



IKC UPDATE

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INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY, INC

PO Box 2401, Indianapolis, IN 46206-2401

<http://www.caves.org/conservancy/ikc>

Affiliated with the National Speleological Society



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

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*grottos with liaison agreements

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QUARTERLY MEETING & COOK-OUT REMINDER
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th, 3:00 PM EDT
BORDEN, INDIANA
HOME OF SALISA & JERRY LEWIS

The quarterly meetings are for the elected Board to conduct business and for our members and other interested persons to have an open forum to talk about 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 items: Brief recap of the last quarter's activities (stewardship projects, NSS Convention, Bat Fest, education activities); Treasurer's report; *Caves: Life Beneath the Forest* DVD distribution; Robinson Ladder fields restoration; Buddha tree planting for 2008; Sullivan work activities; National Speleological Foundation grant application; and more...

Following the quarterly meeting (around 6 pm) will be the annual pitch-in cook-out. The main entree this year will be self-roasted wieners over a campfire. Please bring a salad, dessert, and/or other covered dish to share. If there are enough entries, we will also have a dessert contest (otherwise Keith Dunlap will just claim victory by default). Please bring lawn chairs and remember, no shoes in the house.

Meeting directions: See the inside back cover (page 15)

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

- September 15 – Lost River Field Trip, Orleans (see *IKC Update #84*)**
- September 15 – HNF/IKC Committee Meeting (Borden, 1:30 PM)**
- September 15 – IKC Quarterly Meeting & Cookout (see above)**
- October 8-12 – National Cave & Karst Management Symposium, St Louis**
- December ?? – IKC Quarterly Meeting (date & location TBD)**

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

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

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RAMBLINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT...

“It’s like marketing air!”

Allen Hershkowitz of the Natural Resources Council, on bottled water.



Well, the 2007 NSS Convention has come and gone and if you didn’t make it, you missed one of the best ever. Most things worked better than expected and even the Convention Weather Event

(CWE) was perfectly planned. After convention chair Dave Haun announced during the slide salon – held within the safety of the Marengo Underground Warehouse – that the campground had just blown away in a storm, Cady Soukup, emcee of the salon, thanked Dave for his “preemptive evacuation of the campground.”

Thanks from all of us to all the tireless staff, including: Kathy Welling and Jaime Fee who stayed up for days overseeing registration; Jo Ellen Kimmel who spent most of the convention locked up in a windowless room handling the treasury; Keith Dunlap who sorted out the session schedules and needs and also literally lived in the school repairing and resetting everything each evening that had been moved or messed up; Dave Haun and Dave Strickland and others for the excellent showers; Don Paquette and Anmar Mirza for their amazing response to the CWE; Patty Cummings for social functions/catering coordination; Ron Adams, Eric Higbie, Chris Schotter, Dave Back, Dave Everton, Bill Baus, and many others for the great caving; Richard and Ian Newton for the campground facilities; Kevin Strunk for geology and music; Bob Vandeventer and Ken Alwin for wiring up most everything; Gordon Smith for the assistance lent by Marengo Cave; Aaron Atz, Val McNamara, and Tom Rea for the various publications; Emily Davis for vendor coordination; all the people like Terry Clark, Bob Sergesketter, Susie Strickland, my wife Sue, and many others who hauled chairs, desks and tables, moved a complete library, set up and tore down computers, led trips and did a zillion things that had to be done; and, of course, Dave Haun who organized and ran the whole thing with a minimum of fuss and a maximum of attention to detail.

By the way, have you noticed a common thread here? Most of these good people, including Bill Tozer, the President of the NSS, are IKC members!

I note several positives. There seemed to be quite a bit of interest in cave conservation at the convention – conservation sessions were well attended and the video, *Caves: Life Beneath the Forest*, was shown many times and was well received. The IKC and other conservancies, together with The Nature Conservancy and the Hoosier National Forest, exhibited booths in the lobby, just past registration. I can report that the IKC and HNF booths received the most attention, primarily because the cave video was being shown continuously on a monitor placed between their booths.

During the convention we learned that cavers are really into recycling. One of my chores was to head up the recycling and to do this I enlisted my wife Sue and fellow EMG member and IKC secretary Bob Sergesketter as assistants. We were very fortunate that Crawford County has an excellent recycling program and that IKC member Carla Striegel-Winner works for the Crawford County Solid Waste Management District office. With the blessing of her boss Tina, Carla was able to help out tremendously with the planning and implementation of our recycling efforts.

In the end, we collected an amazing amount of aluminum cans, plastic bottles, glass bottles and cardboard. We even took in several bucket loads of batteries of various descriptions. I’m not quite sure how to classify the enormous pile of “E-Z Up” shelter frames that were stacked up next to the dumpster on Friday morning after the Convention Weather Event (CWE). Someone even left a big chunk of their living room carpet and that came in quite handy when we were ankle deep in mud trying to deal with a bottle crisis.

I was pleased that, for the most part, people were able to tell the difference between a cardboard box and a beer can; but, regrettably, asking the inebriated to sort their bottles into brown, green and clear was apparently just too much. Still, their hearts were in the right place and we certainly took in a lot of glass.

One thing that did interest me a bit was the quantity of plastic water bottles collected. Being a cola addict, the bottled water craze has passed me by; so it was sort of shocking to see the number of dump carts and bags we filled with water bottles.



Don't get me wrong, I'm not a hydrophobe, water is good – I take canteens of water hiking, caving and cycling – but I've had those canteens and water bottles for decades, having figured out a long time ago that I can refill them, usually with water that I've distilled with my handy Sears water still or have run through an inexpensive filter. I prefer distilled water to spring water, mostly because I remember once watching a bloated raccoon carcass float by in a cave on its way to the spring exit and, on another occasion, after having observed large deposits of animal feces in a cave, emerging to find a local filling milk jugs with water from a pipe that ran into the cave. When asked about the water, he replied that he really liked the flavor.

At least cavers did their part to recycle their

bottles; a recent article in Time magazine claims that over 75% of water bottles end up in the landfill or as litter. And, of course, plastic comes from oil which is growing scarcer and is behind a lot of turmoil world-wide.

On a less positive note, most of you by now have heard that one of Indiana's premier cave and karst conservationists and IKC members and supporter, Bob Armstrong, suffered a serious fall from a ladder just before the convention. As this was being written, Bob was reported to be doing a good job recovering from his very serious, near fatal, injuries. I'm sure you all join me in wishing Bob a speedy recovery.

Richard Vernier

NEWS BRIEFS...

- ❑ Prior to the June quarterly meeting, we had a multi-location work day in the Bloomington area. First we repaired the fence around Shaft Pit that was damaged by a large tree which blew down last year (Jamie Winner had cleared the tree previously). Next we hiked over to Grotto Cave to remove a large rock that had dislodged and rolled down the entrance slope, "conveniently" partially blocking the climb-down into the rest of the cave. There was concern that the rock might impact the airflow into the cave, altering the suitability of the cave for the Indiana bats. It turned out the rock was too big to move, so Bill Baus and Dick Vernier attacked the rock with a sledge and chisel to disassemble it until it could be rolled down slope. Finally, we moved over to the Wayne Cave property and installed six marker posts at the survey corners, making it easier to locate the corners in the future. We also did some mowing and weed-wacking while there. In addition to Bill and Dick, others helping for the day were Sue Vernier, Nick Noe, Shawn Noe, Tom Sollman, Robert Sollman, and Keith Dunlap.
- ❑ During the NSS Convention, a number of IKC caves were featured and visited by cavers from across the nation. Obviously, Robinson Ladder Cave was popular due to its proximity to the convention site. To facilitate visitation, aluminum ladders were placed at the entrance and subsequent climb-up, thus allowing non-vertical cavers to see the cave safely. Sullivan and Buddha caves were also popular destination despite the longer drives. There was even a led trip to Shiloh Cave. Finally, the Orangeville Rise was a stop on the Geology Field Trip. Having our properties and caves available for the convention visitors was good visibility for the IKC. We'd also like to thank the cave patrons, property managers, and others for having the parking areas and trails mowed and maintained to leave a good impression on our out-of-state guests.
- ❑ The IKC has not typically pursued affiliate fund-raising promotions (e.g. Amazon) because most of them yield little monetary return and benefited the affiliate more than the organization soliciting their members. However, we have recently come across one that has no real negatives so the IKC Board decided to suggest it to our membership and add it to our website home page. The affiliate is GoodSearch which is an internet search website like Google or Yahoo (in fact, it utilizes Yahoo's search engine). Search engines make their money from referral advertising. GoodSearch shares part of their revenue with their non-profit promoters. Basically, you go to the GoodSearch website (www.goodsearch.com) and the first time you designate the "IKC" as your charity. From then on, every time you do a search, a penny is donated to the IKC. While that doesn't seem like much, it can add up. If only 25% of our members did five searches per week, the IKC would receive over \$120 a year. So give it a try and if

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CONGRESSMAN BARON HILL GOES CAVING

by Cindy Sandeno

A small group of cavers meet with Congressman Baron Hill (D-IN) and his Aide, Adam Dickey, to take a trip into one of Indiana's longest and most biologically diverse caves. Congressman Hill shed his business suit for overalls and knee pads to help keep him comfortable in the rugged terrain, wet conditions, and cool temperatures of the cave. After crawling on hands and knees through the cave's entrance, the group emerged into a large room containing a segment of the underground portion of Indiana's Lost River.

The water was very low due to the lack of rain above ground, and cave life was immediately visible. Within the first pool of water, a number of blind crayfish were encountered. Cave Biologist, Dr. Julian Lewis, picked up a crayfish to give the congressman a better look at this species which lacks both eyes and pigment. A few feet later, the group came across another blind species – the northern cavefish. As everyone bent low to observe the fish, it swam obligingly towards the congressman's feet. "You couldn't ask for a more impressive display of cave life," said Cynthia Sandeno as the group studied the cavefish. "Few Hoosiers will ever see these finger-sized crustaceans, or the blind cavefish, let alone both of these species together!"

The group quickly walked to the largest room in the cave system and retraced their steps to the

entrance crawl. By taking a side loop the group emerged into the balcony passage which was highly decorated with stalactites, stalagmites, columns, and draperies. "Wow, I can't believe how many formations are in this room," stated Congressman Hill as he walked through the passage. The group sat down at the edge of the balcony overlooking the main passage and talked about the importance of caves and cave resources. A Bollman's cave millipede graciously picked this time to stroll across the passage floor, and Dr. Lewis picked the animal up so that everyone could get a good look at it.

Congressman Hill is an avid outdoorsman and serves on the House Science and Technology Committee, making this trip into a cave especially important. The trip was arranged by Angela Hughes of The Nature Conservancy and included Hoosier National Forest Karst Coordinator, Cynthia Sandeno, and four members of the Indiana Karst Conservancy. "It is rare that I am able to take a Congressman on a hike into the woods, let alone into a cave," said Angela Hughes. "And, I couldn't believe how excited Congressman Hill was about having the chance to spend some time underground."

Along the way, the group discussed the exploration of the cave, how cave surveying is accomplished, and the biological significance of the cave.

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Congressman Hill's caving party. Kneeling L to R: Bob Vandeventer, Cindy Sandeno. Standing L to R: Mark Deebel, Adam Dickey, Jerry Lewis, Angela Hughes, Baron Hill. Behind the camera: Kriste Lindberg.

NEVER LET A COLLEGE STUDENT WATCH YOUR INFLATABLE CAVE AND OTHER LESSONS LEARNED

by Don Ingle

On Saturday August 11th, for one shining day, the focus of the caving world shone briefly on Terre Haute, Indiana, where it undoubtedly looked around at its surroundings and probably then wondered exactly just what the heck it was doing there. This was, as you might imagine, a pretty rare occurrence indeed. Past experience has taught me that the words “caving” and “Terre Haute” very rarely appear in the same sentence. But when it has, it has become necessary for us to bring or manufacture our own cave, as we did on this occasion as well. Wait a minute. Ah. *Now* it begins to make sense. We *do*, however, have plenty of bats. And the reason Terre Haute had become the focus, albeit briefly, was because Indiana State University was hosting the 6th Annual 2007 Great Lakes Bat Festival.

This event’s intent, put on by the Organization for Bat Conservation, was to promote bat conservation and to entertain the general public, but more importantly, to educate them about the necessity for us all to be kinder to our winged friends. To accomplish this goal, a dazzling array of displays were set up to keep the visitors and interested parties entranced. Live bat displays were set up, (I noticed that at one they found a cute little fruit bat with adorable big brown eyes to display for the general public instead of, oh say, a leaf nosed or vampire bat. Good choice, guys.) and our good friends from the Hoosier National Forest were there also to help promote the new *Caves: Life Beneath The Forest* every hour on the hour and to answer any questions about bats and the HNF the patrons might have, and a nice representation of various and sundry bat merchandise were on display. You can never have too many bat books and videos and t-shirts and paraphernalia, I always say.

There were many speakers delivering interesting presentations throughout the day, including Dr. John O. Whitaker, Jr. (Indiana State University), Dr. Al Kurta (Eastern Michigan University), Rob Mies (Organization for Bat Conservation), Dr. Tim Carter (Ball State University), Bill Scullon (Michigan Department of Natural Resources), Dale Sparks (Indiana State University), Rod Foster (Stevenson High School), Mike Frayer (Milwaukee County Zoo), and several others. Topics

range from bat houses to echolocation to rabies, from bats of Indiana to bats of the world. In fact, the only way you could escape being educated and entertained with this array of knowledge and talent, was if you were chained to an IKC display and an inflatable cave down in the food court at the Hulman Memorial Student Union for seven hours. *And guess where I was!*

To be fair, I did manage to escape my bondage once and make it in to hear John Whitaker’s talk about the regionally indigenous bats we have and have had here in the Hoosier State. But mostly, I was the Cave Man, and in being such, I became newly sympathetic to the plight of the cave man in those ubiquitous Geico commercials. I decided early on that my primary role at the Bat Festival was to provide in-cave help, if needed, and entertainment value for the hordes. So, to that end, and taking the lead from Dave Everton at the *Caves: Life Beneath The Forest* premiere this last spring, I wore my caving helmet, freshly encrusted with good old Crawford County cave mud. I probably looked quite silly. But that was the general idea. I was ready to tell anyone and everyone that might have felt compelled to ask someone with a caving helmet on their head a question about caves, karst, and bats. Despite, or perhaps because of my limited knowledge on those subjects, that proved to be unnecessary. Oh, the occasional person did come by and would then ask (hallelujah!) a karst oriented question, usually by someone next to the IKC display from a parent waiting for their child to exit the cave, but mostly my role was somewhat akin to that of a referee at a professional wrestling match. My role quickly degenerated into just keeping order and changing the dead batteries in the flashlights as they died during the course of the day, of which there were a gracious plenty by the time five o’clock rolled around. The inflatable cave traffic was sporadic. It went from being almost non-existent in one moment to an absolute screaming madhouse the next without any warning whatsoever, or rhyme or reason. As near as we could figure out, we would catch the exodus of the various presentations in the conference rooms and the *Caves: Life Beneath The Forest* video. Which we could not see coming because we were down in the food court, which made it interesting. A bit



difficult to work in bathroom breaks during the day when you didn't know if or when they were coming, but interesting.

Dr. Tim Carter from Ball State University even dropped in for awhile to check out the inflatable cave, and even went and spent a good ten minutes or so recapturing his misspent youth inside the cave, much to my pleasant surprise. Apparently professors still like to have fun too. So did Dave McGowan, though *he* didn't go in. He must have had his fill of caving over the last three years during the filming of the aforementioned video. Or of cavers. Take your pick.

The event was very well attended, with some estimates given of some 1,000 attendees present. Indiana State did a very good job hosting the event, providing breakfast (as long as you like donuts) and lunch for the presenters and volunteers. They also provided much needed and appreciated help throughout the day, and answered any and all questions to make it easier for the volunteers to do their jobs. Of particular help and of special note for enthusiasm in the face of incredible odds and just plain outright friendliness was Brianne Walters, a graduate student with ISU, who made sure we had everything we needed when we needed it.

The one thing I learned from this experience was not to completely rely on an undergraduate college student to watch your inflatable cave. After leaving the John Whitaker talk, I came back to Fun Central and I was horrified to find the inflatable cave in one of its more frenzied moments, with close to a dozen kids inside, (we'd probably have had more if we had more flashlights) most of whom were running around in a circle in the room at the back of the cave, whooping and hollering, while they took turns jumping up in the air to whack at the ceiling. The darling little heathens! Thinking that Kriste Lindberg and the Bloomington Parks and Recreation might like to have their cave back in one piece, I quickly got in there and restored order, and soon found no damage was done, and exited the cave to find our student helper, looking more than a little lost and somewhat dazed by the experience. I gave her permission to go do whatever college students might do in the face of such unsolicited chaos, which was in her case, was to cut and run. Not that I blamed her. When you consider that part of the reason why a lot of them get into college in the first place was to get away from younger siblings, I kind of understood. At least they gave Marlon Perkins tranquilizer darts when he was surrounded by wildlife of this sort.

At 4:30 while Dick and Sue Vernier and I were contemplating making a quiet exit we were besieged again when all the other booths and such had begun to close down. At least that was the only reason I could come up with to explain the sudden invasion. But at five o'clock, (promptly!) when it became apparent that it wasn't going to peter out of its own volition, I went in and herded all the children out, and collected the flashlights. I was out of there in pretty short order once Dick and Sue and Keith Dunlap, who also came back in a timely fashion to help, folded up the inflatable cave and packed it and all its accessories away and carried it out to my car, where it then sat in my back seat and trunk for almost two weeks waiting for Kriste to come back from a much needed vacation to reassume possession of it. Now I finally have my back seat back and all is well with the world.

There was also to be an evening program afterwards (Bat Science Night) to be held at Dobbs Park starting at 6:00 pm where bat experts were to be present where they would then be demonstrating how to do bat netting, do radio-tagging, use bat detectors, (That is, assuming any bats would dare show up with all those hundred or so people milling about.) and do some light tagging, and much more, following a sumptuous barbecue chicken dinner. Though it sounded good, I didn't go to the evening program. Someone else needs to write that part of the story up. I had pretty early on had decided to salvage what remained of the day by going to spend the last half of my only day off from work for the week with my wife. Hey, you have to have priorities.

Editor's addendum: I did attend the evening demonstration along with the Verniers and several hundred other observers. The "barbecue dinner" ended up being a \$6 hot dog with bake beans, but the rest of the evening was interesting. Jason Boyles, an ISU grad student, demonstrated mist netting and even caught a red bat. Rod Foster demonstrated a bat detector with its audio channeled through two large speakers so everyone could hear. At twilight, there were quite a few bats out flying around feeding, making the wait worthwhile. The Bat Festival will likely be back in Michigan next year, but ISU has already expressed an interest in hosting the event in the future. I was impressed with the quality of presentations and the number of people who seemed generally interested in bats.

IKC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

by Kriste Lindberg

Geez... Where did the summer go? I'm sitting here typing and just now realized it's the last day of August. I'd imagine I'm not the only one that feels that way!

Hosting a convention in your home state has many benefits. One of them is that you can be more creative with what you have to offer and many "firsts" took place. The first ever NSS convention Education Day was a big success. We had over 20 people sign up for the Project Underground workshop, including NSS members and educators from around the area. In addition, many attended the subsequent Project Underground Annual Board Meeting, NSS Education Division Annual Meeting, and showing of the *Caves: Life Beneath the Forest* video. Think it just makes sense to hold all in one day, that way, folks can plan on taking the whole day off to be there. As an incentive, Certification Renewal Units (CRUs) were available for teachers certified in Indiana who attend a Project Underground workshop and up to three graduate continuing education credits were available through Indiana University for those attending conventions from any state.

Caves: Life Beneath the Forest was shown every day of the week, including a partnership event entitled "Tuesday Two'fer" with the NSS Conservation Division where they promoted their new conservation book and we promoted the video; contributors were available to sign copies of both. The video was also shown continuously in the front lobby as part of the Hoosier National Forest booth. It also received a Merit Award during

the Thursday evening Salon Program. To further expose the video, we presented information on the video and working with media during the Conservation Session and Biology Session, respectively.

Also at convention for the first time, a working-with-development session took place. It introduced the new Partnership Building Forum during the Conservation Session. The Forum has been created to do just that – work in a proactive manner with developers to help protect karst resources as much as possible and turn them into an asset instead of a pain in the you-know-what...

As a result of this new partnership, I was asked by the Texas Cave Conservancy to help them with their education and outreach efforts. They are leaders in the field and it promises to be a positive venture – we will learn much from each other while expanding and sharing our knowledge – a win/win all the way around. We wish Education Day and the Partnership Building Forum continues success in the future.

In order to keep up with the demand for education and outreach services, we will be training more volunteers to help through Project Underground workshops and more. A Project Underground facilitator training is planned for January 2008. In the meantime, if you or someone you know is interested in helping to support our educational efforts, please contact me. We are also in the process of applying for a National Speleological Foundation grant to help with funding our expanding education and outreach efforts.

Over the summer, thanks to Bloomington Parks



Sue Vernier (left) at the Bat Festival talks about caves and karst as parents wait for their children to return from exploring the IKC's inflatable cave. The "cave" is a popular educational tool to expose kids to the concept of cave biota, cave formations, and the need to protect them.



and Recreation, we offered a Project Underground activity (Cave Creations) at the Monroe County Public Library, a public education tour of the geology of southern Indiana (thanks to partners in the Sycamore Land Trust), and a public tour at Bluespring Caverns. All three were great ways to get the public out to enjoy some unique southern Indiana karst. As a matter of fact, over 70 people signed up for the Cave Creations activity at the local library! They've already asked us back for more...

In addition, partners Bloomington Parks and Recreation, Sycamore Land Trust, Monroe County Consolidated School Corporation and more will be offering an expanded version of this spring's Leonard Springs Nature Days. This expanded version (600 students, 300 more than this spring), are scheduled to attend and learn more about karst, wetlands, water quality, soils, forests, and more that help make up our unique geology.

Speaking of our unique karst geology, we, along with our partners, The Nature Conservancy and the Hoosier National Forest, have continued to work together to help protect portions of the Lost River system. In early August, during a nice dry spell, we organized a tour of the system, led by Mark Deebel and fellow IKC Directors Dr. Julian "Jerry" Lewis and Bob Vandeventer, for Congressman Baron Hill and Adam Dickey of his staff. Cindy Sandeno of the Hoosier National Forest joined us, as well. For more information on this endeavor, see the accompanying article this issue.

Not long after the tour, the Great Lakes Bat Festival took place at ISU. Thanks to Don Ingle for taking the IKC display and he along with Dick and

Sue Vernier for "manning" the inflatable cave. The festival offered dozens of bat-related activities, including a showing of the *Caves: Life Beneath the Forest* video. For more information on this event, see the full article elsewhere in this issue.

Just last weekend, we, along with partners in the IDNR, NCRC, and more, hosted the Second Annual *Gone Caving!* event. This year's event was even better attended than last year! It offered a cave skills obstacle course, Project Underground activities including the inflatable cave, a concert by Paul Ash in Donaldson Cave, cave rescue demos, and more. Plans are already underway for next year.

It has, indeed, been a busy summer, but there is no rest for the weary. We have been recently asked by the Bloomington area's newspaper, *The Herald-Times*, to serve as a resource for a new environmental page and hotline that they are setting up. It launches on Thursday, September 6th. More information will be available in the next *IKC Update*.

Upcoming events include presenting a session on karst education at the Monroe County Master Naturalist Program (second year running), the *Caves: Life Beneath the Forest* video at the National Caves and Karst Management Symposium, tours of karst areas during the Environmental Education Association of Indiana's annual conference at McCormick's Creek State Park, and more.

Special thanks this past quarter to Amy Bern, Mark Deebel, Joey Fagan, Meredith Hildreth, Val Hildreth-Werker, Angela Hughes, Don Ingle, Anne Kibbler, Carol Kugler, Jerry Lewis, Barbara Moss, Carroll Ritter, Cindy Sandeno, Bob Vandeventer, Mike Walsh, Jim Werker, and Carol Zokaites,

...continued from page 6

"The Lost River Cave System has globally significant fauna, and some of the species found in the cave are found no where else on earth," stated Dr. Lewis. With over twenty species that live exclusively in caves, the cave system is a global "hot spot" of subterranean biodiversity. There are only about thirty other spots on earth with such biological importance.

The tired group crawled out of the cave after over an hour of exploring, and emerged back into the bright sunlight with mud clinging to their clothes. Congressman Hill quickly cleaned off with soap and water, thanked the group, and returned back to his busy schedule. The group of cavers were pleased with the trip and hoped that it had been a positive experience for the Congress-

man – one that will encourage him to continue exploring the underground world.

Editor's addendum: The unnamed cavers that participated in the cave trip were Mark Deebel, Kriste Lindberg, and Bob Vandeventer. Congressman Hill later posted a trip report on *his* website. He stated, "I enjoyed crawling around in the cave and discovering all of the interesting and unique animals that live there. I was very impressed by the beauty I found within the cave and learned a great deal about it. I had a fascinating tour of the Lost River Cave and learned so much about it. It truly is one of Southern Indiana's treasures and we must do all we can to preserve it."

INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY TREASURY REPORT

**Income/Expense Statement
From April 1, 2007 to June 30, 2007**

INCOME:		
Dues Apportionment and Residuals	645.00	
Donations - General	614.23	
Donations - Land Acquisition Fund	460.00	
SpeLogger Sales	314.00	
Interest	<u>897.93</u>	
		\$2,931.16
EXPENSES:		
IKC Update (printing, production, mailing)	226.79	
Stewardship/Conservation	136.19	
Education / Outreach	910.54	
SpeLogger expenses	69.90	
Business (security box)	56.00	
Property taxes	10.00	
Transfers to/from restricted funds/other adjustments	<u>3265.55</u>	
		(\$4,674.97)
NET OPERATING EXCESS (DEFICIT) THIS PERIOD:		<u><u>(\$1,743.81)</u></u>

**Balance Sheet
June 30, 2007**

ASSETS:		
Cash in Checking / Saving Accounts / CDs	86381.88	
Wayne Cave Preserve (20.00 acres)	75000.00	
Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve (40.40 acres)	75000.00	
Sullivan Cave Preserve (28.00 acres)	72000.00	
Buddha Karst Nature Preserve (36.84 acres)	29000.00	
Orangeville Rise Nature Preserve (3.01 acres)	7000.00	
Indian Creek Conservation Easement (valued at \$1/acre)	<u>13.16</u>	
		<u><u>\$344,395.04</u></u>
LIABILITIES & OPERATING EXCESS:		
Land Acquisition Restricted Fund	30153.80	
Deferred Dues Restricted Fund (172 members)	3435.00	
Stewardship Endowment Restricted Fund ¹	28120.70	
Previous Operating Excess	26429.35	
Net Excess (Deficit) This Period	<u>(1743.81)</u>	
Current Operating Excess (unrestricted funds)	24685.54	
Real estate liquidity (basis value)	<u>258000.00</u>	
Total Liabilities & Operating Excess		<u><u>\$344,395.04</u></u>

NOTES:

1) \$2,500 was transferred from the General Fund to the Stewardship Fund per 6/16/07 Board motion.

IKC SUMMER QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, June 17th, 2007 – Bloomington, Indiana

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Richard Vernier, President
 Keith Dunlap, Treasurer
 Bob Sergesketter, Secretary
 Jim Adams
 Dave Haun
 Kriste Lindberg
 Steve Lockwood
 Nick Noe
 Bruce Silvers
 Tom Sollman
 Bob Vandeventer
 Sue Vernier

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Don Ingle
 Jerry Lewis
 Jamie Winner

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM in Room 143 of the Geology Building on the campus of Indiana University, President Richard Vernier presiding. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as published in the June 2007 *IKC Update*.

Recording of E-mail Motions and Results

On March 30, 2007, Dunlap made a motion that the IKC reimburse the organizer, (Cindy Sandeno), of the event for one-half of the expenses related to the cave video premiere reception. The IKC's share would be \$356.00. The motion was seconded by Sue Vernier. The motion passed on April 10, 2007 with 14 in favor, no one opposed, and one absent.

On April 11, 2007, Lewis made a motion that the IKC purchase 100 DVD's of *Caves: Life Beneath the Forest*. We have the option of purchasing up to 100 at three dollars each. Ingle seconded the motion and it passed with 13 in favor, 1 opposed, and 1 absent.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Dunlap reported total assets of \$344,069.82. Our land holdings are valued at \$258,000.00 and we have cash in the various funds totaling \$86,069.82. A detailed Treasury Report may be found in the *IKC Update*.

Dunlap reported that membership stands at 185 of which 168 are paid up. Reminders will be sent to the 17 members who have not yet renewed. Dunlap commented that we are in good shape financially.

2007 NSS Convention

We have received our order of IKC hats which we plan to offer for sale through Consignment Sales at the convention. We had planned on selling them for \$12.00 each but Dunlap asked if we want to increase the price to \$13.00 to make up for part of the 10% commission that is charged on items sold through Consignment Sales. After a short discussion the consensus was to leave the price at \$12.00. In order to hold the

commission to 10%, we need to get someone to work a four hour shift in Consignment Sales sometime during the week. Several people said that they could probably help. We'll work it out at the convention.

Bill Baus said that he will bring the IKC display. It will be set up in the main entrance lobby at the school and will be set up all week. Lindberg has the display now. We hope to have it set up on Friday.

Vernier said that we decided at a previous meeting that Robinson Ladder Cave will be open for trips all through convention week. Ladders will be in place. Sullivan Cave will probably see a lot of visitation as well. Dunlap said that he will have waiver forms.

Education and Outreach Report

Lindberg reported that we were able to secure teacher continuing renewal credits for teachers attending Project Underground workshops and up to three continuing education credits are available to graduate students attending an NSS Convention. This accreditation offer has been made possible thanks to Indiana University.

Lindberg said that requests for Project Underground are coming in at such a rate that she can't keep up. She's been thinking about having some Project Underground training to train people to conduct Project Underground workshops, possibly in January or February. Lindberg said that she is looking for funding for this project and has been in touch with Ted Kayes of the National Speleological Foundation. He told her that she could possibly get a two to three thousand dollar grant to help with the training project. Vernier said that if she is willing to write the grant request, the IKC would be willing to sanction it in some fashion.

At this time Board member Lockwood arrived.

Lindberg said that she received a call from Val Hildreth-Werker, head of the conservation sessions at the convention, about the possibility of having some kind of presentation and reception for the cave biota video on Tuesday evening in the campground. A "Cave Conservation Carnival" which was scheduled for that evening has been cancelled and that seemed to create an opening but after a long discussion Vernier decided that this was outside the scope of the IKC and was a matter to be taken up by the convention staff if they wanted to deal with it.

Cave Biota Video

Vernier said that we have approved a motion to purchase 100 copies of the DVD, *Caves: Life Beneath the Forest*, from Dave McGowan for three dollars each. Vernier has had a discussion with Cindy Sandeno of the Hoosier National Forest in which he learned that the HNF has ordered a large quantity of the DVD. Their intent is to distribute the video to nature preserves, educational facilities, and similar institutions. They want to get wide distribution of the video and as part of that effort, they have offered to give the IKC 100 copies of the DVD free of charge. We would then have 200 copies which would be enough to give one to each IKC member. The idea



of free distribution to members was discussed early in the project with the intent of getting the video shown at grotto meetings, to family and friends, and in schools. Getting the message out serves the HNF's plan of disbursing the information to as wide an audience as possible.

Sue Vernier moved that the IKC accept the HNF's offer of 100 copies of *Caves: Life Beneath the Forest*. These will be added to the 100 that we will purchase so that we will be able to give one DVD to each IKC member free of charge. The motion was seconded by Adams. Dunlap said that there will be a cost for packaging and postage and asked if Vernier would change her motion to include that. He said that the cost would probably be in the one to two dollar per unit range so he suggested allocating up to \$400.00 for shipping costs. They would probably be mailed bulk rate as separate units, not included with the *IKC Update*. Sue Vernier was agreeable to the change and so the motion was to accept the offer of 100 DVD's and to allow up to \$400.00 for packaging and shipping charges.

At this time Board member Lindberg departed the meeting and Board member Noe arrived.

Vernier explained the motion on the floor to Noe and the vote was taken. The motion passed, 10 for, 1 opposed, and no abstentions.

***IKC Update* Electronic Distribution**

Dunlap said that, as an experiment, since he is now able to publish in a pdf format, he made available for download the latest issue of the *IKC Update*. Advantages of an electronic version are that it would be available a few days earlier and all photos would be in color, not just the cover. He is looking for feedback on this. He said that several people who have seen it liked it and thought it was a good idea but he has some concerns and he is looking for some guidance. He wondered if having the *IKC Update* on the web so that anyone has access to it cheapens it as a reason to be a member and also do we really want our newsletter out on the web. Some members might prefer an electronic version over a printed version and so we could potentially save some printing costs but that could cause problems with bulk mailing because we must have at least 200 pieces to get the bulk mail rate.

Vernier pointed out that we already post meeting minutes on the web and the minutes generally include a Treasurer's report. Sergesketter said that we usually distribute copies of the *IKC Update* at grotto meetings to non members in the hope of sparking an interest in the IKC.

Dunlap said that we could set it up so that only members could download the current issue and then after a period of time it could be made available to the public. Adams said that the Indiana Cave Survey has a members only section on their website and a password is required to access it. The password is changed periodically which gives some level of security. Robert Sollman pointed out that passwords are generally a waste of time. He said that if you don't want the information out in public, don't put on the web in the first place. Someone asked if there is anything published in the *IKC Update* that is so sensitive that we would worry about it being made public. The answer from several members at once was no. We don't publish cave locations and we have no secret projects. Bill Baus said we have nothing to hide so let's publish as we have been and go ahead and post it on the web for those who want

to get it electronically. Haun suggested that we let people opt out of receiving a printed copy in the mail if they wish.

Dunlap said that wouldn't be a problem. We would save printing costs and if we drop below 200, he can mail copies to himself and still come out ahead. Vernier suggested that we should have a system to notify people when a new issue is ready for download. Dunlap said he planned to send e-mail notification to all members who have e-mail. Noe asked if we have enough storage to support a four issue rolling archive. Dunlap said that he thinks we do.

Promotion of GoodSearch as a Fund-raiser

Dunlap gave a brief explanation of how signing up for and using GoodSearch could earn a little extra money for the IKC treasury. Sue Vernier suggested that he put some information in the next *IKC Update* about this.

Bat Festival-August 11

The Sixth Annual Great Lakes Bat Festival will be held on the Indiana State University campus in Terre Haute, Indiana on Saturday, August 11, 2007. There will be a variety of activities and presentations. A short article about the event can be found in the News Briefs section of the June 2007 issue of the *IKC Update*. Vernier said that Don Ingle was planning to be there to represent the IKC. We plan on having the IKC display and also have the "portable cave" set up.

Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve

Vernier reported that he received an e-mail from Jamie Winner in which he said that restoration activities are proceeding slowly. Allen Pursell of The Nature Conservancy still needs to draft a cost share agreement for what the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program will not cover. Pursell said that he will do that soon. Mark Bennett needs to submit a final management plan before activities can begin. Jennifer (last name?) from the Corydon office said that she didn't have a copy of our plan. Winner thinks that Bennett is waiting for final input from the IKC. There are some minor changes that we want to make in the plan such as using Pursell's suggested herbicide instead of glysofate and leaving firebreak type and location up to the prescribed burn manager. We must follow his plan exactly in order to get paid for the activities.

Winner said that the timeline, as he understands it, is as follows. Mow the field in late August, spray the field in late September, and then burn the field in the spring. He said that he can do the mowing but not the spraying because he doesn't have a tractor mounted sprayer. Pursell suggested a contractor who could do it. Winner said that he needs to make sure that there is a prescribed burn manager available.

Vernier said that he has asked Winner to check on the cost of having the spraying done by a contractor and to find out what a tractor mounted sprayer would cost. He also wants Winner's opinion as to whether or not we could do the spraying ourselves or if we need to have someone do it who is certified and licensed do it. He has not yet received a reply from Winner.

Vernier asked for thoughts or discussion on the matter noting that some action may be required before the next quarterly meeting. If something comes up that requires a motion we'll have to conduct it by e-mail. Someone asked if there was anything about the plan that we should feel uncomfortable

able about. Vernier said that we would naturally have concerns about spraying herbicides and burning vegetation but TNC and all of the other experts we've talked to have not expressed any concern. Someone asked what we're trying to kill and Vernier replied that it is the fescue that we need to get rid of so that native species of grasses and other vegetation can take over. There may be some trees but we will probably need to do ongoing management to keep it a somewhat open area. We don't want it to become a forested area. This is being done because TNC, which provided 40% of the funding to purchase this property, thinks that this is the best way to manage the two open fields. The lower field appears to be reverting to what we want on its own and probably will require only minimum management but the fescue in the upper field is going to require some major intervention

Sollman said that he agrees with the plans, primarily because of the help we have received from TNC but he thinks we should concentrate on the upper field and wait and see what happens in the lower field.

Orangeville Rise Plaque

Lockwood reported that he is working on getting the plaque re-attached to the base.

Wayne Cave Preserve

Robert Sollman reported that of the two poplar trees that were planted recently, one turned out to be an oak and the other one is dead. The old culvert is still there. The plan is to get rid of it in late fall or winter when the ground vegetation has died back. The property boundaries have been marked with the steel posts with plastic covers. He said that they have not received any concrete posts yet. Vernier added that the property in general and the driveway in particular are in excellent shape.

Dunlap made a motion to move \$2,500.00 from the General Fund to the Stewardship Fund. The motion was seconded by Sue Vernier. Dunlap said that our intent with all of our properties is to place 10% of the property's value into the Stewardship Fund. The value of the Wayne Cave Preserve property is \$75,000.00. To date only \$5,000.00 has been put in the Stewardship Fund for Wayne Cave and this proposed \$2,500.00 transfer will bring the Stewardship Fund up to where it should be.

Sollman asked for an explanation of how the Stewardship Fund works. Dunlap said that it is a restricted fund that we have never used any money from. We are letting the money

accumulate for the future so that there will always be funds available for maintenance, insurance, taxes, and whatever else comes up. There is one Stewardship Fund, not a separate one for each property and what the money is spent on is entirely up to the discretion of the Board.

The vote was taken and the motion passed 11 for, no one opposed, and no abstentions.

Shaft Pit-Fence Repair

Vernier reported that the fence was repaired with only a minor injury to himself. There is a continuous fence around Shaft Pit again.

Grotto Cave-Rock Removal

Vernier reported that the rock that was partially blocking the passage in Grotto Cave is now out of the way. It was somewhat larger than Dunlap originally described it.

Buddha Cave Preserve

Dunlap reported that that the trees that were planted in April are having a hard time due to the lack of rain. A lot of them put out leaves but then died from lack of moisture. George Cesnik did some spraying and knocked out a lot of the multiflora rose.

Sullivan Cave Preserve

Dunlap reported that nothing has been done concerning either the campground area leveling or the acquisition of an out-house. Everything is on hold until after the convention.

Land Acquisition Activities

Vernier reported that he is not aware of any land acquisition activities at this time.

Items From the Floor

None.

The next meeting will be on Saturday, September 15, 2007, at 6:00 PM, EDT. The location is tentatively set for Room 143 of the IU Geology Building but the location may be changed. [*The meeting location was later changed to the home of Salisa and Jerry Lewis starting at 3 PM.*]

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bob Sergesketter, Secretary.

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you like it, you can add GoodSearch to your browser favorites or make it your default search engine on your browser tool bar.

- As mentioned in the last issue, the *IKC Update* will now be posted as a pdf file (with color inside photos) to the IKC website and members with e-mail addresses in our membership database will be notified when available. Members who would prefer to not receive a paper copy of the newsletter can contact Keith Dunlap (keith.dunlap@juno.com).
- Two new members have joined the IKC in the past quarter. Welcome Bill Meines (466) and David Hughes (467). The IKC membership now stands at 187.

DIRECTIONS TO LEWIS HOME (if lost: 812-967-7592):

From the north – Take I-65 south to Exit 9 –Indiana State Road 311 (Sellersburg/New Albany). At the bottom of the ramp, at the split go right toward New Albany and Starlite attractions. At the first stop light, **set odometer to 0.0**. Get into middle lane.

Mileage: 0.0 - stop light (Ohio Avenue), get into middle lane, continue straight on Hwy 311; 0.5- stop light, **turn right** onto old Hwy 60; 0.8 - stop sign at T-intersection, **turn right** on Hwy 60 (just past Carepets on the right); 4.2 – T-intersection Hwy 60 with Hwy 111, stoplight is immediately past railroad tracks; turn right and continue on Hwt 60 (toward Salem); 7.8 – landmark: Deam Lake on right (continue straight on SR 60); 9.9 -- landmark: Bogie Golf Course. If you like golf, we'd suggest continue just driving on past this one... 10.0 –landmark: Dow Knob Road to left (Huber Winery et al.), **continue straight** on 60,

but **start slowing down**; 10.3 - metal guard rail on both sides of road; 10.4 –**turn left**. After turning, continue left 180 degrees onto frontage road, then right onto last gravel drive leading back to house (immediately before the “Park Closed” sign barring the road. You will see the sign on left side of our lane if you are going the right way. 10.7 – circle in front of house (GPS N38 26 41.5 / W85 54 30.1)

From west I-64 – Take I-64 to –I-265 (bypass around north side of Louisville metro area). On I-265 take Exit 3 Grant Line Road (Indiana SR 111) At the stop light at the top of exit 3 ramp, **set odometer to 0.0**.

Mileage: 0.0 - stop light (top of Exit 3 ramp), turn left onto Grant Line Road (SR 111); 0.2- stop light, continue straight on Grant Line Road (SR 111); 0.3 - stop light, Hausfeldt Lane, continue straight on Grant Line Road (SR 111); 0.5 – IUS, stop light, continue straight on Grant Line Road (SR 111); 0.7 – IUS, stop light, continue straight on Grant Line Road (SR 111); 3.1 – Railroad crossing, continue straight on SR 111; 6.5 – Stop light, intersect SR 111 and SR 60, continue straight toward Borden on SR 60; 10.2 – Landmark: Deam Lake, continue straight on SR 60; 12.2 – Landmark: Bogie Golf Course; if you like golf, just keep on driving...continue straight on SR 60; 12.3 –landmark: Dow Knob Road to left (Huber Winery et al.), **continue straight** on 60, but **start slowing down**; 12.6 - metal guard rail on both sides of road; 12.7 –**turn left**. After turning, continue left 180 degrees onto frontage road, then right onto last gravel drive leading back to house (immediately before the “Park Closed” sign barring the road. You will see the sign on left side of our lane if you are going the right way. 13.0 – circle in front of house (GPS N38 26 41.5 / W85 54 30.1)

From west state road 60 from Salem/Mitchell – At the yellow light in downtown Borden, **set odometer to 0.0**.

Mileage: 0.0- yellow light, downtown Borden; 0.9 – Landmark: Borden post office, continue straight on SR 60; 1.3 – Point of interest: cute single female available for dating on right in frame house at corner of SR 60 and Koetter Road; otherwise continue straight on SR 60; 2.5 –**turn right** onto access road to our house. After turning, then immediate dogleg to left 90 degrees onto frontage road, then right onto last gravel drive leading back to house (immediately before the “Park Closed” sign barring the road. You will see the sign on left side of our lane if you are going the right way. 2.8 – circle in front of house (GPS N38 26 41.5 / W85 54 30.1)

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.

