



IKC UPDATE

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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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IKC QUARTERLY MEETING REMINDER
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28th, 4:00 PM EDT
BORDEN, INDIANA
HOME OF JERRY & SALISA LEWIS

The quarterly meetings are for the Executive Board to conduct business, and for our members and other interested persons to have an open forum to talk about caves 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: Recap of recent work projects and the promotion of upcoming projects at our various preserves; Financial reports; Lowry Karst Preserve fund-raising update; Lowry Karst Preserve Management Plan approval; Lowry Cave Cave Patron/Property Manager selection; Wayne Cave EQIP funding contract update; NCRC Orientation to Cave Rescue training update; Cave/land acquisition activities; and more....

Following the quarterly meeting (around 6 PM) will be the annual pitch-in cook-out. The main entree (hot dogs) will be provided. Please bring a salad, covered dish, and/or dessert to share. If there are enough entries, we will also have a dessert contest. ***Please bring a lawn chair if you want to sit down during the meeting.***

Meeting address: 17903 State Road 60, Borden, IN 47106. Call Jerry at (812) 786-1744 if you get lost or have questions. More detailed directions can be found in *IKC Update* #102, page 15.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Sept 28 – IKC Quarterly E-Board meeting (see above)

Nov 2-3 – Orientation to Cave Rescue (sponsored by the IKC)

Dec ?? – IKC Quarterly Board Meeting (date & location to be determined)

March ?? – IKC Annual Business 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. Memberships and donations can also be made by credit card using our on-line services on our website (see the Join Us! tab in the menu).

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 theme of this Rambling is history... history has always been something in which I was interested, but mostly just read about it in passing. For the last year or so I've had so many personal encounters with history that at times it almost seems tangible. I'm going to write a few thoughts on how a new paragraph of IKC history is being written currently, and the confluence with that and my other encounters with some great figures in natural history coming to life.

In the mid-1970s I had a friend living in the southeastern Indiana karst region who knew where a couple of caves were. I was intrigued by this "other" karst region separate from the one where all the "real" caves were located in Indiana. After visiting a couple of caves the friend knew about, I started sniffing around for others. I had met Dr Carl Krekeler, a biologist from Valparaiso University who was working with cave beetles, at the 1973 NSS Convention in Bloomington. One day during the convention Carl had needed someone to go along on a trip to Murray Spring Cave to collect some cave beetles, and I volunteered to go along. The beetles were surprisingly easy to find and it was a fun afternoon adventure for me – I was an undergrad at SIU-Carbondale at the time and relatively new to caving, and even newer to cave biology.

About five years later I'd received some field notes from Dr Krekeler on caves in southeastern Indiana where he'd looked for beetles. One of the places was Lowry Cave, which he visited on June 9, 1957 and found two cave beetles. In 1973 he published his findings "Cave beetles of the genus *Pseudanophthalmus* from the Kentucky Bluegrass and vicinity" (Fieldiana Zoology, 62 (4): 35-83). The Lowry Cave beetle was named *Pseudanophthalmus chthonius* and the specimens from there were designated as paratypes of the species, with the other type specimens being from two Jefferson County caves (Wilson and Morris) and two caves in Clark County (Indian and Peyton Beechwood). Lowry

Cave made its entrance into the history of cave biology in Indiana due to Dr Krekeler's efforts.

I decided to try to find Lowry Cave back then and recalled it not being too tough, since about the only other things near the cross-roads in Commiskey were a church and a gas station. The prominent entrance was hard to miss and I entered the cave, but the water quality in the stream above the first waterfall appeared to be pretty sketchy. At the time there was a hog-lot above the cave and a lot of "nutrients" were undoubtedly entering the cave. I did find the cave isopod *Caecidotea stygia*, which I included in my article on the cave fauna of southeastern Indiana caves published in the *NSS Bulletin* in 1983.



At that point my interest in Lowry Cave faded, but my interest in caves and cave isopods continued. Now fast-forward about forty years and I find myself President of the IKC and with the dubious distinction of being the "authority" on cave isopods in the United States. Over the past couple years I've been conducting research on a different group of isopods in the genus *Lirceus*. In Indiana the species present is *Lirceus*

fontinalis, which is common in cave entrances and springs, including at Lowry Cave. I needed to find a copy of the original publication where this species was first mentioned in 1820. I asked a friend at the Smithsonian Institution if she could request it from their rare book collection, which she obliged. A week or so later she sent me a PDF copy of the short paper and mentioned that she thought I might be interested to see whose library the book had come from, so she had asked the rare book librarian to make a copy of the cover for me. On the corner was a flowery hand-written signature: "Honorable Thomas Jefferson, Monticello, Virginia". Wow. That's the kind of thing one encounters at the Smithsonian.

Not long after that I found myself in Washington, DC working with the museum collection in person. I had brought along most of the ref-

erence material that I thought I would want, but found myself needing another century old publication. This one was neither very old nor rare and I suspected a reprint (a copy of the article printed separately at the time of journal publication) was probably tucked away in a file cabinet someplace. I was working in “Pod 5” of the Smithsonian Museum Support Center (MSC) in Suitland, Maryland, a place that had been made famous by Dan Brown’s 2009 murder-mystery novel “The Lost Symbol”. Unlike the book’s portrayal of the pods as enormous concrete bunkers comprised of a single cavernous room, the pods are large, but subdivided into storage units for the Smithsonian’s treasures. I asked one of the MSC staff where the reprint collection was housed and she looked at another staff member with an amused expression and asked him, “Will his pass let him in Pod 2?”. They were unsure if my security pass card, which was keyed to allow me into only a couple areas of the enormous MSC complex, would work.

She walked down to Pod 2 with me, we walked upstairs, and tried my passcard... the outer door popped open and we were admitted into this secure area. Along one wall were rows of file cabinets with the reprint collection, but the staffer said she wanted to show me something. Come to find out, this was where the Smithsonian Institution stored all of its megafauna collections. In other words, if you need to store an elephant skeleton or some other large natural history object, this warehouse-like museum storage area was where it went. We walked back to a storage area where a bunch of things like elk with huge antlers were stored. She said “look at the collection label”. I saw what looked like a rather old, yellowed piece of cardboard with hand-writing on it hanging by a short string from one prong of an antler. Another OMG moment as I read the label... all of the things in this part of the storage unit had a famous collector... the name read “Theodore Roosevelt”. If you are President, the Smithsonian is where your game trophies end up at some point. I could see why they kept this unit under tight security... the original autographs of President Teddy Roosevelt alone must be worth a fortune.

Everything at the Smithsonian collection is essentially a little tidbit of history. Many of the crustaceans collected in Indiana caves and springs over the decades had ended up there, and it was fascinating to see who had visited places like Donaldson Cave to gather samples. Most of the samples I was looking at were in relatively mod-

ern glass vials, but some, like the type specimens of *Lirceus tenax* from the bottom of Lake Superior dated to the 1870s, were in small hand-blown glass vials. That particular vial had a paper label that noted a couple specimens had been removed and given to a European zoologist for study. Stay tuned about that.

My next visit to a museum was the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, where the first isopods collected in North America had been deposited in 1818 by biologist Thomas Say (who died at the notorious New Harmony colony in 1834). This might seem odd today, but at the time Philadelphia was a center of knowledge in the young United States of America. When Salisa and I visited, we found the Liberty Bell and the ruins of a house owned by George Washington just across the street. Another encounter with the natural history of our country occurred during our visit when we found the original journals of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark... some of the most important writings in the history of biology in the US. It is nothing short of incredible that these hand-written journals made it across the continent, starting in 1804, and returned safely to Philadelphia. The bad news was that the isopod specimens that I was searching for had been lost. Unfortunately, this isn’t uncommon, as the ravages of time, fires, floods, and other disasters wreaks havoc on museum collections. The curator in Philadelphia suggested that I try looking at the collection in London. That was serendipitous, since we were travelling to London the following week.

My final tale of encounters with history occurred last month. Salisa and I were in England en route to our son’s wedding in the Netherlands, and I had arranged an impromptu visit to the Museum of Natural History – London. In the 18th and early 19th centuries it was common for natural history collections made in America to be deposited in the British Museum. Later in the 19th century the Museum of Natural History separated from the British Museum and of course the American samples remained with the natural history collections. Salisa and I found ourselves in the bowels of the enormous London museum looking once again at isopod collections (see the photo on page 4), and to our amazement found the 1818 specimens we were looking for, along with the Lake Superior isopods removed from the Smithsonian collection, and... the first cave isopods collected from North America, the 1871 specimens collected by

Alpheus Packard from Mammoth Cave. I had no clue how or why those cave isopods were in England, but there they were. For reasons no one could account for, there were also several collections of specimens from Indiana, which was odd considering that Indiana isn't a particularly noteworthy place on the world stage.

As we were leaving, the curator we were working with got a twinkle in her eye and took us down to the basement to see another area of the museum's collection that was locked away from the public eye. She unlocked the heavy steel doors, turned on the lights and took us over to shelf units with a lot of very old glass jars with conical glass lids... no one has made anything like that in a long time. They were jars of fish and I wondered why she was showing us fish? She suggested "look at the labels" and I suspected another Teddy Roosevelt sort of moment was upon us, and I wasn't disappointed. The labels had a lot of information on them, but what jumped out was "Charles Darwin, HMS Beagle". These were Darwin's original collections from his five-year trip around the world on a British

navy ten-cannon warship on a voyage of exploration, during which some of the tenets of evolutionary biology were born. Another OMG moment.

I've been fascinated by my recent encounters with so many bigger-than-life people reaching out through time to touch me far beyond their graves: Thomas Jefferson, Charles Darwin, Alpheus Packard, Teddy Roosevelt. Now back home in Indiana I find myself involved in writing another chapter in IKC history with the acquisition of Lowry Cave. Last month I had the privilege to scrawl my signature on the paperwork finalizing the purchase of this cave. Lowry is our first acquisition of a cave in the southeastern karst and is the seventh property to be added to the growing list of IKC preserves. In a few months we'll have the i's dotted and the t's crossed in getting the preserve up and running, and will be able to start hosting visitors to see the cave. In the meantime, now we have to pay for the acquisition, so keep those donations coming!

Jerry Lewis

NEWS BRIEFS...

- ❑ The National Cave Rescue Commission (NCRC) will be conducting a two-day/weekend Orientation to Cave Rescue (OCR) training seminars on November 2 and 3 in Indiana. The classroom portion on the first day will be held at the Mitchell Public Library. On the second day, there will be an in-cave mock rescue. Camping is available at nearby Spring Mill State Park for a fee, or at the Shawnee Karst Preserve for free (space is limited). There are also several motels in nearby Bedford if you do not want to camp.

In order to encourage participation of this important training, the IKC is sponsoring this event and will provide a \$25 discount to our members (for up to 25 members, so don't delay registering). This training usually costs \$40 for NSS members and \$60 for non-NSS members. So if you are an IKC member in addition to being an NSS member, your final cost is only \$15. Or if you are not an NSS member, your cost will be \$35. To learn more about this training class and to register, please go to NCRCcentralregion.regfox.com/2019-ikc-ocr. Thanks to Barbara Hanka and Servaas Laboratories for underwriting the discounts.

- ❑ Three of the four *IKC Update* newsletter covers published in 2018 were awarded ribbons in the annual Cover Art Salon at the 2019 NSS Convention in Cookeville TN. Cover #128 with a photo by Keith Dunlap received a blue ribbon (Merit Award), cover #130 with a photo by Chris Schotter received a green ribbon (Honorable Mention), and cover #131 with a photo by Aaron French also received a green ribbon. Congrats!



photo by Charlie Vetter, 2019

- ❑ The IKC has gained five new members and re-gained three long "lost" members in the last quarter. Welcome Jason Howard, Krista Reeves, William Miller, David Sawyer, and Mike Collins. Welcome back Mike Hood, Brad Barcom, and Marcella Larch. The IKC membership currently stands at 207.

LOWRY KARST PRESERVE ACQUISITION

by Keith Dunlap

On August 2, the IKC acquired its seventh preserve, the Lowry Karst Preserve in southern Jennings County. The property is 6.66 acres in size, containing the very large and scenic entrance to Lowry Cave. The cave consists primarily of a single wide stream passage with total surveyed length just under 2000 feet. The cave is mostly walking or stoop-walking, but there are some sections of hand-and-knees crawling (knee-pads recommended). Most of the stream is ankle-deep, but there are some pooled areas two feet deep. The stream and exposed stream banks are ideal for cave fauna and the cave hosts at least three rare species (a beetle, an isopod, and an amphipod). The cave is well-known locally (the location is shown on an 1884 plat map) but has not had much visitation by the organized caving community. The property has been owned by the same family for generations (perhaps as far back as the 1780s) and the seller and his wife were thrilled the IKC was buying the property to provide long-term stewardship and protection.

The story of this acquisition started in mid-April when an IKC member saw an on-line Realtor listing of the property (highlighting the cave's entrance) and notified Keith Dunlap. Keith did a little research and engaged Jerry Lewis, who had actually been to the cave many years prior. They then engaged Board Member Matt Selig who is a licensed broker and Matt made arrangements with the listing agent to visit the property. Jerry and Keith made the visit and then engaged the rest of the Executive Board for further discussion of the potential for acquisition. More research was done, comparable land prices in the area were studied, and a second visit was set up for several more Board members to make a trip to the property. After more internal discussion, on May 23rd, the Board approved a motion to have Keith and Matt negotiate an offer.

The property had a listing price of \$33,000 and was advertised as 6.25 acres. The offer accepted on May 31 was the equivalent of \$30,000 on a per-acre price with the final price contingent upon a new survey (the existing deed description was ambiguous in several aspects). The survey was completed in late July with the final size of 6.66 acres, making the price just under \$32,000. With closing and survey costs, and a 10% contribution to the IKC's Stewardship Endowment Fund, the total project cost was \$36,000. To-date, our fund raising effort has netted nearly 56% of our goal, so please consider supporting this project and make a donation by check (mailed to our PO Box) or making a donation *on-line*.

In addition to Lowry Cave, the property has a large number of other karst features with dozens of sinkholes and several potential caves (a complete inventory will be conducted this winter). The landscape is a mature, high-quality forest, although there are some invasives (autumn olive, multiflora rose, and bush honeysuckle) in one area that will need at-

LOWRY KARST PRESERVE DONATION LIST
\$5,000 to \$9,999
Keith Dunlap The Nature Conservancy*
\$2,500 to \$4,999
\$1,000 to \$2,499
Bruce Bowman* Virgil Brack Barbara Hanka Matt Selig*
\$500 to \$999
Ellen Jarquart and Hank Huffman
\$250 to \$499
\$100 to \$249
Miriam Ash Paul & Monica Cannaley Matthew Laherty Tom Rea Ralph Sawyer Richard VanRheenen Carla Striegel-Winner & Jamie Winner Honor of Dr Jeanine Ash & Dr Laurence Yeung Evansville Metro Grotto
\$50 to \$99
Dale Chase Jeff Cody Timothy Heppner Kyle Hoyt Indiana Caverns Northern Indiana Grotto
\$5 to \$49
George Cesnik Jaime Coffman Dave Everton Rick Gikas Allen Goodcase Dave Haun Marlin Heinlein Todd & Laura McCartney Jon Miller Raymond Moul Gene & Jennifer Pelter Kelle Reynolds Cindy Sandeno Mark Van Buskirk Chris Wadsworth
Project goal: \$36,000 Raised/Pledged to date: \$20,078 Percent of goal: 55.9% September 12, 2019

tention. The property borders Graham Creek on one side with high bluffs that may facilitate vertical training. The perennial stream that issues from Lowry Cave cascades down a short scenic valley (see photo on the front cover) and terminates at a sheer fifteen-foot undercut waterfall into Graham Creek.

It is anticipated that the Management Plan for this property will be approved at the September 28th Executive Board meeting, and that the Cave

Patron/Property Manager will also be appointed. If these agenda items are completed, visitation to the property could start shortly after. Initially, group sizes will likely be limited, as parking at the property is an issue and may be limited to just one or two vehicles. In the near-term, we hope to create an interior parking area to accommodate more vehicles. Likewise we will evaluate the possibility of providing one or two primitive camp sites on the property.



photo by Matt Selig, 2019



photo by Jerry Lewis, 2019

ENJOYING IKC PROPERTIES – THEY'RE NOT JUST FOR CAVING

by Danyele Green

Having recently been appointed the Property Manager of the Wayne Cave Preserve, I have come to realize the under-utilization of our properties by fellow IKC members, friends of members, and future members. There are so many areas of the state that the IKC has something special tucked into the folds of the landscape and it is a shame if you, our members, don't take advantage of enjoying these opportunities. The IKC is committed to protecting these properties (seven preserves totally over 255 acres) and keeping them as unspoiled and natural as possible. These areas are being saved for enjoyment now, and for our future generations of cavers and conservationists.

Visiting our preserves for hiking, bird watching, mushroom hunting, nut/berry gathering, etc does not require permission. However, entering the caves does require coordination and signing a liability waiver. Camping is available on four of our preserves for IKC members and their guests. All you have to do is email or call the respective Property Manager/Cave Patron for permission, pack

up your tent, bug spray, and any other creature comforts you need and get some relaxation, peace, and quiet in to your busy schedules. All we ask in return is for those camping to leave the property in as good or better shape than when you arrived. We abide by the pack in/pack out philosophy and Leave No Trace concepts. Due to some invasive species transfer, please only bring certified firewood for the fire pits (not all camping areas have designated fire pits) or you can find downed limbs to use. Camping is *free* and donations are always accepted if you appreciate the ability to enjoy nature in a primitive setting.

What We Offer

Sullivan Cave Preserve – This 28-acre property near Springville welcomes campers with a ½ acre of mostly shaded mowed camping area. Enjoy a fire in the fire pit (split/dry firewood is available on-site for a small donation), and fall asleep to the sound of crickets and owls and wake up re-

freshed for your early morning cave trip into Sullivan Cave. There is a port-o-potty on-site (please be mindful and only put toilet paper in the tank). There are no established trails on the property, but most of the woods are mature and easy to navigate. Contact Paul Uglum to schedule camping.

Wayne Cave Preserve – This recently-expanded 57+ acre property just west of Bloomington has a new one-mile loop trail (still being developed) that meanders past some very unique and beautiful features of the land. There is also the shorter original spur trail that goes to Wayne Cave. We have a great mowed area with multiple shaded camping sites, picnic tables, and a new fire ring to enjoy a campfire on a chilly night. Contact Danyele Green to schedule camping.



The mowed camping area at Sullivan Cave Preserve

Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve – This 73+ acre property north of Milltown provides a lot of privacy. We maintain a small mowed area for parking when visiting the cave, and a larger mowed area on top of the ridge for camping. There is also an old tobacco barn that provides shelter from inclement weather

with a picnic a table. The property is ideal for stargazing with little light pollution. There are no established trails on the property, but over half of the property is wooded with mature trees and open under-canopy for hiking. Contact John Benton to schedule camping.

Shawnee Karst Preserve – This 50+ acre property is less than a mile away from Spring Mill State Park, offering an inexpensive and quiet alternative to the hustle and bustle of the DNR camping “experience”. Shawnee currently has two designated primitive camping sites. This mostly wooded property was logged just before we acquired it in 2012, so the under-story is still pretty dense, but the IKC maintains two loop trails totaling 1.8 miles of interesting nature hiking with 20 marked “points of interest” and trail brochure. Contact Jerry Lewis to schedule camping.

Buddha Karst Nature Preserve – This 36+ acres property is about 10 minutes north of Spring Mill State Park. While the property was

an open fescue pasture when acquired in 2001, planting 17,000 trees on the property has made a complete successional transformation. There is a maintained one-mile loop trail and lots of interesting karst features to view. Because the property has been dedicated as a DNR Nature Preserve, camping is not allowed.

Orangeville Rise Nature Preserve – This is our smallest property at just over three acres in size. Located in the “burg” of Orangeville, one can park along the edge of the road and see the second largest spring resurgence in Indiana, re-forming the “un-Lost” section of the Lost River (note the main flow of the sinking Lost River joins the flow chan-

nel about a mile further downstream).

Lowry Karst Preserve – This 6+ acre property is our newest acquisition. While we are still a few months away from entertaining visitation, this property includes the very large and scenic entrance to Lowry Cave. The property overlooks Graham Creek with 50-foot high bluffs and a stream from the cave that meanders down a valley to a 15-foot high waterfall. There are numerous other karst features and sinkholes on the property. Eventually the property may facilitate primitive camping.

For a list of contacts to request camping, please see page 2. Thank you and Camp Softly.

IKC QUARTERLY MEETING AND WORKDAY AT WAYNE CAVE AND SOME PERSONAL MEMORIES OF THE AREA

by Jeff Cody

Like many Indiana cavers, the caves of Garrison Chapel Valley hold sentimental value to me as this is where I got my start in caving back in the fall of 1981. Buckner Cave was my first, but Coon, Salamander, and Wayne caves soon followed. My caving group was unaffiliated with any organized groups at the time, and like many others, we were “party cavers”. Looking back on it now, I am amazed we never had to be rescued. We did have proper gear and extra lights, and lots of beer for hydration. I was not aware of other caving areas at the time, and had no idea how special this area was in respect to how many significant caves were in this immediate area. Many years later, I was able to recognize this. Dick Blenz used to proudly say that a one mile by one mile square in this area had as many caves as anywhere. Not sure if that was true, but one would have a hard time coming up with many comparable areas. Mammoth Cave perhaps, or maybe Big Coon Valley in TAG, or the big caves of South Dakota, and maybe the high concentration of lava tubes on the western side of the Big Island of Hawaii are some that immediately come to mind. I never thought much of this until I was driving down for a workday at the former Blenz house last spring, driving

past Saltpeter, Eller, Coon, Grotto, Shaft, Salamander, Mederis, Truitts, Studebaker Pit (with new extension), Buckner, Brinegar, Trap Door, Triple J, Wayne, King Blair, Queen Blair, and any others that do not come to mind. I was beginning to wonder if maybe Blenz was right. I wonder how many other Indiana cavers ever thought about this.

I eventually found organized caving and became one of the earliest members of the Indiana Karst Conservancy (joining in March of 1986 as member #14). I also got to witness what eventually became a transformation of the area due in part by the management efforts of the IKC. I remember writing visitation permits to the managed caves in the area as a Grotto Liaison for Mid Hoosier Grotto. Mass vandalism was common in the late 1970s and into the early 1980s. Fortunately, it then began a downward



trend that continues today. Technology changed the entertainment activities of young people, and much needed management by the IKC, and later the Richard Blenz Nature Conservancy has been responsible for the significant decrease of the unbridled vandalism in this area. For this, both conservation groups have much to be proud of. As in the past, both groups continue to host workdays

to improve the caves and the lands above. Thus, June 29, 2019 was the date set for the IKC quarterly meeting and property workday at Wayne Cave. It is rewarding to me to give back to the area that gave me so much when I began to cave.

As I drove down for the meeting, I went back into memory lane mode. I pulled into the drive to Wayne Cave Preserve as others were arriving. It was a hot day, but the shaded area around the picnic tables was refreshing compared to the openness of the parking area. We went over IKC business during the meeting that lasted just short of two hours. Soon after we went into property workday mode. Danyeale Green is the new Property Manager for the Wayne Cave Preserve and had a nice spread of sandwich fixings, snacks, and drinks for all. We separated into several work teams. A new fire pit was constructed, some trail maintenance was completed, trash along Gardner Road was collected, and invasives plants like Autumn Olive, Multiflora Rose, and Bush Honeysuckle were cut and an herbicide was applied to the stumps to kill the roots and prevent re-growth. The IKC received an approximately \$10,000 grant for a three-year commitment to treat and remove these invasives on the northern fifteen acres of the property. Volunteer labor will go a long way to make this task less expensive, but it will take a lot of effort to complete. Fortunately, we had a good group on this workday as everyone who stayed after the meeting braved the heat and humidity to get a good start on this.

For my part, I decided to follow Keith Dun-

lap who had a gas-powered brush cutter (similar to a high-powered weed-eater with a circular saw-tooth blade on the end). He cut the bushes down and I applied the herbicide to the cut stumps. The plan was to cut and stump treat the larger bushes (more than waist-high), leaving the smaller one to be foliar sprayed later in the summer. Not only did we brave the heat, but we also survived the smell of a couple dead animals near the road as we bush-whacked through the woods. I applied a heavy dose of bug spray on myself and all of my clothing. I think this worked as I did not find any ticks on me after I got home and took a much-needed shower. Keith and I worked as long as we could stand the heat and humidity, then eventually retreated back to the shade of the picnic table area for rehydration where others eventually joined us. I decided to make the walk down to the cave entrance to get a couple photos. While there, I noticed that the old routed wooden sign at the entrance was in dire need of a coat of paint.

Much work was completed on the that day and still much more needs to be done. Additional group work days are planned for July 28, August 17, September 21. Individual volunteers can also coordinate with Danyeale to work on their own schedule. Thanks to all who came out to help including Andrew Coyle, Laura Demarest, Keith Dunlap, Danyeale Green, Tymme Laun, Robbie Miller, Robert Miller, Everett Pulliam, Christina Seuell, Tom Sollman, Carla Striegel-Winner, Richard Vernier, Sue Vernier, and Jamie Winner.

SEEKING DISGUSTING, STINKY CAVES... ANY SUGGESTIONS?

by Jerry Lewis

Before we proceed further, I understand that a case could be made by some that all or most caves in Indiana are disgusting. I'm thinking back to leading a trip at the 2007 NSS Convention in Indiana and having a guy complain because his feet might get wet. My only comment to the fellow was "You do understand you're in Indiana?"

What we're looking for is not just the generic disgusting Indiana caves, but special ones that smell bad as well. Recently I was contacted by Amelia Weiss, a graduate student at Cornell University, who was interested in caves or springs where sulfur was surfacing. Specifically, where a compound like hydrogen sulfide H_2S surfaces and is oxidized, that is to say, the

sulfur combines chemically with oxygen to form a sulfate. This can occur in some situations with biological mediation in the form of what are called sulfur-oxidizing bacteria.

In communities where this occurs, a rare ecological phenomenon is present... rather than cave communities that ultimately stem from sunlight driven photosynthesis, which creates plants that eventually provide nutrients to cave animals, the sulfur-based communities are driven by chemosynthesis. That is to say, these cave communities are completely independent of sunlight... the bacteria fix carbon into the cave food web. A giant asteroid can strike the earth, block all sunlight, and these cave communities formed around sulfur-oxidizing



bacteria would be perfectly happy, while all the things like cave crickets that forage on plant materials are going hungry.

An excellent example of one of these sulfur-based communities occurs in Mammoth Cave in a relatively obscure passage called Marianne's Pass. I arranged permission to visit this site with National Park Service staff member and friend Rick Olson, and in August Amelia and I headed for Mammoth Cave National Park. Rick took us down the Elevator Entrance into the Snowball Room, where we then first retrieved an extension ladder, and then made a walk a few hundred feet into the Pass of El Ghor to the intersection with Marianne's Pass. There we put up the ladder to get to the top of a short drop, and then made our way into the stoopway passage. At that point Rick opted out, having had recent back surgery, and I had been to the sulfur pool area before so I led the way. It's a short trip, first passing some normal water-filled pools, and then arriving at our destination.

It's fairly obvious when one arrives at the sulfur pools... the pools changed from cave mud-brown floors to ones with striated patterns of different colors and tones. We smelled a faint aroma of hydrocarbons near the water. And sulfur-laden water was seeping down the walls in channels in the limestone walls, where one of the sulfide oxidation products was apparent: sulfuric acid! Although many interesting kinds of "extremophile" bacteria have been identified by researchers in these pools, Amelia's interest was in the tiny white specs walking about the surface of the water: springtails (primitive insect-like creatures). We also saw cave crickets and beetles wandering the area, and wondered how all of these animals fit together to form a community?

The next day in Indiana we drove out to French Lick where we looked at another sulfur site: Pluto Spring. This is one of the main sources of the famous Pluto Water that has been an attraction to visitors to resorts at French Lick and West Baden for many years. To us it was a source of what looked like sulfur-oxidizing bacteria, with filaments of the microbes undulating in the flow of the spring, with areas on the stream bottom striated in colors reminiscent of Marianne's Pass.

The big mystery at Pluto Spring was the presence of subterranean isopods, which I identified as *Caecidotea stygia*, the common species found in caves all through the south-central Indiana karst belt. The question was how did these cave isopods get there? Gener-

ally they wash or wander short distances out of caves into springs, but how did they exist in a spring with no oxygen? Hydrogen sulfide exists in environments without oxygen, where isopods can't live. There are still a lot of questions to answer at these sulfur seeps.

If you know of any caves or springs in In-

Continued on page 14..



Top: Amelia Weiss in the passage looking at the pools, showing the general appearance of the cave and the passage layout. **Bottom:** The notch in the wall from the sulfuric acid etching, the colored substrate, and the white specks on the surface are springtails.

photos by Jerry Lewis (2019)

A LOOK BACK AT INDIANA KARST

by John M Benton

This issue's look back in history pertains to Fairgrounds Spring (a resurgence of the Binkley Cave System) in Harrison county and how it "saved the day" for Corydon in 1954...

Drought conditions in southern Indiana, early August 1954, had lowered the town of Corydon's water source, Indian Creek, to less than a day's water supply. At that time, the primary pumping station collection point for Corydon's water supply was the pool above the dam on Indian Creek above the North Bridge, and it was estimated the town's water supply was down to less than one day. According to the August 4, 1954 *Corydon Democrat*, Hilbert Hoffman, engineer for the State Flood Control and Water Resources Commission, had spent an entire day

and estimated that the Grable Spring (part of George Miles Spring Cave east of the pumping station) and the McGrain Spring (aka North Bridge Cave, just to north of dammed pool) provided approximately 165,000 gallons of water per day (together) and that was nearly break-even with the reduced water consumption that the town was operating under. Prior to the drought, the town was using between 350,000 to 500,000 gallons of water per day.

Hoffman estimated that Fairgrounds Spring on the southern edge of Corydon, could provide up to and additional 110,000 gallons of water per day. Not known at the time was that Fairgrounds Spring was one of the resurgences of the Binkley Cave System that currently has been surveyed for over 44 miles.

Because of the dire water shortage, it was de-

Continued on page 17..

Corydon Democrat

CORYDON, INDIANA, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1954

SIXTEEN PAGES

Hundreds Turn Out To Lay 6000 Feet of Pipe In Less Than Eight Hours To Save Corydon



A part of the team of volunteer workers that started laying pipe from the Fairground Spring Saturday morning are shown rushing to meet the team that started at the West Bridge. Here they are shown ready to cross the Little Indian Creek. This team was clocked at several points along the route. At times they were laying two 155 pound sections of pipe in a minute.



At eleven o'clock Saturday morning, just a little over three hours after starting, the volunteer crew that had started at the Fairground Spring met with the volunteer crew that had started just north of the West Bridge. The photo above was taken in the Fairground Addition and shows the final connecting section being laid by the "West Bridge" crew.

Pumps Pull Air For More Than An Hour

Water Level Drops Below Intake Pipe

(Additional Photos on Page 4 Section One)

More than 500 men, Boy Scouts, farmers, business concerns, organizations and property owners turned out Saturday to help save Corydon from almost certain disaster by laying 6000 feet of 3-inch pipe between the Fairground Spring and the Pumping Station in record time. Little did they realize how close the Town had come to being without any water at all. Not until after the previously estimated two-day project had been completed in less than eight hours did the information leak out that the pumping station had been sucking air for over an hour.

Two-Day Project Completed In Less Than Eight Hours

Several crews, totalling nearly 200 men, started laying pipe at eight o'clock Saturday morning between the Fairground Spring and the West Bridge. A crew nearly double that size had been organized for Sunday. The most conservative estimate available on the length of time needed to lay 6000 feet of pipe were well over two days. Fortunately, the job took only eight hours. If it had taken two days, Corydon would have been absolutely without water for more than thirty hours.

Project "Born" Last Thursday At Town Board Meeting

The whole project crystallized Thursday evening at a special Town Board meeting with the Chamber of Commerce Water Resources Committee and Hilbert L. Hoffman, engineer for the State Flood Control and Water Resources Commission. At this meeting, Mr. Hoffman warned that Corydon had a maximum of seven days supply of water left. As it turned out, Corydon had only a little over two days' supply of water available. Had the Town Board met a day later, Corydon would have been completely without water for a period of over 72 hours.

Bob Eckart Was "Commanding General"

Bob Eckart, Plant Engineer at Kellers, was asked to plan, initiate and supervise the operation. The next few nights were sleepless ones for Mr. Eckart as he planned the route, tried to force hold-ups, located a few hundred feet of pipe here and a thousand feet there, supervised the procurement of labor and material and in general, completely managed the whole project with the finesse of a "Commanding General." Next to the hundreds of townspeople, farmers and all of the others who responded to the call to work, Mr. Eckart receives the most credit for the completion of the project ahead of schedule.

Laying Of Pipe Hard, Hot And Dangerous Work

With a crew of men working from the Fairground Spring and another crew working from the West Bridge toward the Spring, pipe was being connected, at times, at the rate of four sections a minute. Both crews were clocked and on several occasions each crew was actually laying two sections during a sixty second period. The work was hard, hot and many times dangerous. The pipe came in sections of about 22 feet long and weighed about 155 pounds each. There were times when the crews had to stand on uneven ground and screw the sections together while holding the pipe shoulder high or higher. And the temperature didn't help any. No one had time to check how hot it did get, but, as someone cracked, "There was

enough sweating being done to solve any water shortage."

By eleven o'clock, less than three hours after they had started, the two teams met in the Fairground Addition. Only four or five inches of the last section of pipe had to be cut and re-threaded to make the union. The meeting of the two teams represented nearly two-thirds of the project completed.

Armstrong & Strack Farms Loan Town 1000 Feet Of Pipe

When the rest of the iron pipe arrived, the work continued. It seemed that the crews worked with even greater speed since they realized that they could complete the job more than a day ahead of the earliest estimate. Following the creek, all of the iron pipe that it had been possible to obtain was put down. There was still a thousand feet to go. The Armstrong & Strack Farms, north of Corydon, came to the rescue by loaning the Town over a thousand feet of their aluminum 4-inch irrigation pipe. By about 2:30, less than six and a half hours after they had started, the entire 6000 feet of pipe had been laid and final preparations for the actual pumping were under way.

By four o'clock, an hour after the pumping station had begun to suck air, water was pouring from the end of the pipe at the rate of about 4,400 gallons an hour.

Pipe To Be Used For Town Needs After Crisis

The cost of the pipe used in the project will amount to approximately \$6,000. However, when the present emergency has passed, the pipe will be used for the Town's needs. The pipe was needed anyway, and for foresight on the part of the planners of the project, the only actual cost for the project came from a few operational expenses.

The following is a list of as many of the names of individuals, business concerns, organizations or other parties who participated in any way in the project as it was possible to obtain. Those working on the project weren't interested in getting their names in the paper as no one ran around to make sure their name was listed. Many names will not appear but their contribution is unintentional and due to the lack of a good memory. Mentioned here or

not, all who contributed to the success of the project deserve the highest praise possible.

Among the business concerns that participated were A. W. Alcott & Sons Hardware, the Corydon Variety Store, Hurst-Siepro Lumber Company, Guy Reas Ice Co., Harrison County Agricultural Society, Public Service Company of Indiana, The Keller Mfg. Co., Corydon Auto Supply, Indiana Utilities Corporation, Harrison County Bank, Heth & Hughes, The Corydon Democrat, The Corydon Republican, Parks Chevrolet, Corydon Water Department, Town Marshals, Central School Corporation, L&C Truck Line, Kitterman Motor Co., Eckart Wiring & Plumbing, Strack and Armstrong Farms, Bill's Auto Parts, Hurst-Miles Hardware Co., and many others.

Among the individuals who participated in the project were: Arlston Alcott, Russel Bottles, Lloyd Able, Carlisle Adams, James Brengman, "Tummy" Brown, Archie Brengman, Armen Best, Walt Baxley, Leo Benton, Dick Brown, Bill Baker, Ray Curtis, Wesley Carpenter, Clyde Conrad, Earl Chism, Guy Carpenter, Orin Crozier, Cecil Diddelot, James Davidson, Remmie Fluk, Lee Flanagan, Lee Flanagan, Art Funk, John Harbaugh, George Higdon, Brad Hall, Charles Harbeson, Howard Lockhart, Roy Langdon, Everett Mathews, James Motley, Shorty Miller, Bud Naegle, Harry Naegle, Omar Opal, Ray Parker, Bob Rainbolt, Bob Rowland, Alvey Shaffer, Kenny Stauch, John Snyder, Donald Saulman, Ellis Shuck, Manuel Saulman, Walter Saulman, Kenny Wiseman, Dutch Windel, H. V. Withers, W. J. Wolpert and Norvel Yeager.

INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY TREASURY REPORT

Income/Expense Statement From April 1, 2019 to June 30, 2019

INCOME:

Dues Apportionment and Residuals	737.50	
Donations - General	451.50	
Donations - Land Acquisition Fund	154.00	
Investment Earnings	<u>1,115.51</u>	\$2,458.51

EXPENSES:

IKC Update (printing, production, mailing)	323.38	
Education / Outreach	33.76	
Stewardship/Conservation	448.87	
Business (credit card fees, renewals, meeting)	110.06	
Property Taxes	64.49	
Earnest money - Lowry Cave	1,000.00	
Transfers to/from restricted funds/other adjustments	<u>-498.04</u>	(\$1,482.52)

NET OPERATING EXCESS (DEFICIT) THIS PERIOD: \$975.99

Balance Sheet June 30, 2019

ASSETS:

Cash in Checking / Saving / CDs / Brokerage acc'ts	221,017.70	
Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve (73.48 acres)	162,000.00	
Wayne Cave Preserve (57.59 acres)	188,000.00	
Shawnee Karst Preserve (50.31 acres)	105,000.00	
Buddha Karst Nature Preserve (36.84 acres)	29,000.00	
Sullivan Cave Preserve (28.00 acres)	72,000.00	
Orangeville Rise Nature Preserve (3.01 acres)	7,000.00	
Indian Creek Conservation Easement (valued at \$1/acre)	<u>13.16</u>	<u>\$784,030.86</u>

FUNDS & OPERATING EXCESS:

Land Acquisition Restricted Fund	89,182.08	
Deferred Dues Restricted Fund (199 members)	4,683.75	
Stewardship Endowment Restricted Fund	69,594.43	
Previous General Fund (total)	56,594.61	
Net Excess (Deficit) This Period	<u>975.99</u>	
Current General Fund (unrestricted)	57,570.60	
Current General Fund (committed)	2,600.00	
Real estate liquidity (basis value excluding CE)	<u>563,000.00</u>	
Total Liabilities & Operating Excess		<u><u>\$784,030.86</u></u>

...continued from page 12

diana that sound like the ones I've described, we'd like to hear about them. Generally the water looks like what non-biologists would call "scuzzy", sometimes with strands of white stuff

resembling strings of tissue paper and frequently the water smells like rotten eggs or some other similar sulfur odor. Please contact me at my email address (on page 2).

IKC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, June 29, 2019, 10:30 AM EDT, Wayne Cave Preserve, Bloomington, Indiana

Board Members Present:

Jerry Lewis, President (proxied by Dave Everton)
 Marc Milne, Secretary (proxied by Everett Pulliam)
 Keith Dunlap, Treasurer
 Bruce Bowman
 Jeff Cody
 Laura Demarest
 Danyele Green
 Dave Haun
 Goni Iskali (proxied by Jamie Winner)
 Matt Selig (proxied by Phyllis Sergesketter)
 Bob Sergesketter
 Tom Sollman
 Carla Striegel-Winner
 Richard Vernier
 Sue Vernier

Board Members Absent:

None

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Treasurer Keith Dunlap at 10:35 AM EDT at the Wayne Cave Preserve in Bloomington, Indiana.

Acceptance of Proxies

Dave Everton was accepted as proxy for Jerry Lewis, Everett Pulliam for Marc Milne, Jamie Winner for Goni Iskali, and Phyllis Sergesketter for Matt Selig.

March Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the March Annual Business meeting were approved as published in the June, 2019, *IKC Update*.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Keith Dunlap reported cash assets totaling \$220,619.56 and land assets totaling \$563,000.00 for total assets of \$783,619.56. Funds include Stewardship: \$69,594.43; Land Acquisition: \$89,157.08; Deferred Dues: \$4,646.25; and General Fund (unrestricted): \$57,221.80. The IKC membership currently stands at 197 paid members with 16 not yet renewed. Most new members are joining via our website on-line application/payment, with many current members also renewing on-line. Feedback on the new on-line payment services has been very positive.

Email Motions Since Last Meeting

On May 11, 2019, Keith Dunlap made the following motion, "The Board authorizes the President to negotiate with The Nature Conservancy on an access management agreement for one or more TNC caves, and if a mutual agreement is reached, and after providing the

agreement to the Board for review, the President may execute the agreement." The motion was seconded by Marc Milne and Jerry Lewis called for the vote with all Board members accounted for by May 15, 2019, and the motion passed unanimously. As a follow-up, Keith indicated that discussions have taken place with TNC and examples of waivers have been provided. It's now in the hands of the TNC attorneys to review any potential access agreement. The TNC properties currently being discussed are mainly their Harrison-Crawford caves, with the potential to include some of their other properties in the future.

On May 23, 2019, Laura Demarest made the following motion, "I make a motion that Keith and Matt be authorized to proceed with the steps necessary to make an offer on this property, not to exceed the current listed price (\$33,000)." The motion was seconded by Dave Haun, and Jerry Lewis called for the vote with all Board members voting unanimously to approve on May 24, 2019 the purchase of Lowry Cave. As a follow-up, Keith indicated the results of the offer to purchase Lowry Cave would be discussed later in this meeting.

Wayne Cave Preserve

Stewardship Activities – Property Manager Danyele Green has a lot of work planned today, mainly invasive removal as well as trail work. She has future volunteer work days scheduled July 28, August 17, and September 21 to focus on removal of autumn olive, multiflora rose, bush honeysuckle, or any other woody invasive. The EQIP invasive treatment funding agreement approved by NRCS is around \$10,000 and will cover cost of equipment, sprayer, chemicals, etc., for the treatment of 15 acres. Discussion ensued as to whether volunteers should sign liability waivers for the public work-days; the consensus of the Board was yes.

Management Plan Revision – Danyele has updated the Management Plan, incorporating corrections received from Board members (Mr. Potato Pit and waiver edits). Bruce Bowman made a motion to accept the final version, seconded by Laura Demarest; and it was unanimously approved.

Orangeville Rise

Stewardship Update – Property Manager Carla Striegel-Winner has pulled 30 pounds of garlic mustard (there is more to pull) and picked up 18 pounds of trash. She will tackle other minor invasives later. She also discussed the on-going grad student research project to monitor water levels and chemistry at the Rise.

Shawnee Karst Preserve

Stewardship Activities – Keith Dunlap has mowed once and sprayed invasives along the western trail.



He reported multiple trees down on the trail that need to be chainsawed.

Entrance Status – Unknown at this time (since the last heavy rains), it has been opening and closing based on dynamic conditions.

Buddha Cave Preserve

Stewardship Activities – Property Manager Keith Dunlap has mowed the parking area and trail and sprayed invasives. The trees are growing well due to the weather. The sinkhole pit at the southeast corner is getting larger and “swallowing” more fence posts (left hanging over the pit). Dynamic changes are also occurring at Chase Pit.

Sullivan Cave Preserve

Stewardship Activities – Property Manager Keith Dunlap mowed the camping area but it is muddy (the previous killing of the invasive Stiltgrass has affected the amount of ground cover). Laura Demarest asked if anyone else had noticed potentially new graffiti in Sullivan? She will take photos of the area in question and monitor to confirm if there are changes in the future. The driveway down to the parking area needs new rock and Keith would like a motion to spend up to \$1500 to rock the driveway. Bruce Bowman made the motion, Richard Vernier seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously. Jamie Winner has volunteered to clean fill/debris out of the ditch along the driveway with his backhoe. A new roof on the red shed is on Keith’s wish list.

Management Plan Revision – Keith noted the present plan has outdated language and needs to incorporate the new language from the Wayne Cave Preserve plan just approved by the Board. Keith will accept help on revising the plan.

Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve

Stewardship Activities – Jamie Winner mowed the lane and camping areas, and Bambi Dunlap and Keith Dunlap mowed around the trees in the enclosure.

Chestnut Planting Update – Keith said replacements for the dead trees were planted; but since the Chestnut seedlings were just twigs, they are probably not going to survive. Two Chestnut trees died from insect boring.

Land Acquisition Activities

Lowry Cave Preserve Acquisition Status – Matt Selig and Keith Dunlap negotiated the purchase of Lowry Cave for \$30,000. A Purchase Agreement has been accepted and signed, but prior to closing, the property must be surveyed per our request. The field work for the survey is tentatively planned for July 5 with closing hopefully by the end of July. There are discrepancies/ambiguities in the prior legal description which is why we are requiring a new survey. The property to the south

has a decent survey which will determine our southern and part of the eastern borders. Graham Creek will delineate the rest of the eastern boundary, and the old county road defines the western boundary. It will be up to the surveyor to determine the north boundary. Laura asked when the Property Manager would be selected as she knows a couple of younger cavers active in the area who might be potential candidates. Jeff Cody said Scott Frosch has expressed interest as Cave Patron. Keith said Ray Sheldon has reached out to him and has expressed interest in both positions. The cave is being acquired because it is the first IKC property in the southeastern karst area, has rare cave species, is scenic, and has recreational opportunities. Dick Vernier made a brief grant application presentation at the NSS Convention to the National Speleological Foundation trustees.

Shawnee Karst Preserve Northern Expansion Status – Keith Dunlap reported that a friendly owner has acquired the 17.5 acre property to the north of Shawnee Karst Preserve. This will provide a future opportunity for the IKC to eventually acquire this tract to expand the current 50 acre preserve. There are multiple sinkholes on the property and Upper Twin Cave passage runs under it. There is one small cave on the property that has the real possibility to become another entrance to Upper Twin. The property has multiple buildings on it, including two houses with septic, but most of those structures will disappear. Keith asked if there would be interest in a prescriptive burn in the open field on Shawnee Karst Preserve (we have discussed this before, but had concerned about our fire getting onto this neighboring property, which would not have been very neighborly in the past).

Education & Outreach

Bedford Parks Learning Series – Laura Demarest had twenty people attend her program on caves and karst. She is low on brochures and is willing to update the brochure before printing a new batch, but she needs the template. Neither Keith, nor Bruce have the original; they suggested contacting Kriste Lindberg. Laura offered to work on the brochure in the fall. The groundwater model was borrowed for a water quality project presentation for school kids.

NCRC National Training Seminar – Laura reported on the week-long NCRC cave rescue seminar held at Camp Rivervale. A variety of caves were used including Buddha and Sullivan. Keith has the liability waivers for the event and will get them to the Cave Patrons.

Orientation to Cave Rescue (OCR) – The two-day training class in Mitchell, IN, November 2-3 was discussed. As an incentive, a portion of the registration costs will be underwritten and up to 25 IKC members and 7 first responders will receive reimbursement. The maximum class total is up to Jess Deli and Anmar Mirza.

ILPA Executive Director Update – Jerry Lewis and

Keith Dunlap met with the new ILPA Executive Director and went to Buddha Cave Preserve with her; but shortly thereafter (early June), she resigned from her position. They are interviewing again for another new Director. ILPA has enough grant money and membership dues to cover the director's salary for four years.

Discussion on Cave Visitors Not Following Visitation Rules

General discussion ensued without a motion being presented (a formal discussion likely will take place at the September meeting).

Items from the Floor

Keith asked if anyone attending the NSS Convention in Cookeville, TN, went to the National Speleological Foundation Trustees' informational program on "Investing in the Caving World". The answer was no

(probably because it occurred just prior to and across town from the Howdy Party location).

Keith announced that Richard Vernier will be building another 15 to 20 SpeLoggers [updated number is 24 units] which is expected to generate some revenue for the IKC. He thanked Richard in advanced for donating his time and labor to the IKC.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be September 28 in Burns Hollow (home of Jerry and Salisa Lewis) starting at 4 PM EDT with a cookout to follow.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:23 PM EDT.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Vernier, IKC Secretary Pro Tempore

...Continued from page 13

cided by the Corydon Town Board to lay a three-inch pipe line from the Fairgrounds Spring to the pumping station to the north, a distance of over 6000 feet, for increased flow. As it stood, the water from the Fairgrounds Spring was entering Indian Creek well downstream of the pumping station and flowing towards the Sinks of Indian Creek, where its benefits could not be captured. The Fair Board, owner of the Fairgrounds Spring, granted their approval. After a call for volunteers, over 500 men, Boy Scouts, farmers, business concerns, organizations, and property owners turned out on a Saturday to help save Corydon from almost certain disaster. The new line

pumped water at about 4400 gallons per hour. And the water line was installed in less than eight hours, well shorter than the estimated 2 ½ days that was forecast for the work.

An interesting tidbit turned up in the research of this article; my dad, Leo Benton, was one of the volunteers, along with my two older brothers, Maurice and Bob. I was a mere two years old at the time, so I probably couldn't help much!

References: *Corydon Democrat*; Aug 4, 1954, and the Corydon Public Library, assistance from Kathy Fisher, Genealogy Department Head.

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.

