue Jay	American Crow	Tufted Titmouse	Carolina Chickadee	White-breasted Nuthatch	Carolina Wren	American Robin	Northern Mockingbird	Northern Cardinal	Eastern Towhee	White-throated Sparrow	White-crowned Sparrow	Song Sparrow	Dark-eyed Junco	Brown-headed Cowbird	Common Grackle	Red-winged blackbird	American Goldfinch	Total
1													1									1
2				1											2		1					4
3			1				1	1													2	5
4				2											2				70			74
5															2							2
6															2	1						3
7		1		1	1		1								1			1				6
8				1				1							2						1	5
9					1			1				1										3
10						1	1		1					2								5
11																						0
12								1					1									2
13				1								1										2
14										1			1		2							4
15	1									1	1	4	1		2							10
16							1			1					2							4
17		1		1				1							1							4
18																						0
19					1					2		1			1							5
20													1		3							4
Total	1	2	1	7	3	1	4	5	1	5	1	7	5	2	22	1	1	1	70	2	1	143

there was a steady wind, gusting to 30-40 mph, and periodic rain showers.

The weather conditions seemed to have the effect of driving the birds into the underbrush, making them difficult to see. Likewise, nothing was making much sound other than the roaring of the wind... the birds were mostly hunkered down. To add to the less than optimal birding conditions, a neighbor had lost his dog and was walking down the trail behind



us with his kids shouting for the dog at the tops of their lungs. All of this added up to a somewhat checkered experience, but it was what it was. The purpose of the bird survey is to produce a record of what was there under the prevailing conditions. Over the course of time as we continue to do bird surveys, trends will emerge and the Buddha bird fauna will become better known.

We saw a total of 21 species of birds, listed in table 1, as compared to 39 species observed in the summer survey. Looking at the two lists, we found 15 of the same species in both summer and winter, indicating that these birds are year-round

residents. These were: Mourning dove, Red-bellied woodpecker, Blue jay, American crow, Tufted titmouse, Carolina chickadee, Carolina wren, American robin, Northern mockingbird, Northern cardinal, Eastern towhee, Song sparrow, Brown-headed cowbird, Common grackle and American goldfinch. Thus, about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the birds that we saw at Buddha were permanent residents. Bird species present at Buddha only in the winter include the Dark-eyed junco, White-crowned and White-throated sparrows. There are undoubtedly other bird species present on the preserve that will become evident with additional surveys.

►► *Continued from page 9...*

of news and upcoming events sure to come.

Friday saw the convention winding down and was much slower than the day before. Around 1:00 PM, Bob and I tore down the display, packed it up, and wound our way through the back alleys of the Indianapolis Convention Center with a heavily laden cart to the loading dock and pack it all back in my Camry for the ride home. Grateful acknowledgment here is given to Bob who had provided invaluable assistance in every thing from covering the booth for bathroom breaks and lunch breaks to setup and tear down of the booth and being the resident audio-visual guru for Kriste's presentation Thursday afternoon. His being there at all is remarkable, particularly in light of the fact HASTI had come so soon after his

rehabilitation following his sudden and unplanned visit to the hospital last year. Much less being just so darned helpful and useful while being there. Thanks for all the hard work, Bob.

Next year there will be no HASTI Convention. The national convention, hosted by the National Science Teachers Association will be coming to Indianapolis in 2012 and there will be no state convention held for that reason. We may, or may not be there for that one. Time will tell.

See you next time. I will undoubtedly have a great many thrilling and/or harrowing tales of adventure in the field of karst education ready for you all by then. Until then, Cave Softly, and say a prayer for our little winged friends.

INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY TREASURY REPORT

**Income/Expense Statement
From October 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010**

INCOME:

Dues Apportionment and Residuals	731.25	
Donations - General	612.58	
Donations - Land Acquisition Fund	1000.00	
SpeLoggers	450.00	
Interest	<u>515.82</u>	
		\$3,309.65

EXPENSES:

IKC Update (printing, production, mailing)	273.15	
Education / Outreach	250.00	
Stewardship	68.36	
SpeLoggers	1007.72	
Business (insurance, website, PO Box rental, etc)	870.64	
Transfers to/from restricted funds/other adjustments	<u>1308.90</u>	
		(\$3,778.77)

NET OPERATING EXCESS (DEFICIT) THIS PERIOD: (\$469.12)

**Balance Sheet
December 31, 2010**

ASSETS:

Cash in Checking / Saving Accounts / CDs	114712.51	
Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve (73.48 acres)	162000.00	
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 (3.01 acres)	7000.00	
Indian Creek Conservation Easement (valued at \$1/acre)	<u>13.16</u>	
		<u><u>\$459,725.67</u></u>

LIABILITIES & OPERATING EXCESS:

Land Acquisition Restricted Fund	38049.59
Deferred Dues Restricted Fund (195 members)	2666.25
Stewardship Endowment Restricted Fund	40167.25

Previous General Fund (total)	34311.70	
Net Excess (Deficit) This Period	<u>(469.12)</u>	
Current General Fund (unrestricted)		33842.58
Current General Fund (committed)	3150.00	
Real estate liquidity (basis value)		<u>345000.00</u>

Total Liabilities & Operating Excess \$459,725.67

IKC QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, December 4, 2010 – Bloomington, IN

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jerry Lewis, President
 James Adams, Secretary
 Keith Dunlap, Treasurer
 Bruce Bowman (proxy by Salisa Lewis)
 Dave Haun (proxy by Sue Vernier)
 Don Ingle
 Everett Pulliam
 Bob Sergesketter
 Bruce Silvers
 Karen Silvers
 Tom Sollman
 Richard Vernier
 Carla Winner
 Jamie Winner

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

The Quarterly Meeting was called to order at 10:16 AM, slightly late due to snow, at the Indiana University Geology Building, Bloomington, Indiana, IKC President Lewis presiding. Two proxies were accepted. Minutes of the September 2010 meeting were accepted as published in the December *IKC Update*.

There were no email motions to report since the last meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Dunlap reported cash assets of \$113,440.10 plus land at \$345,000.00 for total assets of \$458,440.10. Funds included Land Acquisition, \$37,049.59; Stewardship, \$39,858.35; Deferred Dues, \$3,352.50; General, \$33,179.66 of which approximately \$3,000.00 has been earmarked.

Dick Vernier is building additional speloggers to fulfill a recent order.

The IKC has 195 members.

Education and Outreach Committee

According to Ingle, it's been a very quiet quarter. The IKC was represented at the Indiana Bat Festival and has been asked to participate again next year. The HASTI conference is coming up and funds will be needed to participate. Ingle moved to fund up to \$400 for registration fees. Dunlap seconded. Motion approved, 14-0-1.

Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve

The burn at Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve was not permitted by a county-wide burn ban. This will be re-scheduled next fall.

Wayne Cave Preserve

Dunlap reported on the I-69 conservation easement status related to our concern over some of the easement agreement language. He has spoken to InDot but they deferred most issues to other government entities. A meeting with Scott Pruitt and Robin McWilliams-Munson of US Fish & Wildlife Service did not go well with control of the cave being the main continuous issue. We await a formal response to our lease language counter-offer.

I-69 Draft Environment Impact Statement

The IKC responded to the I-69 Draft Environment Impact Statement after first asking for a comment period extension (which was eventually granted). It will be three to six months before a response is expected. The Hoosier Environment Council is considering alternatives and is sponsoring a meeting of interested parties next week.

Indian Creek Conservation Easement

Jerry Lewis has spoken to a landowner who has built a large picnic pavilion partially on the easement. Discussion is underway to either move the shelter or move the boundary line that would make the easement slightly larger but put the pavilion outside the easement boundary.

Buddha Cave Preserve

George Cesnik and Dunlap sprayed to eradicate Japanese honeysuckle after the first frost on the Buddha Cave Preserve property.

Dave Everton of the Bloomington Indiana Grotto has requested that grotto liaisons be permitted to directly schedule trips to the cave. Dunlap move to change access to include grotto liaisons. Seconded by Ingle, 15-0-0. The Management Plan will need to be revised and Dunlap volunteered to make the change as well as changes to Appendix A of the Grotto Liaison Agreement.

There was discussion about the possibility of putting cave visitation scheduling calendars on-line. This is being experimented with for the Sullivan Cave Preserve to reduce conflicts in the cave and with camping.

Sullivan Cave Preserve

Vandeventer has not been able to tend to duties at the Sullivan Cave Preserve. Anthony Owens was introduced and Vandeventer recommended that Owens take over as Cave Patron. Dunlap moved that Anthony Owens be appointed as Sullivan Cave Patron. Everett Pulliam seconded. Motion passed, 15-0-0.

Vandeventer was thanked for his work over the last few decades.

Shiloh Cave

Jerry Lewis and Sollman have visited Shiloh Cave to conduct bio-inventory work. The project will continue for at least another year. Sollman will create a report of his many years of inventory activities.

Dave Everton has requested a liberalized visitation policy. Dunlap moved to allow grotto liaisons to schedule cave trips to Shiloh. Sue Vernier seconded. There was much discussion and some concerned that we might wear out our welcome with the landowners. Adams, the Cave Patron, also indicated the current number of allowed trips per year has been adequate to meet demand for most years. Motion failed, 0-14-1.

Suicide Cave

Owner relations are good; however, the name of the owner's corporation has changed and this change has been incorporated into a new lease agreement that will be sent to the owner for approval.

Hoosier National Forest

There are tree harvest activities underway on the forest

property. Jerry Lewis recently took a tour of the area. The HNF wants to change their policy regarding cutting trees within 200 feet of a sinkhole. Changes are being considered and data is being collected for a revised management plan regarding tree cutting near sinkholes.

Land Acquisition Activities

No activities to report.

Next Meeting

The next Board Meeting was tentatively set for February 5, 2011. Four Directors and three Officers will sit for election at the Annual Meeting in March.

The Annual Meeting was set for Saturday, March 12, 2011 at White River Branch of the Johnson County Public Library in Greenwood, Indiana at 10:00 AM. Adams will arrange for the meeting site. [*Secretary's Note: The room at the White River Branch was not available. An alternate site was secured at the Greenwood Public Library.*]

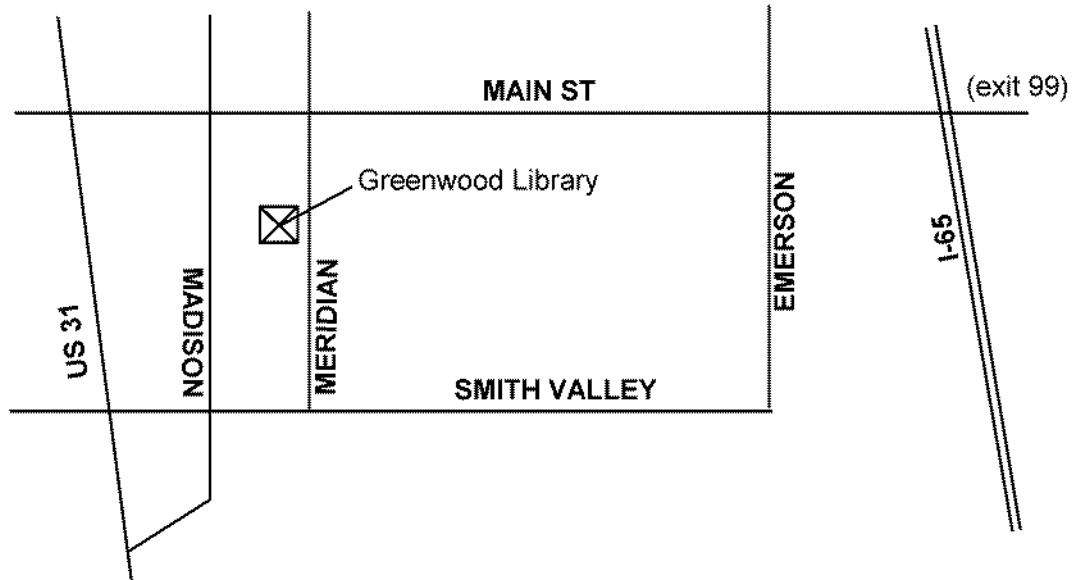
Meeting adjourned at 11:57 AM.

Respectfully submitted by James Adams, IKC Secretary

▶▶ *Continued from page 5...*

- ❑ In other agency news, Melany Glossa was recently named the new Forest Supervisor of the Hoosier National Forest. Glossa replaces Ken Day who had served as Forest Supervisor for the past 16 years before retiring in June 2010. Glossa is a native Hoosier and a graduate of Purdue University. Her career has spanned several states including Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, and Missouri. As she returns to Indiana with her family she said it feels like coming home. Glossa holds a bachelor's degree in Forest and Wildlife Management from Purdue University and a Master's in forestry from Oregon State University. She did doctoral studies in forest policy at Colorado State University.
- ❑ As mentioned in the President's Rambling column, the IKC "celebrates" its 25th anniversary this year, having been incorporated on February 14th, 1986. One of our strengths over that time has been our loyal membership with 113 members paying dues for over 10 years and 47 members associated with the organization for 20 years or more. Those 20-year members include John Ahlberg (1988), Bill Baus (1987), John Benton (1990), David Black (1987), Bruce Bowman (1990), George Brutchen (1986), Larry Bundy (1990), Keith Calkins (1987), Paul Cannaley (1987), Christopher Carpenter (1989), George Cesnik (1986), Jeff Cody (1986), Stephen Collins (1986), Rane Curl (1987), Keith Dunlap (1986), Dave Everton (1987), Scott Fee (1986), Allen Goodcase (1990), David Haun (1986), Timothy Heppner (1988), Tem Hornaday (1987), Scott Johnson (1990), Brian Leavell (1988), Glenn Lemasters (1986), Angie May (1987), Jane Miller (1987), Lynn Miller (1986), Richard Newton (1990), Nicholas Noe (1987), Susan O'Shields (1990), Ernest Payne (1986), Gene Pelter (1990), Donald Peters (1987), Steve Ragsdale (1990), Kevin Rasmus (1987), Tom Rea (1986), Eric Schmidt (1989), Robert Sergesketter (1987), Noel Sloan (1986), Gordon Smith (1990), Susan Strickland (1987), Kevin Strunk (1986), Bill Tozer (1986), Bruce Trotter (1987), Richard Vernier (1987), Mark Webb (1986), and the Windy City Grotto (1987).
- ❑ At the other end of the spectrum, the IKC has gained one new member in the last quarter. Welcome Araon Valandro (504). The IKC membership currently stands at 196.

**IKC ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
SATURDAY, MARCH 12th, 10 AM
GREENWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY, GREENWOOD, INDIANA**



The address of the library is **310 South Meridian, Greenwood, IN 46143.**

Their website is www.greenwoodlibrary.us and their phone number is 317-881-1953.

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.

