

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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*grottos with liaison agreements

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ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING REMINDER

SATURDAY, MARCH 26th, 1:00 PM EDT

THIS WILL BE A VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

The Annual Business Meeting is for the purpose of the Executive Board elections. Annual reports from the IKC Cave Patrons and Property Managers will also be presented. And as always, the meeting is for members and other interested persons to have an open forum for talking about caves, 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: Financial reports; Election results; Cave Patron and Property Manager 2021 annual reports; Recap of recent (2022) preserve work projects; Promotion of upcoming preserve projects; Education/Outreach update; Fields Days for 2022 update; ILPA update and membership renewal; Mid-States Corridor update; Indiana Cave Symposium update; Cave/land acquisition activities; Sullivan Preserve Management Plan update; Document/photo archives; and more...

Meeting logistics: The meeting will be conducted virtually via Zoom. The meeting credential information will be emailed to all members a few days prior to the meeting.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

March 26 – IKC Annual Business Meeting (see above)

April 23 – IKC Spring Field Day – Wesley Gulf/Orangeville Rise (see page 7)

April 23 – Indiana Cave Symposium (see page 8)

June 11 – IKC Summer Field Day – Buddha Karst Preserve (see page 14)

June ?? – IKC Quarterly Board Meeting (date and location TBD)

Oct 8 – Big Bird Day at Shawnee Preserve (see page 6)

For more information on the Indiana Karst Conservancy, visit our website at ikc.caves.org, our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/IndianaKarstConservancy, 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 may also be made electronically by credit card or PayPal using our on-line services on our website (see the Join Us! tab in the menu) or ikc.caves.org/join-the-ikc.

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. Back issues can be found at ikc.caves.org/ikc-updates.

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RAMBLINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT...

This morning I read the Fall 2020 issue of *The Twig*, the newsletter published by the Sycamore Land Trust.

In that issue they celebrated their 30th anniversary and discussed the principles they found important in their journey. I thought their outlook was so interesting and insightful that I would like to take the liberty to apply these principles to the work of our Indiana Karst Conservancy.

Diversify your group of leaders. It makes me think of how we need to bring the next generation of cavers into the conservation fold and how we need people with a multitude of skills in order to best take advantage of opportunities as they present themselves.

Take Risks. Caving itself requires careful risk management, but the thought that something terrible could happen doesn't keep us out of caves, we learn how to manage the risks and enjoy the rewards.

Taking stands on controversial issues, such as cave gating and public infrastructure projects, is something the IKC has done from its start. These were not always popular, but over the course of time I am confident that for the most part we've got it right and that our principles were based not only on our feelings, but backed by hard data and an in-depth understanding of our subject.

Include Our Elders. We are fortunate to have an on-line archive of *IKC Updates* that go back all the way to *IKC Update* #1. Many of the people who were formative in the IKC's early days are still with us as active IKC members. I am grateful to serve on the IKC's Executive Board with former officers of this organization and depend on their decades of experience and wisdom. To paraphrase Sir Isaac Newton, "*If we have seen further, it is because we stand on the shoulders of giants.*"

A quick review of our membership roster shows the IKC has 43 individuals out of 239 who have been members of the IKC for at least thirty years, and my calculations show the average length of membership for the IKC is 14.5 years. This long-term commitment of our members is

impressive and shows that when they joined our organization, they found something worth being part of for decades.

I was happy to discover my own name first appears in the March 1989 *IKC Update* as a participant in a cleanup at Camp #1 in Wayne Cave which occurred in December 1988. I remember this trip and have enjoyed working with the IKC ever since. We need to work hard to pass our enthusiasm along to the future generations of our members.

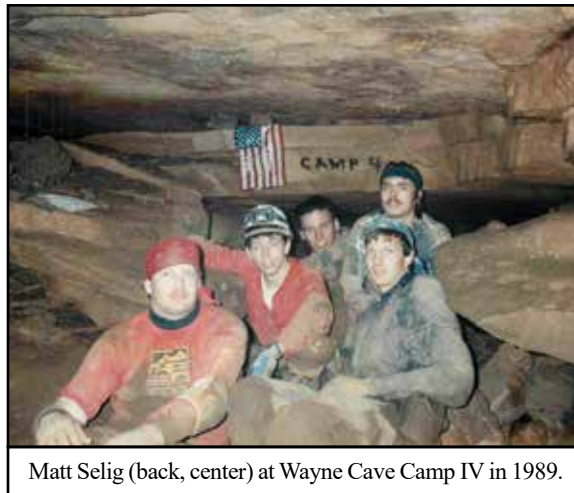
Stay Focused. The IKC could be involved in a lot of worthy endeavors. We could dissipate our energies into a lot of good ideas. A smart question: How do we ensure our plans and activities stay focused on fulfilling the IKC's exempt purpose? More on this as we discuss "being strategic" below.

This work is rooted in love. In the IKC, we love caves. We love cavers. We love those who love caves. Love is the killer app, the secret sauce, the angel in the whirlwind. I've discussed our love of caves in previous Ramblings and, after a year serving as the IKC's President, I'm even more convinced love is what drives the IKC when we are at our best.

You have to be strategic. In *The Twig*, they point out that acquiring one 100-acre land parcel might be more strategic than 100 one-acre land parcels. With more preserves under the IKC's care, we need more fund-raising, more Cave Patrons, more Property Managers, more volunteers for workdays. How do we get the most bang for our buck?

In April 2021, I had a Zoom meeting with the other two IKC officers to discuss the IKC's projects and goals for the coming months and years. This resulted in a long list of work we believed would result in the IKC accomplishing its exempt purpose. We will continue to evaluate the IKC's projects and goals with an eye towards being strategic and not using our resources and efforts to pursue fruitless, but interesting dead ends.

Keep a strong balance sheet. With strong financial stability, the IKC can wake up in the morning and say, "What do we *want* to do today?" With weak finances, we would have to wake up



Matt Selig (back, center) at Wayne Cave Camp IV in 1989.

and ask ourselves, “What do we *have* to do today and how much longer do we have to do it?”

In my non-caving work, I am a CPA and have seen many organizations fail because of weak and sloppy financial management. We have a duty to the members who pay their dues and to those who so generously provide us with donations to not only focus on our strategic efforts, but to also be responsible and prudent with the IKC’s resources. We should never accept anything less from the IKC’s leadership.

Be adaptable, but remember your roots. The IKC was started in an era when caves were actively being purposely damaged and there was a desperate need for someone to say, “Stop vandalizing these caves and let’s clean up this mess.” This took courage and wasn’t necessarily a popular thing to say at the time. Let’s keep the courage of our conservation convictions, but remain ready to change.

In recent discussions I’ve had with the IKC’s Executive Board, I sense the crisis of cave vandalism we saw in places such as Garrison Chapel Valley when the IKC was founded is not the grave problem it was 35 years ago (although not non-existent). I also believe we’ve won the argument about whether Indiana’s caves are worth preserving. Let’s also hope we never again have to debate anyone about the horrible concept of “sacrificial caves”.

But if the crisis that led to the IKC’s founding is no longer the severe crisis it was in 1986, what should the IKC do now to accomplish its exempt purpose? We need to continue this discussion and we need your voice and experience as we evolve.

Continually earn the community’s trust. I feel like I almost shouldn’t have to say anything about this; that really the principles we’ve discussed here are “self-evident truths”. Cavers, landowners, cave organizations, donors, volunteers, activists, Board members, other not-for-profits, governmental organizations all look to the IKC and ask themselves, “Can I trust the IKC, or are they just another pile of guano?”

All of these groups look to the IKC and judge

our credibility and integrity. The IKC has earned a lot of goodwill with these constituents in the last thirty-five years, and it is our privilege to not only conserve caves, but to serve the needs of these many stakeholders.

When the Executive Board discussed how to handle the Gale and Ray Beach Bequest, the point that really stuck in my mind is that our Board members all agreed we want to ensure the IKC will be around not for just another 35 years, but forever – for the benefit of our grandchildren’s grandchildren, and their grandchildren.

Optimists are people who “Plant the seeds of trees they’ll never live long enough to sit in the shade of.” Karst processes are patient and proceed slowly over the course of millennia. But they are relentless in pursuit of their aim and as the IKC reflects on its origins and future, I think this is a worthy model to emulate.

I encourage you to join us in this project. In 2022 we have property workdays to work, invasive species to eradicate, Executive Board meetings to attend, a Symposium to share knowledge, and perhaps another rescue training class to sponsor. The IKC continues to pursue strategic property acquisitions, and we contribute our voice to the debate about public works projects such as the Mid-States Corridor. We coordinate our efforts with other land trusts, grottos, the NSS, the Indiana Cave Survey, The Nature Conservancy, the DNR, the Hoosier National Forest, and other interested organizations and agencies. In our growing social media presence, we make thousands of engagements per month with people interested in our work and seek to educate cavers and the public about caves and cave conservation (please like the IKC on Facebook).

As always, I ask you to join us in these projects. We need your help, and we wouldn’t want it any other way. I’m excited to see what the IKC will accomplish in 2022 and glad you are a part of this story!

Matt Selig



NEWS BRIEFS...

- ❑ A new initiative of the IKC Board is to organize field trips featuring our preserves to increase member engagement and attract new supporters. In 2022 we will host four such outings. The first will be on April 23 featuring the Orangeville Rise (see more details on page 7). The second tour will be on June 11 to our Buddha preserve (see page 14). An early fall hike with bat biologist (and IKC Board member) Goni Iskali will be confirmed soon. The final late fall/winter field day is still in the works. Questions may be directed to Carla Striegel-Winner (CarlaStriegel@gmail.com).
- ❑ As spring approaches, the IKC will have many stewardship opportunities at our seven preserves. In April we are planning tree planting at our Shawnee Karst Preserve and Sullivan Cave Preserve, and garlic mustard pulls at our Lowry Karst Preserve and Orangeville Rise Nature Preserve. Then in May, we will transition into invasives treatment at our Wayne Cave Preserve and Lowry Karst Preserve. And there is always trail mowing and downed-tree removals on our trails. Because many of these activities are weather dependent, it's hard to schedule with more than a week's lead time, so if any of these activities sound like something you'd like to help out with, contact the respective Property Manager listed on page 2 to get on their volunteer list. Some of these activities may also be posted on our Facebook page.
- ❑ And speaking of Property Managers, at the December IKC Board meeting, Keith Dunlap accepted the position of Property Manager for the Shawnee Karst Preserve that has been vacant since last March, while Joe Kinder is now the new Property Manager for the Sullivan Cave Preserve, replacing Keith.
- ❑ The IKC recently renewed the cave access Letter of Understanding with Spring Mill State Park for two more years (originally negotiated in 2014). This agreement covers limited access to Shawnee (Donaldson/Bronson), Upper Twin, River, and Endless caves (see the front cover photo for a nice passage shot from within Endless Cave). Each cave has specific "windows" for visitation. Dave Everton continues to be the Access Coordinator and the liaison with Spring Mill. For more information on this DNR cave access program, see ikc.caves.org/dnr/spring_mill.htm.
- ❑ This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Indiana DNR's Nongame Wildlife Fund. They are celebrating this milestone over the next year by sharing **40 Stories** that showcase the conservation successes that were made possible by donors, partners, and volunteers. Visit the story map's landing page (storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/f8a526228df14fc395e1f5ee4c8aceee) where you can access January's and February's stories. More each month. Enjoy!
- ❑ Save the date of October 8th for the Big Bird Day Event at the Shawnee Karst Preserve. The Indiana Land Protection Alliance (ILPA) is helping member land trusts host birding events at their properties across the state on this day. ILPA is partnering with the Indiana Audubon Society to publicize the events and provide a birder to lead the event. More details to come!
- ❑ A new conservation initiative called the Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape was recently established to encourage cooperation between several federal partners (Department of Defense, Department of Interior, and the USDA), a number of state agencies and universities, several non-profits/land trusts, and private landowners. The initiative is to promote sustainability, resilience, and recreational use. It is unclear if the IKC can benefit from this initiative, although six of our seven preserves are within the boundaries of the conservation area. For more information, go to sentinellandscapes.org/landscapes/southern-indiana or download the information brochure here: sentinellandscapes.org/media/45ebpvuy/southernindiana_sentinellandscape_14feb22.pdf.
- ❑ The IKC did a mini fund-raiser last December. Cindy Rothrock, a supporter of the IKC (and sister to Keith Dunlap), offered to donate processed persimmon pulp for the IKC to re-sell. She also offered to wholesale honey from some of her hives for the IKC to retail for a profit. Because the items could not be easily shipped, the offer was sent out to a limited list of IKC members and supporters in the Indianapolis and Bloomington areas so the goods could be hand delivered. In total, 41 two-cup packets of pulp and twelve quarts of honey were sold, netting \$457.



- ❑ As has been noted in the past, the IKC annual dues (\$15/year) revenue do not completely cover all of the IKC's baseline operating expenses and obligations. These baseline expenses include printing and mailing our quarterly newsletter, our general liability and business insurance premiums, our property taxes, routine stewardship activities, and other miscellaneous/necessary business expenses. Thus, we greatly appreciate the additional donations many of our members make beyond their standard dues to supplement and support the IKC (the IKC has not raised its dues since our founding in 1986). During 2021, fifty-four individuals/couples and eight organizations made general donations beyond their dues totaling \$6,228. Donors include John Ahlberg, John Benton, Ted Bice, Larry Bundy, Joseph Buttrill, Thomas Carney, Thomas Chenier, Martin Church, Teresa Clark, Jeff Cody, Laura Demarest, Keith Dunlap, Jeff Farr, William Frantz, Rick Gikas, Danyele Green, Barbara Hanka, Dave Haun, Rand Heazlitt, Tem Hornaday, Rob Jarboe, Kevin Johnson, Glenn Kotnik, Matt Laherty, Chris Landis, Marcella Larch, Ed LaRock, Matthew Lewis, Jerry & Salisa Lewis, George Mattson, Dave McGowen, Jane & Lynn Miller, Ralph Moshage, Carl & Louise Nelson, Stanley Nieder, Ken Nisly-Nagele, Sherrill Owens, Nathan Pate, Ernie & Jacqueline Payne, Russell Pusilo, Kelle Reynolds, Sam Richey, Ralph Sawyer, Mary Selig, Tom Sollman, Carla Striegel-Winner & Jamie Winner, Stephanie Suen, Bruce Trotter, Aaron Valandra, Dick & Sue Vernier, Dan Vettters, Paul Webb, Scott Worpell, Anthony Yoder, Bluespring Caverns, Cleveland Grotto, Greater Cincinnati Grotto, Near Normal Grotto, Northern Indiana Grotto, Saint Joseph Valley Grotto, Caving



FIELD TOUR OF WESLEY CHAPEL GULF AND ORANGEVILLE RISE NATURE PRESERVE

SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2022 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM EDT

Join the IKC for our first of four field days in 2022 to highlight our preserves! This free event is open to everyone, but is by registration-only and is limited to 20 participants. From the meeting place, we will be caravanning to Wesley Chapel Gulf and Orangeville Rise, and will be led by hydrogeology experts Sarah Burgess and Sam Frushour, both with the Indiana Geological and Water Survey (IGWS). Sarah will focus on the geologic setting of the Mitchell Plateau and Crawford Uplands, the dye traces that have been done in the area, the hydrology of the Lost River, and share water chemistry results from recent studies at the IGWS. Sam will provide context for the dye traces and historic studies. As many know, Sam has much knowledge to share about the karst of southern Indiana in his long career with the IGWS and as a caver.

At the Hoosier National Forest-owned Gulf, we will hike down into the huge 11-acre sink to visit the Lost River rise pool and once we are back out, have a short break at the cars before heading to the IKC-owned Orangeville Rise Nature Preserve, the state's second largest spring. At the Rise we will view the spring and walk along the county road a little ways to see the Lost River surface channel before returning to the meeting spot. Those of you attending the Indiana Cave Symposium that evening will be back in plenty of time for the pitch-in meal.

Please be prepared for the weather, as the tour will go rain or shine. Sturdy shoes are recommended. A snack will be provided, but please bring your own water. There are no bathroom facilities along the three hour event, but the Community Center at the meeting spot will be open for 20 minutes before we depart, and will be open on our return. Please physically distance from others not in your party during the tour. Be prepared to drive your own vehicle as we will not be arranging carpools. The vehicles will be parked in small parking areas and along the county roadsides during both stops. We look forward to seeing you!

Please go to [ikcFieldTourApril23.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ikc-field-tour-april-23-2022-tickets-31234567890) to register. Questions may be directed to the field trip organizer Carla Striegel-Winner (CarlaStriegel@gmail.com).

Club of IU, and the Indiana Native Plant Society. The overall number of donors and the total donations were up in 2021 compared to the prior year.

- ❑ The IKC also maintains a Cave/Land Acquisition *restricted* fund which is used exclusively to accumulate resources for our acquisition activities. In 2021 we did not solicit donations for any particular project, yet we had forty-eight individuals/couples and four organizations contribute \$14,273. Donors include Josh Abdulla, Gretchen Anderson, Joy Baiz, Bruce Bowman, Virgil Brack, Keith Calkins, Teresa Clark, Laura Demarest, Mike Drake, Keith Dunlap, Dave Everton, Al Goodcase, Barbara Hanka, Shawn Hogbin, Rob Jarboe, Joe Kinder, Matt Laherty, Marcella Larch, Ed LaRock, Chris McIntyre, Jonathan Miller, Bill Morrow, Carl & Louise Nelson, Sherrill Owens, Nathen Pate, Ernie & Jacqueline Payne, Kevin Rasmus, Charles Rex, Kelle Reynolds, Sam Richey, Carroll Ritter, Gary Roberson, Wesley Roeder, William Roth, Ralph Sawyer, Matt Selig, Ray Sheldon, Gordon Smith, Tom Sollman, Amanda Stofan, Dave Tibbets, Bill Tozer, Paul Webb, Norbert Welsh, Wyatt Williams, Carla Striegel-Winner & Jamie Winner, Scott Worpell, Indiana Caverns, Saint Joseph Valley Grotto, Servaas Laboratories (Bar Keepers Friend), and BRS III LLC.
- ❑ The IKC has gained *twelve* new members in the last quarter. Welcome Robert Bloomer, Verl Dasher, David Dow, Max Gamble, Benjamin Hiatt, Mark Hildebrand, Adam Hjermenrud, John Lindsey, Mark O'Daniel, Chris Parks, Dave Rainey, and Jonathan Sears. The IKC membership currently stands at 250.

2022 INDIANA CAVE SYMPOSIUM PREVIEW – APRIL 23

by Keith Dunlap

After a two year hiatus, the 28th Indiana Cave Symposium, co-sponsored by the Indiana Karst Conservancy and Indiana Cave Survey, will be held on Saturday, April 23, at the Orange County Community Center (1075 N Sandy Hook Road adjacent to the H-4 fairgrounds) in Paoli, Indiana. We also plan to simulcast the presentation via Zoom for those wishing to view virtually (credentials will be sent to those who register).

As in the past, the symposium will offer the customary free cookout (burgers, brats, and other assorted meats and non-meat offerings) and we encourage attendees to share pitch-in side dishes (a covered dish, salad, or dessert). The meal will start at 5 PM EDT with the presentations beginning at 6:30. The *tentative* presentation titles and presenters (in no particular order) include:

- Binkley Cave System Update – Rand Heazlitt
- What's New with the IKC – Laura Demarest
- Cave Art in Kentucky & Indiana – Joe Douglas
- Mid-States Corridor Update – Kevin Strunk
- National Cave Museum – Gordon Smith/John Benton
- Lowry Karst Preserve – Ray Sheldon
- Structural Control of the Mitchell Plateau and Some of its Caves – Sarah Burgess
- The Cave Rover™ Project – Christopher Dick



photo courtesy Dave Black (2018)

For more information about the Symposium, contact Bruce Trotter (BruceATrotter@gmail.com) or visit the Indiana Cave Survey (www.caves.org/survey/ics). Also, in order that we may better plan for food, this year attendees should RSVP using the following link: form.jotform.com/213464260970152.

Also this year, the IKC will be hosting a pre-symposium caravan field trip to Wesley Chapel Gulf and the Orangeville Rise with subject expert hydrogeochemistry geologist Sarah Burgess and karst expert Sam Frushour, who will highlight the unique features of the Lost River. For more information on the field trip and how to register, see page 7.

MID-STATES CORRIDOR ROUTES O AND M: OPPOSITION, OUTREACH, AND WHAT COMES NEXT

by Carla Striegel-Winner

The IKC has been following the proposed Mid-States Corridor highway study project for several years since two of the five proposed routes would plow by cave and karst features. In the past, the IKC has generally remained silent on large infrastructure projects like this, but we have now gone on record to voice our opposition. The Indiana Karst Conservancy opposes both of the proposed new-terrain Routes O and M, remains neutral on the other three routes, and strongly supports the “no build” option that could then re-allocate infrastructure funding to maintain and improve the existing roads we already have.

The grassroots group “Stop the Mid-States Corridor” has been active, with Board member Keith Dunlap attending virtual meetings and updating the rest of the IKC Executive Board as needed. After learning the group would be hosting two town hall events in southwest Indiana, I attended the one in my own county of Dubois, which was held in Jasper on January 11. It was very well attended, with over 100 people packing the room. This was especially impressive, considering that it was initially assumed Dubois County would strongly support this new road.

The second town hall meeting was held on January 25 in Orleans in Orange County, a hop, skip, and a jump from the IKC’s Orangeville Rise Nature Preserve, of which I am the Property Manager. The town hall organizers wanted to have a representative to talk on the caves and karst of the area, so I spoke for a few minutes, representing the IKC, and as a local landowner. The event was again well attended with

over 100 coming out on a bitter cold night, including a large contingent of local Amish residents.

After the town hall presentations were over, I was approached by the Chair of the Winding Waters Sierra Club about doing a talk for their southeast Indiana group, and also approached by a couple of landowners who invited me to come look at their properties near Orangeville.



The Orangeville Rise Nature Preserve

The Sierra Club hosted me virtually on March 2nd, with a talk titled *Caves, Karst, and Route “O NO” of the Mid-States Corridor*, with approximately 17 people in attendance. This talk was recorded and will be made available by the Hoosier Chapter Sierra Club soon. Additionally, I can be available to present this talk virtually again to a grotto or other group.

In the meantime, a working group of IKC Board members authored a letter to the governor that was approved by the rest of the Board and sent on February 28th. This letter is shown on the following pages, and is also linked on the home page of our website (ikc.caves.org).

We would like to encourage our members and grottos to take action in expressing their opposition to Routes O and M by

using our letter as a template, and we have also put together a **Caver Call to Action** sheet (tinyurl.com/bdfsa4av) that can provide additional information on what you can do. The study project’s Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and their preferred route is set to be announced by mid-April, so taking action now is of importance. We want you to



Carla Striegel-Winner holding a list of 260 known caves and karst features that could be impacted by Route O.

know that your voices do make a difference in protecting the caves and karst that we all love.

The **Mid-States Corridor study project** is nearing the selection of their “preferred” route, expected by mid-April. The IKC has gone on record opposing the new-terrain Route “O” and Route “M” as both alternatives would significantly impact the karst topography west of Bedford, Mitchell, Orleans, and Paoli. See the IKC letter below with the graphic on the next page. We encourage our members to write similar letters of opposition to the Governor, InDOT Commissioner, and the Mid-States Corridor Project Manager.



Indiana Karst Conservancy, Inc.

“PROTECTING CAVES THROUGH ACTIVE CONSERVATION”

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February 28, 2022

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RE: Comments on Mid-States Corridor Project Tier 1 Environmental Impact Study

Dear Governor Holcomb, Commissioner Smith, and Mr. DuPont:

The Indiana Karst Conservancy (IKC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating our citizens about and protecting caves and karst in Indiana. Founded thirty-six years ago, our organization over the years has typically remained neutral on infrastructure projects, except when a project appears to be a direct threat to caves and karst landscapes.

As the preferred route decision on the Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Mid-States Corridor Project nears, we wish to go on record that we oppose the selection of either of the new-terrain Route O and Route M alternatives. Either of these proposed routes would have significant, irreversible impacts to the karst areas they would cross during the construction process, and then on-going impacts from non-point source stormwater run-off as well as point source contamination from vehicle accidents, chemical spills, and other pollutants.

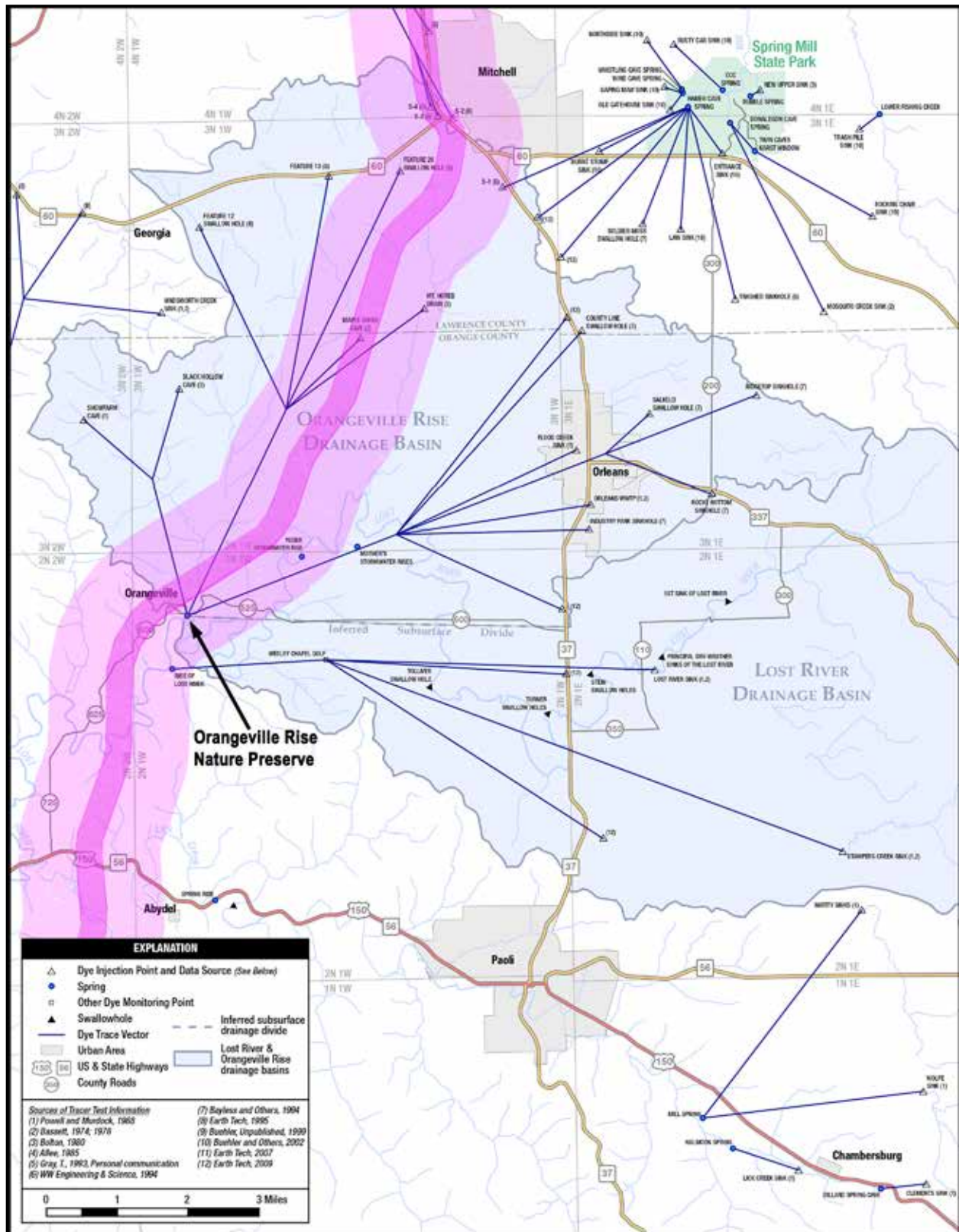
In addition to the overall/general impact that both proposed Routes O and M would have on the karst belt in southern Indiana, the IKC owns a state dedicated nature preserve and National Natural Landmark, the Orangeville Rise Nature Preserve in Orange County which the Route O corridor physically runs very close to, and more importantly, if selected, will traverse eight miles of the Orangeville Rise drainage basin (see map below). This new-terrain highway will, without question, damage the water quality and subterranean fauna that depend on the miles of known and unknown subterranean conduits beneath this landscape.

In addition to the major impact on the Lost River Drainage Basin and to the IKC's Orangeville Rise Nature Preserve, we have identified over 260 caves and karst features that will be negatively impacted by Route “O”, and 163 caves and karst features that will be negatively impacted by Route “M”, should either of these alternatives be selected as the preferred route. The significant impact to this fragile ecosystem is a price too high to pay for the Mid-States Corridor.

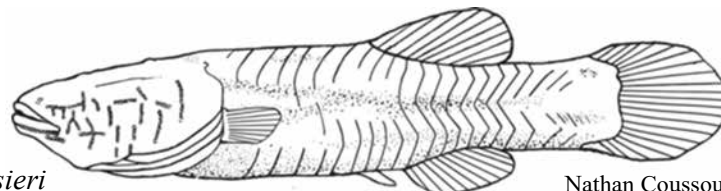
We wish to remain neutral on the other alternative routes. However, with your recent decision to upgrade US 231 between Jasper and Crane, it appears to us that the primary purpose of this entire Mid-States Corridor has now been rendered moot. We hope a “no build” option on the Mid-States Corridor will be recommended when the Tier 1 DEIS is released.

Sincerely,

Matthew Selig
IKC President



The full PDF version of this letter to the governor can be downloaded at www.tinyurl.com/pbdbjazj



Amblyopsis hoosieri

Nathan Coussou

A LOOK BACK AT INDIANA KARST

by John M Benton

The Blue Springs Bottling Company existed in Corydon, Indiana, from 1916 to 1933. Soft drinks were bottled and sold from the plant located at the west end of High Street near Indian Creek. The building was first used as a creamery, before bottling and distributing “Whistle” soft drink flavors of orange, grape, lemon, cherry, strawberry, ginger ale, root beer, cola, and others. The “special” water used in the formula was from the Corydon Blue Spring located on Chestnut Street about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile to the east. The clear glass bottles had the words “Blue Spring Bottling Company” on the front, and “Julep” imprinted on the back (Julep was the Chicago-based syrup company providing the flavorings). The sodas were distributed in Harrison, Crawford, Washington, Floyd, and Orange counties. The bottling works had a capacity of 3,000 glass bottles per day, but it isn’t known if that capacity was ever obtained. In 1930 the bottling company got the franchise for distributing 7-Up, bottled then, as now, in green glass bottles. It isn’t known what happened to the business, but

The Blue Springs
Bottling Works

Manufacturers of

LEADING FLAVORED BEVERAGES

Orange Julep, Grape Julep, Cherry Chaser,
Lemon Sour, Strawberry, Jersey Creme,
Ginger Ale, Root Beer, Cola and Logan
berry.

Your patronage solicited.
Satisfaction Guaranteed
Yours for business

A. O. SMITH

June-25-29

6/26/1924

the building was sold by 1936, and it became a cheese factory, and collected milk from local farmers to manufacture cheese. The cheese factory operated until 1951. It is also believed the building was subsequently used as a blacksmith/welding shop and other businesses, but is now abandoned.

The Corydon Blue Spring originally flowed overland from its resurgence several hundred

feet to the Little Indian Creek. As Corydon developed, the stream was “buried” and built over. State Road 62 crosses it, and at one time the Parks Chevrolet dealership was on top of it, but now it is just a large gravel parking lot. There are still two grates that drain into the culvert below and one can still access the spring from the large portal

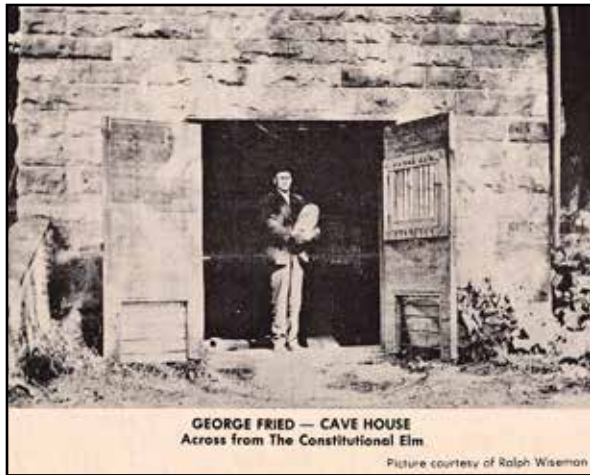


photo courtesy ICS database

along Little Indian Creek. In 1998 the spring was dove by cave divers David Strickland and Mark Hermerding. They reported a rise pool, 8 feet wide by 15 feet long, but after about 30 feet, the passage became too small to push with their scuba gear. The town of Corydon at one time also used this spring as the town’s water source. Some older steel pipes and other plumbing can still be seen by looking through the steel grates.

Somewhat curious, adjacent to the bottling plant on High Street was another spring that had a role in Indiana history. In 1816, this spring was supposedly used by the 43 delegates to cool their food, drink, and vegetables when they spent 19 days drafting the Indiana Constitution, under the shade of the huge Elm tree across the street from the spring. The tree succumbed to Dutch Elm disease in the 1920s, but the tree’s trunk is now enshrined under a large sandstone shelter, and is a State Historic site (www.youtube.com/watch?v=-7N2-qfaJBU).

Sometime later, this spring was housed in a stone building called Cave House (see circa 1925 photo). It is also thought that the water from this spring may have been used by the bottling plant, although the outflow was less than the Corydon



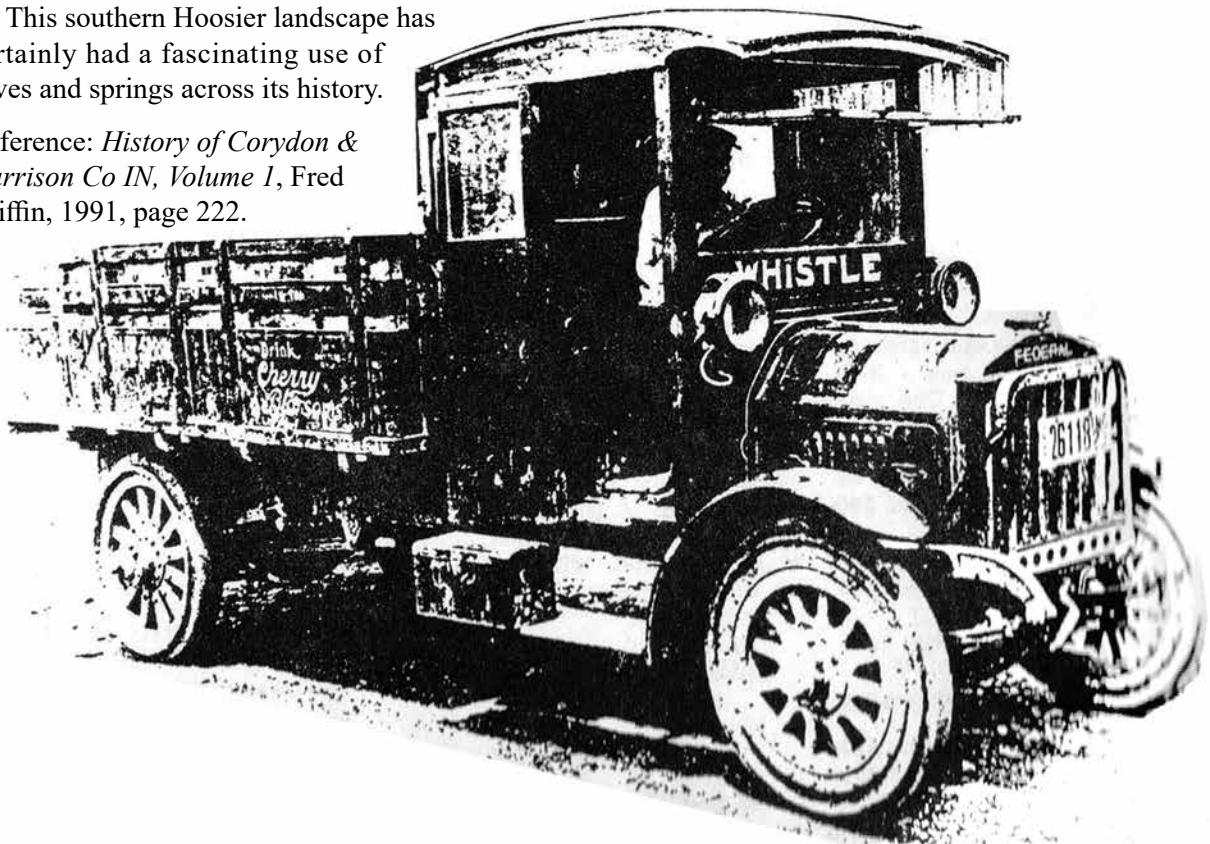
Blue Spring. At some point it is believed the Cave House was removed and another building was constructed over the spring, but the spring was still accessible by climbing under the front porch of the building. In July 1998, Joe Oliphant pushed the spring through some very low airspace. Aaron Atz, Bill Baus, Chris Schotter, and others subsequently explored and started to map the cave that is estimated to be several thousand feet long (the mapping project was never finished). They named the cave Constitutional Elm Cave, but it is also known as Egg Factory Cave as there was sometimes a pungent sulphur odor emitting from the entrance. The cavers also noted the smell of hydrocarbons, likely from a leaky fuel oil tank in the area.

This southern Hoosier landscape has certainly had a fascinating use of caves and springs across its history.

Reference: *History of Corydon & Harrison Co IN, Volume 1*, Fred Griffin, 1991, page 222.



photo courtesy John Benton



BUDDHA KARST PRESERVE: KARST FEATURES AND ECOLOGY TOUR

SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2022

Join us for our second of four field trips in 2022, led by IKC founding member Keith Dunlap and Indiana's Community Ecologist (and IKC member!) Wyatt Williams of the IDNR Division of Nature Preserves. Keith has been involved with the property since its purchase in 2001 and Wyatt, along with the state botanist, started a native plant inventory on this dedicated Nature Preserve last year. Over the IKC's 20+ years of stewardship, the property has gone through a significant transition from cow pasture to successional forest. We will do the one mile trail loop, plus some off trail stops, and will go rain or shine. The event is free and open to everyone, but is by registration-only and limited to 20 participants. Registration will open May 13, but you may go to [ikcFieldTour-June11.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ikc-field-tour-june-11-2022-tickets-311111111111) at any time for more information and to have a reminder sent to you. Questions may be directed to the field trip organizer Carla Striegel-Winner (CarlaStriegel@gmail.com).

GET TO KNOW YOUR INVASIVES: TREE OF HEAVEN

by Danyele Green

The fifth in a planned installment of invasive species education series.

Fast Facts:

- Latin name *Ailanthus altissima*.
- Native to northeast and central China.
- Can live up to 100 years (average is 50) .
- Also known as the 'Stink Tree' and if you tear up a leaflet you will soon find out why. Did someone mention rotten meat or rancid peanut butter?
- How to ID – pinnately compound leaves, 1 to 4 inches long, consisting of 11+ pointed smooth-edged leaflets, with each having 2 to 4 teeth at the base that have glands (aka stink makers).
- Bark is smooth, brownish/greenish when young; to light brown/gray and rougher when mature.
- This invasive tree causes damage to surround-



photo courtesy Dave Jackson (Penn State)

ing flora by releasing a chemical into the soil that suppresses growth of other plants surrounding it (allelopathic).

- Cutting a tree without chemical treatment to kill the roots is not effective as the tree will prolifically send up new sprouts. Mid- to late-summer foliar herbicide application, or basal application at any time of year, with repeated visits to the site to pull seedlings.
- Be Forewarned – Some people are allergic or sensitive to parts of the tree (pollen or contact with any part of the tree including the sap).

Native alternatives to Tree of Heaven:

- Black Walnut
- Staghorn or Smooth Sumac

For more information on identifying and managing invasives in Indiana, go to www.sicim.info



photo courtesy The Nature Conservancy

DECEMBER IKC MEETING: A GREAT CAVE & SOUP TO BOOT

by Jeff Cody

I wanted to write this article due to the very cool (literally) and unique venue we had for the December IKC quarterly meeting: Bluespring Caverns in Lawrence County. As many of you may know, Bluespring Caverns is the commercial section of Blue Spring Cave and features a really interesting seasonal boat tour. The cave is one of Indiana's longest at over 20 miles. It is also one of the most significant river caves in the nation, and is noted for the blind cavefish (*Amblyopsis hoosieri*) that can be observed there. The meeting date was set for December 12 and I think this was only the second IKC meeting ever held on a Sunday.

Blue Spring Cave/Bluespring Caverns actually has a pretty elaborate history. The cave was believed first explored by Native Americans. This would have been from the then-spring entrance along the East Fork of the White River. The first documented exploration was in 1874 by John Collett, one of Indiana's first State Geologists. He reported three miles of passage accessed from the former spring entrance by boat. In 1912, an early hydroelectric dam at Williams was built. This dam submerged the former spring entrance and over a half mile of passage. This section of cave has been flooded since that time. In 1941 after a heavy rain, a collapse within a shallow sink opened into a high passage adjacent to the underground stream. This was on the farm of George and Eva Colglazier. A few years after this collapse, on the property then owned by Emery and Ruth Bolton, a crawl at the bottom of a large deep sinkhole was found to also lead to the stream passage. For several years, the cave files reported the system as three caves: Blue Spring, Colglazier Sink, and Bolton Sink caves.

Modern exploration of the cave system began in 1964. The well-known group called Geolucifugus began exploring from Colglazier Sink and Bolton Sink entrances. This group consisted of Dale Chase, his brother Dan, Tony Moore, Jim Richards, and others. Art and Peg Palmer directed much of the survey efforts. Over 18 miles of passage was eventually mapped in a time frame of

around seven years. The map shows areas called the First Discovery, Second Discovery, Third Discovery, and the Fourth Discovery in the order of initial explorations. Two more entrances were also discovered during that time. Also worth mentioning was the support of the Colglaziers. They had enthusiasm for this exploration with hopes that someday the public could experience this cave. In 1971 the cave via the Colglazier entrance first opened as a tourist cave with a boat ride. Eighteen months later this operation went bankrupt. In 1974, local cavers Jim Richards, Sam Frushour, Bob Hosley, and later Bob Armstrong worked to reopen this commercial operation with new boats, better lighting, and stabilization of the erosion-prone Colglazier entrance. Later a visitor center

was opened overlooking the entrance, and to this day, the long held dreams of the Colglaziers are being fulfilled. You can read more about the history of Blue Spring Cave in an article written by Jim Richards featured in the 2007 NSS Convention Guidebook (*Back Underground in Indiana*).

The commercial cave also hosts scout/youth groups in the off-season for overnight campouts inside the cave. In the upper passage above the boat dock they have bunk beds, restrooms, picnic tables, and even a concession stand. A couple years back, the commercial operation also introduced guided kayak tours downstream from the commercial boat tour. This provides a more intimate experience with the cave. Prior to the afternoon IKC meeting, about half of the Board had pre-arranged a kayak trip for the morning. Unfortunately the day before the meeting was when tragic tornados ripped through Kentucky and other states. This same storm dropped significant rainfall on southern Indiana which resulted in water levels rising in the Blue Spring river and currents increased to where our kayak trip had to be postponed. I was really looking forward to this trip, especially doing it with fellow IKC Board members.

Regardless, the Board had informally planned a "pitch-in" of snacks and warm soup before the



meeting with everyone bringing good stuff to share. I arrived in plenty of time and met other attendees and Jim Richards in the parking lot. I thanked Jim for allowing us to use the cave for our meeting. We proceeded into the entrance under the visitor center and set up the food spread at the concession stand in the cave. Carla brought a really good vegi soup in a crock pot and Joe Kinder brought venison chili, also warm and tasty. We had a wide assortment of cheese, crackers, cookies, and other sweets and snacks. The picnic tables were not far beyond the boat dock and above it. The stream below was a bit “angry” from the prior rain and made quite a bit of noise echoing through the large passage.

We had to speak loudly, but we were able to communicate. Kind of neat actually to hear water from the cave river during our meeting. Jim Richards and AJ Horen, who helps manage the cave, both hung around for the meeting. As usual, many topics were

covered with lots of discussion (you can see the minutes starting on page 21). In a bit of a surprise to me, the entire Board was in attendance with no proxies needed. After about three hours the meeting concluded, and many of us hung out in the parking lot to chat as the day was actually pretty nice for



The December IKC meeting held in Bluespring Caverns

December. I took a few photos inside the cave and a few outside around the property as well. We have rescheduled our kayak trip for mid-February [*editor's note, the trip was postponed again due to high water*]. In closing, I would like to thank Jim Richards and the other co-owners for allowing the IKC to use the cave for the meeting. And thanks to AJ for being there to help with

the food. Also a special thanks to Board members Joe Kinder and Laura Demarest, who both started their cave “careers” as guides at Bluespring Caverns, and have a long relationship with the owners and facilitated the meeting location.

YOGA FOR A CAUSE

by Goni Iskali

Vibe Yoga is a woman-owned business that has been a staple of the Bloomington community, and also happens to be one of my favorite places. I was introduced to the studio through free yoga classes that they offered at the Indiana University Eskenazi Museum of Art. What inspires me about Vibe Yoga, in addition to their excellent classes and workshops, is their dedication to the community. They offer a donation-based class every Sunday at their studio location, and the proceeds go to a charity or organization of their choice every month. During January 2022, the IKC was the lucky recipient of their donations! In addition to the monetary donations (that totalled

\$127), Vibe Yoga spread the word about the IKC through distributing our brochures and a short introduction at every donation-based class.

I have also been impressed with the resilience of their staff and members through the last two years of Covid. They continue to offer yoga classes safely and also stream at least 1-2 classes per day for an online option. The IKC wants to extend our appreciation and gratitude to Vibe Yoga and encourage our membership to support them in return. If you don't live in Bloomington, you can always take an online class. To learn more about Vibe



Yoga, please visit their website (www.vibeyogastudio.com) or Facebook page (www.facebook.com/IgnitePowerInfuseEnergyInspirePeace).

WHAT'S OLD WILL BECOME NEW....

by Keith Dunlap

In early December, I received a text and a few photos of a large red oak tree that had up-rooted and fallen across the camping clearing at the Sullivan cave property, partially blocking the parking lot. I sent out an email to the IKC Board requesting assistance. Goni Iskali, Brad Barcom, and Chris Parks quickly volunteered, and within days the parking area was cleared. All of the top branches and smaller limbs were cut and stacked for firewood and the larger limbs cut to dry before splitting.



As for the rest of the large tree (about 1,000 board-feet), the Board discussed options from splitting it all for firewood, to trying to monetize the logs due to the recent uptick in timber prices. However, in the end, we decided to cut some larger timbers from the tree that would then be used to construct the long-anticipated kiosk on the property. This would save the IKC significantly in the construction cost of the kiosk as these larger tim-



photo courtesy Carla Striegel-Winner

bers are now quite expensive.

I communicated with Anmar Mirza and he agreed to do the custom milling for the IKC in exchange for a share of the timber. In early January he came up and bucked the tree into five 8-foot long logs. Originally he was going to then haul the logs back to his farm to mill, but due to the size of the logs, he decided to bring his Wood-mizer sawmill on site.

On January 10th, IKC members Matt Selig, Laura Demarest, Carla Striegel-Winner, Jim Adams, and I met up with Anmar and Jess Deli to position his mill adjacent to the staged logs. The butt log was nearly 30 inches in diameter and near the capacity of his mill, but with Anmar's experience, he was able to cut the dimensions we needed for the vertical posts (10-inch x 10-inch) as well as the larger horizontal beams. The timbers were then moved and stacked for air-drying in the nearby

Continued on page 23...



photos courtesy Carla Striegel-Winner

CAVES AND CRIMINALS

by Matt Selig

In *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves*, Ali Baba is a poor woodcutter gathering wood in the forest when he overhears the forty thieves as they visit their treasure, carefully hidden in the Cave of Sesame. He overhears them speak the magic words to move the rock blocking the cave's entrance, "Open sesame", and after the thieves leave, Ali Baba sneaks into the cave and steals a bag of the thief's gold coins. The story continues, but that isn't the point of this article.

In a recent Facebook post, the Indiana DNR Law Enforcement page documented the discovery of a felon hiding in a cave on the banks of the Ohio River with a picture of his tent set up in the yawning entrance. Several months ago, a southern Indiana county's probation department contacted me because one of their ankle monitoring bracelets had been cut off and abandoned on one of the IKC's preserves. They wanted permission to look over the property and I thought to myself, "Could the offender be hiding in one of our caves?"

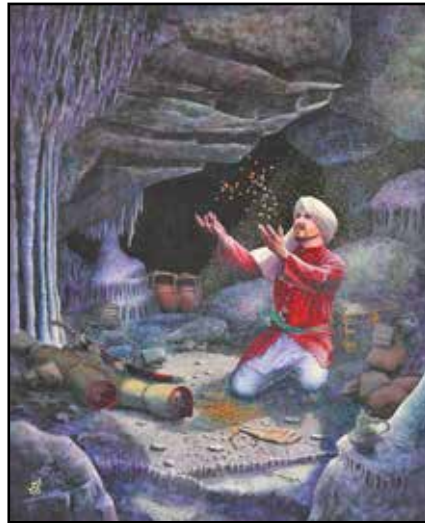
My *Dictionary of Symbols*, under the entry "Caverns" briefly says after six pages describing the symbolism of caves that "Caverns were frequently the place of monsters and robbers...". I recalled the above incidents and thought to myself, "Is there something that draws criminals to caves, in reality or perhaps in the imagination of the public?"

A quick Google search regarding criminals hiding in caves turned up more than I could write about in this brief article, so I will focus on stories of gangsters, criminals, highway robbers and serial killers hiding in the Midwest's caves. Or at least reported to be hiding in caves in the Midwest.

Two Strange Examples:

- *Outside* magazine reports that Al Capone, the Chicago gangster, had his henchman hide 2,000 cases of contraband liquor in a cave on the shore of Lake Michigan, near Michigan City, Indiana. That would have been roughly 50 pallets of booze, which would fill a modern 53-foot truck trailer. This lost whiskey was never found.

- I also found from the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania *Telegraph* an 1896 article that reports a gang of counterfeiters running a counterfeiting operation in a cave on "an island in the middle of the St Joseph River near Bristol, Indiana." This "treasure cave" was entered through a fifteen-foot tall hollowed out tree stump where in a twenty by twenty-five-foot room, two boxes of pure gold and silver were purportedly found.



© Randy Asplund

On checking the Indiana Cave Survey database, we could find no records of any caves in these areas of northern Indiana. Geologically speaking, there shouldn't be any limestone karst, as we are familiar with in southern Indiana. The Al Capone cave might have been a sea cave, but it's hard to imagine that as a good hiding place for 2,000 cases of liquor!

Other Crooks & Treasures, Real and Imagined

In looking for real caves where real criminals hid in Indiana and surrounding states, the most interesting I found was Cave-In-Rock, on the banks of the Ohio River in southern Illinois. *Wikipedia* notes it became a "refuge stronghold for frontier outlaws," beginning in the 1790s, including river pirates who plundered ships carrying freight on the Ohio River, and highwaymen, counterfeiters, and a "post-Civil War bandit".

Perhaps the most macabre residents of Cave-In-Rock were what might be the earliest serial killers identified in North America – the Harpe Brothers, who are believed to have murdered between 39 and 50 victims and spent time holed up at Cave-In-Rock in the summer of 1799, hiding there with the river pirates who also occupied the cave.

Unlike many caves, we can disclose the location of Cave-In-Rock because it is no secret that today it is an Illinois State Park, where we can walk in the footsteps of pirates, gangsters, and serial killers, while pushing strollers and updating social media accounts.

There are also reports that "pirates" operated out of a cave in a bluff that overlooked the Ohio River, in Indiana, "a few miles south of Mt Vernon".

Near Pittsford, Michigan, the thief Sile Doty



was reported to have hidden horses he stole in what is now known as Sile Doty's Cave. According to Doty's autobiography, he was the "most noted thief and daring burglar of his time", and *Wikipedia* relates that "before the James-Younger [Gang] era, (Doty was) the most energetic and notorious all-around bandit in the United States." It is said Sile Doty's ghost now haunts the cave named after him.

Outlaw Cave (in Orange County) seems like a pretty obvious name for a place where "The Archer Gang" hid out while stealing timber and robbing banks and stagecoaches. There were reports that the gang leader joined Frank & Jesse James in robbing banks in such places at Ste Genevieve, Missouri, which coincidentally is the place name for where our beloved Ste Genevieve limestone was first identified.

And then there is the story of three men who supposedly operated a printing press in Wyandotte Cave (Crawford County) to print counterfeit money. When the cave owner discovered this illicit activity, he summoned the Sheriff who waited at the entrance for the scofflaws to exit. Two were arrested, but the third, seeing what was happening, escaped back into cave. The sheriff and his men searched the cave, but the third man was never found. Some believe the criminal died in the cave and his ghost still haunts the passages to this day.

Back to Jesse James, in the 20th century, there was a vigorous effort to link artifacts found in Meramec Caverns to Jesse. This cave was widely marketed as "Jesse James' Hideout", although this story is now widely discredited. But I believe something in the human psyche wants (needs?) to believe that criminals hide in caves, and judging by the number of Midwest caves that claim to have been visited by Jesse James, by any measure Mr James was a prolific caver.

Meanwhile the "Reno Gang" allegedly buried their ill-gotten gains somewhere in Little Goss Cave (Washington County). Several members of the Reno Gang were lynched in 1868 near Seymour, Indiana. That same year, Frank Reno and his two brothers were also lynched in New Albany, Indiana. *Wikipedia* reports, "Most of (their) stolen money was never found."

Regarding more treasures purported to be hidden in Midwest caves, there is a report that in 1810, Native Americans buried a "massive cache of gold bullion in a cave on Rocky McBride Bluff," overlooking the White River, just north of Shoals, Indiana. Though the Native Americans were no

criminals, there are reports that treasure seekers still hunt for this lost fortune to this day.

My final note will be for Wabasha Street Caves in St. Paul, Minnesota near the banks of the Mississippi River. These "caves" were dug in sandstone and are properly "mines". Prohibition era gangsters such as Hoosier John Dillinger and Ma Barker are reported to have visited, although these stories could be legends along the lines of Jesse James hiding out at Meramec Caverns. Mere marketing? You can visit the Wabasha Street Caves today and see where they had a speakeasy during Prohibition and judge the evidence of "bullet holes" in the walls for yourself.

This ends my brief survey of criminals using caves as hideouts in the Midwest. I've probably overlooked others you might have heard about. My research uncovered numerous examples of criminals, both modern and in historical times who are said to have sought refuge and protection in caves. There are also fantastic legends of treasures such as found by Ali Baba hidden in caves from all around the world.

I'm not sure why. Having visited a lot of Midwest caves myself, I can't think of many where I would want to spend days, weeks, and months hiding. Damp, dark, and cold. Not fun. I would also think that if I were a bandit, I would want to stay mobile and not anchored to the certain spot where a cave is located. Dragging treasure chests of gold and silver through Wayne Cave seems like a bad idea, also.

But I suspect there is something in the human psyche that is wired to believe caves are places where outlaws should want to hide out, or where treasures should be hidden. These stories are ancient. Plato hid the Ring of Gyges in a cave after all, twenty-four hundred years before present. Rambo hid in a cave in the early 1980s as he fled the small town where law enforcement hassled him. Even Indiana Jones spent a little time in a cave recovering treasures. When I was a child, stories of bandits and their treasures carefully hidden in caves thrilled me.

As an adult, I found of course that there are treasures hidden in Indiana's caves. Nothing that would amount to a fortune, but rather a beautiful and mysterious realm of hidden secrets ready for the explorer prepared and equipped to find them. I'll finish with this thought – in addition to the hard sciences such as geology and chemistry, caves mean something to humanity, and exploring this meaning is a worthy and interesting pursuit.

INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY TREASURY REPORT

Income/Expense Statement From October 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021

INCOME:

Dues Apportionment and Residuals	880.00	
Donations - General	676.41	
Donations - Special Fundraiser	457.50	
Donations - Land Acquisition Fund	14,410.00	
Property Tax Credit (2022)	136.19	
General Investment Earnings	3.52	
Endowment Funds Unrealized Gains/Losses	23,453.59	
		\$40,017.21

EXPENSES:

IKC Update (printing, production, mailing)	335.59	
Education / Outreach	430.00	
Stewardship / Conservation	176.00	
Stewardship Endowment Fund Contribution	2,200.00	
Land Acquisition Expense (Sullivan expansion)	16,655.00	
Business (PayPal fees, PO box rental)	190.33	
Insurance Premium (liability, D & O, volunteer)	1,784.00	
Transfers to/from restricted funds/other adjustments	21,208.59	
		(\$42,979.51)

NET OPERATING EXCESS (DEFICIT) THIS PERIOD: (\$2,962.30)

Balance Sheet December 31, 2021

ASSETS:

Cash in Checking/Saving/Brokerage accounts	654,461.04	
Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve (73.48 acres)	162,000.00	
Shawnee Karst Preserve (67.78 acres)	175,000.00	
Wayne Cave Preserve (57.59 acres)	188,000.00	
Buddha Karst Nature Preserve (36.84 acres)	29,000.00	
Sullivan Cave Preserve ¹ (30.00 acres)	88,000.00	
Lowry Karst Preserve (6.66 acres)	33,000.00	
Orangeville Rise Nature Preserve (3.01 acres)	7,000.00	
Indian Creek Conservation Easement (valued at \$1/acre)	13.16	
		<u><u>\$1,336,474.20</u></u>

FUNDS & OPERATING EXCESS:

Land Acquisition Restricted Fund	61,845.42	
Deferred Dues Restricted Fund (238 members)	5,107.50	
Stewardship Endowment Fund ² (+8.31%)	97,034.59	
Gale & Ray Beach Endowment Fund (+4.05%)	411,094.42	
Previous General Fund (total)	82,354.57	
Net Excess (Deficit) This Period	<u>(2,962.30)</u>	
Current General Fund (unrestricted)	79,392.27	
Current General Fund (committed)	1,972.87	
Real Estate Basis (excluding value of CE)	<u>682,000.00</u>	

Total Liabilities & Operating Excess \$1,336,474.20

NOTES:

- 1) Sullivan Cave expansion (2.00 acres and \$16,000)
- 2) \$2,200 contribution to the Stewardship Endowment Fund for Sullivan expansion

IKC QUARTERLY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 12th, 2021 – 1:00 PM EST

1459 Blue Springs Cavern Rd. Bedford, IN 47421 (In-Cave)

Board Members Present:

Matt Selig, President
 Laura Demarest, Secretary
 Keith Dunlap, Treasurer
 Jim Adams
 Jeff Cody
 Scott Frosch
 Danyele Green
 Dave Haun
 Rand Heazlitt
 Goniela Iskali
 Joe Kinder
 Tom Sollman
 Carla Striegel-Winner
 Paul Uglum
 Richard Vernier

Board Members Absent:

None.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Matt Selig at 1:12 PM ET.

Acceptance of Proxies

All Board members in attendance, no proxies needed.

Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes from the September meeting were approved as published in the December 2021 *IKC Update*. *Danyele Green made the motion and Jim Adams seconded. Unanimously passed.*

E-mail Motions Since Last Meeting

None.

Treasurer Report

Keith outlined the current financial status of the organization:

Assets:

Cash assets totaling	\$642,287.92
Land assets totaling	\$682,000.00
Total Assets	\$1,324,287.92

Dedicated Funds:

Land Acquisition Fund	\$52,525.42
Stewardship Endowment	\$93,904.96
Gale & Ray Beach Endowment	\$410,160.45
Deferred Dues	\$5,685.00
General Fund	\$80,012.09
Total Dedicated Funds	\$642,287.92

Membership currently stands at 238 paid members. This total excludes the 26 memberships which recently

expired after multiple reminders.

Stewardship Endowment Fund Resolution

Keith led discussion regarding a resolution that was sent to the Board prior to the meeting. The resolution pertained to management of the Land Stewardship Fund and was a follow-up to the resolution passed at the previous IKC quarterly meeting regarding the Gale and Ray Beach Endowment. Discussion ensued regarding how other organizations handle traditional stewardship funds and how to better outline how the funds may be used. *Dave Haun made the motion to adopt the resolution as presented. Jeff Cody seconded the motion. Rand Heazlitt offered an amendment to change the threshold limit from \$500,000 to \$350,000 before funds could be withdrawn. Dave Haun accepted the amendment. 13-1 in favor (with one abstaining). Motion passed.*

Safety Committee

It was recently discussed during a rescue training at Sullivan Cave that bolt cutters in IKC gated caves should be inspected regularly to ensure they remain functional. Matt will send a note to Cave Patrons to remind them to check and maintain the bolt cutters. It should also be verified that the locks can be cut off from inside the entrance using the provided tools.

Outreach/Education Committee

New committee chair – find a replacement: Carla volunteered to be the committee chair with Board approval. It was discussed that an updated outline for the Ed/Outreach Chair job description should be created, along with goals, target audience(s), and other relevant details. Carla will create a write-up for this position and present it for discussion and approval at the next quarterly meeting.

Social Media Update: The IKC Facebook page is getting some great feedback from the community and appears to be generating a lot of positive interest.

Member Engagement Items (T-shirts & Stickers):

Joe is still working to make arrangements with Charlie Veters about IKC T-shirts and recently spoke with Rich Lunseth about graphic design assistance. He will follow up with more information at the next quarterly IKC meeting. Laura will send IKC sticker information to Keith so that he can order another batch to mail out with ballots and renewal notices in the spring. *Dave Haun made a motion to fund IKC stickers for distribution with the renewal letters. Paul Uglum seconded the motion. 14-0 in favor (with one abstaining). Motion passed.*

2022 Property Field Days: Carla has been developing four field days for 2022 to increase member-



ship engagement. These events will be promoted via email, the *IKC Update*, and social media. The first event will be April 23rd at the Wesley Chapel Gulf and Orangeville Rise before the ICS/IKC Symposium with presenter, Sarah Burgess (Indiana Geological & Water Survey). Other field day plans were discussed and Carla is currently exploring registration software for future usage. Carla also discussed the possibility that these special events could serve as IKC member benefits and if it might be prudent to ask for a donation from non-members. She provided complimentary peanuts with donation QR code as an example of polite solicitation for future events.

Election *ad hoc* Committee Discussion

Carla compiled and shared a list of recommendations from the Election *ad hoc* Committee's 2021 research. These recommendations are related to how executive boards are structured and elected in other similar organizations. It was noted that if the IKC desired to adopt some changes, it likely would be necessary to revise/amend our bylaws, which would take time. Some discussion occurred and the consensus was that major discussion would be tabled for a future meeting.

2022 Indiana Cave Symposium

IKC will co-sponsor the event again this year with the Indiana Cave Survey. The event will be April 23rd, 2022 at the Orange County Community Center in Paoli. Matt Selig will give a presentation on the IKC. *Keith Dunlap made a motion to contribute \$300 towards the event on behalf of the IKC. Rand Heazlitt seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.*

Cave-Land Acquisition Activities

The Sullivan 2-acre expansion is officially owned by the IKC now. It was proposed that \$1,600 be contributed to the Stewardship Fund for the expansion, plus a \$600 'make-up' contribution to bring the fund up to our 10% contribution guideline. *Danyele Green made a motion to make a \$2,200 General Fund contribution to the Stewardship Fund. Jeff Cody seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.*

Mid-State Corridor Activities

Keith provided an update on the INDOT project. At this time, environmental impact studies are still ongoing and they have deferred making a decision on which proposed route to use until early 2022. The IKC is against routes M and O and neutral on the other proposed routes. The IKC can still submit a position letter outlining the organization's stance on this project. Discussion ensued. Matt will work with Keith on a draft and circulate amongst other Board members in the near future.

2022 Elections – Nominating Committee

Paul Uglum, Dave Haun, and Scott Frosch volunteered to be on the Nominating Committee and will reach out

to prospective candidates for the 2022 Election.

Preserve Updates and Preserve Manager Reports

Buddha Karst Nature Preserve: Property Manager Keith Dunlap gave updates on mowing and a recent tree fall.

Lowry Karst Preserve: (Keith reported on behalf of Property Manager Ray Sheldon). The recent workday was cancelled due to poor weather. Otherwise, management activities are going very well.

Orangeville Rise Nature Preserve: Property Manager Carla reported that all is currently in 'maintenance mode' and doing well.

Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve: No report

Shawnee Karst Preserve:

- Keith volunteered to take on the Property Manager role for Shawnee if he could relinquish his Sullivan Cave Property Manager duties to someone else. Joe Kinder was amenable to this proposition. *Rand Heazlitt made a motion for Keith Dunlap to become the Shawnee Karst Preserve Property Manager. Danyele Green seconded the motion. 14-0 in favor (with one abstaining). Motion passed.*

- **Prairie Mowing:** Keith reported that mowing is a viable alternative to burning since creating a burn plan takes too long. He asked for weekday volunteers to help. There are currently two mowers on site and some help would be needed to control emerging saplings.

- **Tree Planting:** Volunteers will be needed to plant approximately 150 trees during the spring. The cost for these trees would be approximately \$100.

Sullivan Cave Preserve:

- **New Sullivan Property Manager:** *Laura Demarest made a motion to approve Joe Kinder as the new Sullivan Property Manager. Jim Adams seconded the motion. 14-0 in favor (with one abstaining). Motion passed.*

- **Sullivan Preserve Management Plan Update:** Keith had been working on a draft, but will now work with Joe to review the existing plan and update as necessary.

Wayne Cave Preserve: Property Manager Danyele Green reported that some trees are down on the trail to the cave entrance following some recent heavy storms.

Indian Creek Conservation Easement: Conservation Easement Monitor Rand Heazlitt reported that an inspection was conducted on November 3rd, 2021 with Keith Dunlap, Matt Selig, and Carla Striegel-Winner present. They replaced and painted posts and noted invasive species. They also found two deer stands on-site which Rand requested be removed. Some excessive



mowing was observed in places. Letters were sent to the landowners, but no major issues reported otherwise.

Items from the Floor

- Due to elevated water levels, the IKC Board Kayak trip in Bluespring Caverns needs to be rescheduled.
- IKC Archive/Shared Drive – Laura is still comparing options and will have more details at the next meeting.
- Keith Dunlap asked the Board about opinions on sending a year-end donation solicitation email to members.
- The topic of proposed raptor rehabilitation on the Buddha preserve was revisited; it was brought up that perhaps the organization should instead approach other land trust groups (SLT, TNC, etc) with larger tracts as they may have more experience with this sort of request and assessing any potential impacts of

releasing raptors into the territory of existing birds. Dick Vernier agreed to assist and further investigate if some of the IKC preserves are appropriate

- Kevin Strunk asked that a copy of the final agenda be distributed to the entire membership prior to each IKC meeting.
- OCR/ICEE cave rescue class follow-up – Laura and others who attended these classes shared some of their experiences as well as positive feedback received from other attendees.

Next Meeting Date and Place Selection

Saturday, March 26th, 2022 at 1:00 PM ET via Zoom.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:09 PM ET.

Respectfully compiled and submitted by Laura Demarest, IKC Secretary

...continued from page 17

wood-shed. It will probably take one to two years before it is ready to be used.

We again want to express our appreciation for Anmar and Jess for spending over 10 hours milling these logs and turning a tree “problem” into valuable timbers. And once the kiosk is constructed, it will be cool to reflect back on the 75+ year old magnificent tree that will “live on” for perhaps another 75 years at the property.

Chris Parks next to the stacked firewood from the red oak that uprooted at the Sullivan Cave Preserve.



photo courtesy Goni Iskali

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.

