

IKC UPDATE

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March 2009

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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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Cover: Tom Sollman planting an oak tree at the Buddha Karst Nature Preserve.
See page 6 about the year's tree planting. Photo by Jerry Lewis, 2008.



ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING REMINDER
SATURDAY, MARCH 21st, 10:00 AM EDT
GREENWOOD, INDIANA
WHITE RIVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

Preliminary Agenda Items: Elections; Cave Patrons/Property Managers annual reports; Upcoming workday (Under-Earth Day) at the Buddha Karst Nature Preserve; Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve surface restoration; Indiana Cave Symposium; White Nose Syndrome impact; Indiana Bat biennial count; Indian Creek Conservation Easement disposition; Conservation Easement insurance; Financial reports; HNF inventorying and GIS project; Land acquisition activities; I-69 forest mitigation opportunities; and more....

Meeting directions: See page 15 (inside back cover) for directions and map.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

March 21 – IKC Annual Meeting, White River Library, Greenwood (see above)

April 4 – Lost River Tour, Orleans (see page 5)

April 18 – Under-Earth Day, Buddha Karst Nature Preserve (see page 6)

April 18 – Indiana Cave Symposium, Lawrence Co Fairgrounds (page 7)

May 2 – Take Pride in America workday (see page 5)

June ?? – IKC Quarterly meeting (date and location to be determined)

For more information on the Indiana Karst Conservancy, visit our website at <http://ikc.caves.org> 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...

The topic of my thoughts for this ramble is karst education. In 2007, my mom died – you’re wondering what this has to do with karst education, just bear with me. Among other things I had the task of going through her possessions to clean out our family home in preparation for selling it. During the course of that I found a dozen or so albums stored in the basement, one of which had the photo shown below that inspired this article.

So, let’s check out the photo. As the sign in the foreground says, it was taken at the entrance of Mammoth Cave, on July 26, 1964, on the tour led by a ranger from the National Park Service. No, the kid in the front row wearing a sport coat isn’t me – I might have to commit seppuku if I found photographic evidence of something like that. I’m the dorky-looking kid in the back row indicated by the white arrow, standing next to my big brother (whom I idolized – wow, I get to go in a cave with my *big brother*). The date was four days shy of my 11th birthday, probably not a coincidence. I don’t know for sure, but my hunch is that this photo was taken about a minute before my first trip into a cave.

Neither of my parents knew anything about caves, and both probably would have assumed that the word “karst” was a misspelling of “karts”. My mother had a good case of claustrophobia, so the older brother was tasked with

taking the kid brother on the big cave trip for his 11th birthday. By the time I graduated from high school, my parents had also taken us to see Wyandotte Cave, Marengo Cave, Wind Cave and Carlsbad Caverns. Somehow, from this family environment I grew up to have a lifelong interest in caves, karst and conservation.

The point... I think I’m the proverbial poster child of what a little karst education can produce in an impressionable youngster. Many of us spend a good amount of energy talking to kids, taking them through the inflatable cave, doing presentations for schools, leading trips to Sullivan and Buckner, and so forth. It might be discouraging because seeing the results takes years, or even decades. I’m writing this to focus for just a moment on the fact that each of us *can* make a difference. It’s important to remember that dopey kid in the back row, asking the stupid questions, might be getting more of a take-home message than you think. Maybe he’ll go home and think twice about throwing garbage in a sink-hole, or if he finds himself in a cave sometime, *won’t* break off the stalactites. Maybe he’ll come with his scout group and plant some trees with us next month at Buddha. A generation or so later, he might even find himself writing “Ramblings from the President”...

Jerry Lewis



NEWS BRIEFS...

- ❑ Spring weather will be here before you know it which yields volunteer opportunities at several of the IKC's cave preserves. In addition to the April 18th tree planting project at the Buddha Karst Nature Preserve (see page 6), we also need volunteers for invasive weed control, trail maintenance, camping area mowing, grapevine cutting, and general maintenance. IKC projects can be rewarding and there is always lots of fellowship in accomplishing good things together. Contact one of the property managers listed on page 2 to find out how you can help.
- ❑ On May 2nd, the Hoosier National Forest will be sponsoring their annual Take Pride In America workday. There will be a number of forest-wide stewardship projects needing to be accomplished on that day (generally they have more than 100 volunteers). While no cave-related project has been planned this year, Take Pride in America is still a good activity to support and an excuse to get out and bond with nature. As an added bonus, there is a free evening cook-out with door prizes. Meet 9:30 AM EDT at Shelterhouse #1, Hardin Ridge Recreation Area.
- ❑ On April 18th, in addition to Under-Earth Day (see page 6) and the Indiana Cave Symposium (see page 7), you can participate in the Hellbender Hustle at the O'Bannon Woods State Park Nature Center. Besides the running and walking events starting at 9 AM EDT, there will be other nature-oriented family-friendly activities and displays, along with a local blues band (appropriately named the Hellbenders). For more information, contact Cassie Hauswald (chauswald@tnc.org 812-737-2087).
- ❑ Bob Armstrong of the Lost River Conservation Association will once again be conducting guided auto/hiking tours of the Lost River area, starting from the east at its head waters in Washington County, through Orange County to its disappearance near Orleans, and on to its rise near Orangeville. This year there will be two spring tours scheduled on April 4th and June 6th. The orientation lecture starts at 7:40 AM EDT at the southeast corner of the square in Orleans and will depart promptly at 8 AM. Reservations are not required. Tours will go, *especially if it rains*. There will be some moderate hiking so sturdy footwear and long pants/sleeves are strongly recommended. The tour is free, but a small donation is suggested for the optional printed handouts. This is a must-do tour, if you are interested in Indiana karst.
- ❑ We are sad to announce that on February 24th, Dee Slater passed away. Dee, 68, had dedicated many years promoting the conservation of the Lost River as a leader of the Lost River Conservation Association. She was also very active with the 500 Earth Science Club.
- ❑ We are also saddened by the passing of IKC member Robert Roundy (Dayton, OH). Robert had been a member since 1993 and was a consistent annual donor. His son wrote that Robert "loved our conservation work, caves, knowledge of the earth, and life."
- ❑ For the past year, we have been promoting the use of the Internet search engine www.GoodSearch.com as a means of raising funds for the IKC. For every search, 1.3 cents is donated. GoodSearch also offers a merchant's portal where you can access a large list of on-line stores. By simply entering through the GoodShop website, purchases made on the sponsored sites will yield 0.5 to 5% of the purchase price for the IKC. If you do a lot of Internet shopping and remember to use GoodShop, the donations can add up quickly. The list of participating merchants grows daily and includes Amazon.com, Barnes&Noble, Best Buy, Buy.com, Dell, eBay, Home Depot, iTunes, J.Crew, Kohl's, Land's End, Macy, Office Depot, Old Navy, PetSmart, Sears, Staples, Target, ToyRUs, and Walmart.
- ❑ On December 13th, prior to the IKC quarterly meeting in Bloomington, the IKC organized a mini-cleanup in the entrance area of Wayne Cave. Ten volunteers culled through the mud and gravel to



fill five trash bags with broken glass, pieces of carpet, and other assorted trash (including parts of a tri-cycle) that has been at the bottom of the entrance pit since before the mid-1980s when the IKC gated the cave. Participants included Jim Adams, Bill Baus, Keith Dunlap, Jacob Fisk, Michelle Gray, Jerry Lewis, Robert Sollman, Tom Sollman, Dick Vernier and Sue Vernier.

- ❑ The Indiana DNR recently announced that Wyandotte Cave and Sibert's Cave (Little Wyandotte) would not reopen this year. Details are sketchy if the closures are temporary or permanent.
- ❑ After 20 plus years of providing members with membership cards, the IKC Executive Board has decided to discontinue the practice, primarily due to the costs associated with mailing them out, verses their perceived value. Previously the cards were distributed with the quarterly newsletters, but now many of our members have elected to receive the *IKC Update* electronically to reduce our costs, so spending money mailing out cards seemed counter-intuitive. Reducing our organizational costs allows more funds to be spent on education, stewardship, conservation, and land acquisition.
- ❑ The IKC had five new members in the past quarter. Welcome Joy Baiz (479), Brad Barcom (480), Chad Montgomery (481), Mark Buskirk (482), and Tom Ferrell (483). Also welcome back Andrew and Alison DeBois (370/371). Our membership stands at 188.

UNDER-EARTH DAY – BUDDHA KARST PRESERVE

April 18, 2009

The Indiana Karst Conservancy will once again organize a workday in celebration of Earth Day. This year we will be planting 1,300 trees at the Buddha Karst Nature Preserve to continue our long-term reforestation project. Tree species this year include Black cherry, Black oak, Black walnut, Chinkapin oak, Flowering dogwood, Persimmon, Red oak, Scarlet oak, Shumard oak, and White oak.

You do not need any special skills to assist and family participation is encouraged. Bring gloves, boots, water, a lunch. If you have a shovel or tile spade, bring it too. Starting time will be 10 AM EDT and we will teach you the finer points of planting trees. We have two Scout groups lined up to help (both participated last year). We will easily be done in plenty of time to attend the nearby Indiana Cave Symposium. If you have not been to the Buddha Preserve, this is an excellent opportunity to see how your dues and donations are being spent.

The property is located approximately 1/2 mile south of the cross road community of Buddha, south east of Bedford. Parking is along the county road or in the designated parking area on-property. We will work, rain or shine, so dress appropriately. If you need further directions or additional information, contact Property Manager George Cesnik (GeoCesnik@yahoo.com or 812-339-2143).

Ray Rough and Salisa Lewis planting trees at the Buddha Karst Nature Preserve



INDIANA CAVE SYMPOSIUM 2009 PREVIEW

by Keith Dunlap

The 17th annual Indiana Cave Symposium, co-sponsored by the Indiana Karst Conservancy and Indiana Cave Survey, will be held on Saturday, April 18, in the Community Building at the Lawrence County Fairgrounds (just west of SR 37 on US 50, south of Bedford). The customary free cookout (burgers and brats) and pitch-in dinner (please bring a cover dish or dessert to share) will start at 5 PM Eastern Daylight Savings Time. Presentations will begin at 7 PM. The tentative presentation titles and presenters (not in any particular order) include:

- Buckner Cave Graffiti Removal Project Phase 2 – Bill Baus
- Biota Protected in IKC Preserves – Jerry & Salisa Lewis
- 2009 Indiana Bat Biennial Census – Keith Dunlap
- White Nose Syndrome and Sampling Update – Todd Webb
- The *New* ICS Online Database – Randy Jackson
- Education Outreach – Kriste Lindberg
- Caves of the Red Hill Road Area of Stinesville – Dave Everton

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

IKC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

by Kriste Lindberg, Chairman

The Education and Outreach Committee (EOC) is pleased to report that we have completed our grant deliverables and have turned in our final report for our \$1000 National Speleological Foundation education grant. The grant allowed us to fund several of the initiatives below and we appreciate NSF's support of our efforts.

Good progress also continues to be made with our expanded education plan and collaboration with the NSS Environmental Education Committee/Project Underground (our plan is being developed as a template for other states). We are also working with NASA's "Cave Ambassadors" program and incorporating parts of it into our expansion plans. There is a lot of synergy between the two groups.

As a reminder, below is a brief synopsis of the EOC's expansion plan:

- Appointing regional coordinators
- Creating a web page on the IKC web site
- Garnering media coverage
- Setting reporting procedures
- Gathering traveling trunks (Project Under-

ground activities such as the inflatable cave, the *Caves: Life Beneath the Forest* cave life documentary, karst/groundwater models, and more)

- Employing a database to keep track of details
- Engaging in additional marketing and outreach
- Attracting more funding
- Holding a Project Underground board retreat
- Conducting Project Underground facilitator trainings
- Correlating programming to standards

We have completed the first four bullet items and have begun, steps five, six, and seven...

Gathering traveling trunks -We have now purchased all the materials needed to construct inflatable caves for each of the three regions in our domain. Don Ingle, Bob Vandeventer, and Karen Silvers will soon have them put together. We have already had requests for them at various venues. A friend in the SJVG, Dave Tibbets, may soon be



joining us in our endeavors.

Employing a database to keep track of details and Engaging in additional marketing and outreach. We are receiving assistance through Indiana University service learning partners, Professor Terry Usrey of the IU – School of Public and Environmental Affairs and Professor Benjamin Schultz, of the IU – Kelley School of Business. Professor Usrey and his students are helping with the database portion and Professor Schultz and his students are helping with the marketing and outreach portion. I have already met with their classes and the students are now working hard on designing plans for us. We will have these two items squared away by the end of the semester. These efforts have evolved to strengthen the City of Bloomington's Citizen Scientist Certification Program.

To be certified as an official City of Bloomington "Citizen Scientist", students ranging from middle school through college take courses (cave and karst education, water quality monitoring, invasive plant control, and more) offered through Bloomington Parks and Recreation and the City of Bloomington Utilities and volunteer a certain number of hours. There are various emphases available, including karst. It creates a win/win – the students receive an education on how to work effectively with government as well as material for their resume, while the city receives volunteer hours, and the community is strengthened because of the endeavor. The program is especially important for the times as it helps to support life science projects and economic development, creating more sustainability in the area.

We are also working with an IU – Human Biology course on water quality monitoring and storm drain marking. The students are being taught Hoosier Riverwatch, a state-run water quality monitoring program, and then doing storm drain marking in the area. This effort will prove to help to protect the watershed they are focusing on, the Cascade Creek Watershed of the northwest portion of the city, which connects to IU near the stadium. All 19 students will be certified as Citizen Scientists!

To get the word out further on environmental education and offerings, we are working on incorporating Bee Buzz, the Bloomington Environmental Education Resource for Educators website into the IU/City of Bloomington Bloomington Parks and Recreation/Environmental Commission/Sustainability Commission website.

Through these collective endeavors, I has been asked to co-host a sustainability session for an IU service learning conference coming up in May.

There has also been more regional interest in storm drain marking. Therefore, colleague Jeff Bray of West Virginia, and I are offering our help in setting up such programs around the country that pertain to karst areas. A notice will be coming out in the April *NSS News*.

Other projects and activities in the last quarter include:

- Project Underground retreat. Richmond, Virginia, January 24th, 2009.
- Indiana Parks and Recreation Association. Bloomington, Indiana, January 23, 2009. Bloomington Parks and Recreation was awarded with an "Outstanding Programs" award for Leonard Springs Nature Days.
- Hoosier Association of Science Teachers, Inc. (HASTI) Annual Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana, February 4-6, 2009. Thanks to Don Ingle and Bud Dillon for representing the IKC, NSS, and Project Underground with a showing the *Caves: Life Beneath the Forest* and more. (see the related article on page 9).
- National Ground Water Association's 5th Conference on Hydrogeology, Ecology, Monitoring, and Management of GW in Karst Terrains. Tampa, FL, February 23, 2009. I co-hosted a booth for the NSS and networked with various attendees, including the NGWA educator and the owner of storm drain marking company, Don Sommers, of das Manufacturing, Inc.
- Bloomington Parks and Recreation Bravo Award. Bloomington, Indiana, February 24, 2009. Dave Everton was awarded the honor for his help, in part, with hosting a karst station with Leonard Springs Nature Days. Congratulations, Dave!
- Our next IKC Education and Outreach Committee meeting will be held one hour before the IKC Annual Business Meeting in Greenwood where we will discuss the NSF grant in relation to traveling trunks, the database, funding, the upcoming Project Underground facilitator training in Indiana and more.

Below is a list of upcoming events specific to cave and karst education in Indiana:

- Leonard Springs Nature Days. Bloomington,

CAVES, PROJECT UNDERGROUND, AND HASTI

by Don Ingle

On Thursday, February 5th, I was at the Indianapolis Convention Center for the HASTI (Hoosier Association of Science Teachers, Inc) Conference for the second year in a row, albeit on a somewhat smaller scale than last year. This year I was there to assist Bud Dillon, who was there to present, on behalf of the Indiana DNR, an hour long program featuring the film, *Caves: Life Beneath The Forest* as its main focal point. There wasn't much time to get the conservation message across to the attending science teachers, so brevity and conciseness of thought were the orders of the day. Being as how the video itself is 31 minutes long, after a brief discussion in broadly general terms to the audience about what sort of experience one could reasonably expect in a visit to an unimproved and wild Indiana cave, it was onto the film itself in pretty short order. The video seemed to be received well by the teachers present, and thanks to the generosity of our friends and partners at the DNR, five copies of the DVD were distributed to five lucky teachers. Another five copies were to be offered later as door prizes on the last day of the conference on Friday. I stuck around after the showing to answer questions from the teachers about the Project Underground program, and how the activities that are included in the workbook can help to illustrate all the many and varied aspects of speleology. No matter the age of the children in question, there is an activity there in the workbook that can help bring the subject they wish to more specifically cover into understand-

ing of that subject to that particular age bracket. I tried to get this across to them, and I believe some of the teachers recognized this, and asked a few intelligent follow-up questions, mostly activities having to do with cave biology. This was understandable, given the nature of the film they'd just finished watching, but one teacher from Richmond had wanted to know where a good place would be to take school kids on field trips where they could learn about Indiana geology, interestingly enough. It almost made me want to move to Richmond, or at least privately wonder what they had in the local water supply there that we here in Greene County apparently do not. Schools that offer any field trips are kind of few and far between in my neck of the woods, and it is my understanding that throughout the state, most won't even consider a field trip that far afield at all. That she was even posing the question in these troubled economic times impressed me. Unfortunately then, our time in the room had come to an end and we had to vacate the room for the next presenters for the next hour from Hoosier Riverwatch. So I distributed some Project Underground fliers to the remaining teachers who hadn't already left and hoped for the best. Like all venues where one has an opportunity to get out the cave and karst message out there to the public, results from and efficacy of your effort are uncertain. But if even one person gets that message and runs with it, passing it along, then it was all worth it.



New Park Progressing to Reality

State closer to acquiring Cave River Valley land

by Roger Moon

CAMPBELLSBURG — By late spring or early summer, outdoor enthusiasts should again be able to enjoy the 316-acre Cave River Valley Park.

The park, just across the Lawrence County line and near Campbellsburg in Washington County, is now under the watchful eye of Spring Mill State Park. Last summer, Bert Engler sold the property to the Indiana Nature Conservancy, and it's about to be sold to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

Mark Young, Spring Mill State Park property manager, said Friday, "The process to purchase the property from the Nature Conservancy is not complete yet. We're waiting for one more approval, a grant through the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

"The last I heard was that it will be approved," Young continued. "So, the process for us to purchase and take over the property, I would say, should be nearing completion toward the end of February."

The grant Young referenced is from the Indiana Heritage Trust.

During the period between the Nature Conservancy's purchase of the property and the sale to the DNR, Spring Mill has been responsible for management at Cave River Valley.

Joe Tutterrow, land protection manager for the Nature Conser-

vancy, said Spring Mill has been in "monitoring mode," which has meant maintaining "a presence to make sure there wasn't any trespassing or damage. It really hasn't been open and available for public enjoyment at this point. They have been monitoring it this winter."

He added, "I don't think anything has been done on the property during the last couple of months other than just monitoring."

The property includes two significant caves — River Cave and Endless Cave. A Nature Conservancy periodical published last fall reports six globally rare cave species, including the northern cavefish and golden cave harvestman, are present in the caves.

The involvement of the Nature Conservancy and the state DNR safeguards the protection of endangered and threatened species.

Mary McConnell, state director for the Conservancy's Indiana chapter, said in August, "Cave River Valley presented a wonderful opportunity for The Nature Conservancy to preserve critical habitat for several cave species and the threatened Indiana bat. Areas that contain populations of both Indiana bats and northern cavefish are extremely rare and, therefore, the protection of these areas present us with a nearly unparalleled opportunity for cave

conservation in Indiana.

"Equally important," she added, "is the additional recreation opportunities this land will provide to Hoosiers for generations to come."

Tutterrow said, "The long-term goal is to have it open to the public at times when it doesn't affect or impact the bat population, primarily during the recreational season."

He added, "It will be open through the early fall... Everyone wants the public to be able to enjoy that property because it's so unique."

Tutterrow said all parties involved with the sale have welcomed the change.

"We're pleased that we were able to work with the Engler family. ... They did a nice job of caring for the property when it was kind of under their watch. It will be open to the public and will receive a level of attention and a level of management that will make it sustainable and that will, hopefully, protect the wildlife populations."

He said caving enthusiasts had come from "all over the place to study the cave community down there. "Bert Engler recognized that value and encouraged folks to come down and enjoy it," Tutterrow said.

Reprinted from the February 1, 2009, Bedford Time-Mail.

continued from page 8...

Indiana, Spring 2009. In conjunction with IKC, Bloomington Parks and Recreation, Monroe County Consolidated School Corporation, Sycamore Land Trust, and more — an event featuring karst, water quality, wetland, tree and soil stations for all sixth-grade students in the MCCSC at Leonard Springs Nature Park, Bloomington Parks and Recreation's premiere karst park. The effort to host all of the students (approximately 900) started in the Fall 2008

and will be finishing in the Spring 2009.

- National Forest bookstore supporters. Sullivan Cave, April 23, 2009. Bob Vandevanter will lead a tour for the Hoosier National Forest.
- Hoosier National Forest's Take Pride in America. Hoosier National Forest, May 2, 2009.
- Hoosier Outdoor Experience 2009, Fort Harrison State Park, September 25-27. The IDNR is hosting this first-time event and it will be huge!

...continued on the bottom of page 11

IKC HONORED BY THE HOOSIER NATIONAL FOREST

by Jerry Lewis

On Wednesday, March 4, Jerry and Salisa Lewis attended the appreciation dinner for partners and contractors of the Hoosier National Forest held at the Paoli Community Center. The evening was kicked off by a short welcome speech by Forest Supervisor Ken Day, after which the crowd dug in on the pitch-in dinner. We ate with interim karst coordinator Steve Hariss and caught up on some of the HNF news. After dinner, various staff members did the presentation of Certificates of Appreciation. For our part, Steve Hariss took the floor and gave a short talk on the

long term efforts of the IKC. Jerry was sporting a large sling on his arm from his recent surgery and on the way across the floor to receive the IKC certificate joked that “No, this didn’t happen in a cave!” Ken Day then added something to the effect of “yes, he’s great in caves, but watch out for sidewalks...”, then shook Jerry’s hand and presented the Certificate of Appreciation amidst mixed applause and laughter. After the ceremony closed we enjoyed the opportunity to meet and chat with the new District Forester, Anne Carey.



continued from page 10...

They have asked for us to be there with our inflatable cave. We won’t let them down...

Special thanks this quarter to Jeff Bray, Don Ingle, Carol Kugler, Karen Silvers, and Bob

Vandeventer. If you would like more information on any of the above and/or wish to help, please contact me at kriste.lindberg@gmail.com or (812) 339-7210. Thanks!

INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY TREASURY REPORT

**Income/Expense Statement
From October 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008**

INCOME:

Dues Apportionment and Residuals	671.25	
Donations - General	182.49	
Donations - Land Acquisition Fund	1450.00	
DNR contract	923.06	
Interest	258.23	
	<u>258.23</u>	\$3,485.03

EXPENSES:

IKC Update (printing, production, mailing)	276.57	
Education / Outreach	873.21	
Stewardship	525.42	
Business (Insurance, PO box, filing fees, etc.)	778.64	
Transfers to/from restricted funds/other adjustments	750.02	
	<u>750.02</u>	(\$3,203.86)

NET OPERATING EXCESS (DEFICIT) THIS PERIOD: \$281.17

**Balance Sheet
December 31, 2008**

ASSETS:

Cash in Checking / Saving Accounts / CDs	97402.72	
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)	13.16	
	<u>13.16</u>	<u>\$355,415.88</u>

LIABILITIES & OPERATING EXCESS:

Land Acquisition Restricted Fund	34116.59
Deferred Dues Restricted Fund (179 members)	2336.25
NSF Education grant ¹	0.00
Stewardship Endowment Restricted Fund	29462.64

Previous Operating Excess	31219.23	
Net Excess (Deficit) This Period	<u>281.17</u>	
Current Operating Excess (unrestricted funds)	31500.40	
Real estate liquidity (basis value)	<u>258000.00</u>	

Total Liabilities & Operating Excess \$355,415.88

IKC DECEMBER QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, December 13, 2008 – IU Geology Building, Bloomington, Indiana

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jerry Lewis, President
 James Adams, Secretary
 Keith Dunlap, Treasurer
 Bruce Bowman
 Dave Haun
 Kriste Lindberg
 Steve Lockwood
 Bob Sergesketter (by proxy Sue Vernier)
 Bruce Silvers
 Karen Silvers
 Tom Sollman
 Bob Vandeventer
 Richard Vernier
 Jamie Winner

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Don Ingle

IKC President Lewis called the quarterly meeting of the Executive Board of the Indiana Karst Conservancy to order at 4:02 PM. The September 20, 2008 meeting minutes were approved as published in the December 2008 *IKC Update*. IKC Secretary Adams later realized that the title of the minutes as published was incorrect and should be corrected to “IKC September Board Meeting Minutes” instead of “IKC June Board Meeting Minutes.” *[editor’s note: this has since been corrected in the on-line newsletter]*

Treasurer’s Report

IKC Treasurer Dunlap reported total assets of \$354,805.96 including \$96,805.96 in cash and \$258,000 in land. Totals for the following funds were reported: Land Acquisition, \$32,666.59; Stewardship, \$29,322.62; Deferred Dues, \$3,007.50; NSF Grant, \$840.00; General Fund, \$30,969.25. All insurance and property taxes have been paid and we currently show 179 members on our roster.

Education & Outreach

Lindberg reported that we had a good year in 2008. Many projects were advanced including obtaining a NSF grant, launching an educational webpage, appointing three regional coordinators, and maintaining the traveling exhibits. There were a total of 25 events reaching 3,000 people.

The NSS grotto publication *Illuminations* has published an article about the Buddha Karst Nature Preserve kiosk artwork. Lindberg has e-mailed this to the Board.

In 2009, Lindberg will be working with a class at Indiana University on a service project to design a database to track and evaluate our educational activities.

An article for publication in the *NSS News* is also in the works.

Robinson Ladder Prairie Burning

Lewis and Winner have both been in contact with the burn contractor and were promised that he would burn the prairie before the end of the year and give us notice at least 24 hours in advance. We’ll wait to see if it can be done in the next 18 days. There were questions about the expiration dates of our WHIP contract and our TNC grant.

Wayne Cave Preserve

Lewis noted that the bio-inventory is complete and a report will be available soon.

Ten people helped with the cave entrance cleanup earlier today. Five bags of debris were removed and the project is considered complete.

Sinks of Indian Creek Conservation Easement

Lewis has been in contact with the Sycamore Land Trust and they have rejected our proposal for them to take over the easement. Other avenues for divesting ourselves of the conservation easement are being pursued, however, it may be three to six months before we know anything.

In the meantime, we need to take whatever steps are necessary to fulfill our obligation as the conservation easement holder. Dunlap mentioned an insurance program that is being put together by the Land Trust Alliance. We expect this to be in place by March 2009, but it may be unnecessary for the IKC to participate if the easement is transferred to another organization.

Bowman volunteered to draft a letter to landholders affected by the easement and will forward the draft document to Lewis.

Buddha Karst Nature Preserve

Dunlap reported that the information kiosk is now in place at the property.

For the 2009 tree planting, 1200 trees have been ordered and we’re planning to have two Scout Troops to assist in the planting. This may be scheduled the same day as the annual Indiana Cave Symposium.

Dunlap has also submitted a \$200 grant request to the Dogwood City Grotto to cover half the cost of the planting.

Sullivan Cave Preserve

Vandeventer has received a key from Sullivan that was not an actual Sullivan Cave key. A key appears to be missing and he will check to see who this odd key was returned from.



Dunlap replaced the driveway combination lock that went bad.

Maintenance of the outhouse facility was discussed.

IKC Sponsorships

Dunlap moved that the IKC become a sponsor of the Buckner Restoration project. Seconded by R. Vernier. Motion passed, 14-0-0.

Dunlap moved that the IKC allocate up to \$150 for expenses for the 2009 Indiana Cave Symposium. Bowman seconded. Motion passed, 14-0-0. The Indiana Cave Survey will share the expenses.

Cave River Valley

The Nature Conservancy has announced that they have purchased Cave River Valley, which will later be transferred to Spring Mill State Park. There was discussion regarding our desire that TNC provide input into the management plan. Dunlap volunteered to put together a letter to The Nature Conservancy. A letter may also be sent to the DNR. As an alternative, there was discussion regarding strengthening our relationship with Spring Mill State Park. This is the favored action and Lewis will follow-up with SMSP.

Land Acquisition activities

No significant new information has been received regarding availability of a potential acquisition property in Jennings County in the Eastern Karst Region. Dunlap will try to find out more information.

Dunlap will also re-inquire regarding the availability of

property adjoining the Buddha Karst Nature Preserve.

Items From The Floor

Lewis noted that he attended a meeting with the Hoosier National Forest regarding the evaluation of the HNF significant caves list. This has been sent to HNF management for approval.

Dunlap noted that TNC was able to purchase several tracts in the recent Kimball land auction. Of interest to us is a 273-acre property in the Lost River area east of Orangeville.

Dunlap demonstrated a laser caliper for bat counting. He is planning to produce and market these devices and any profits will be available for the IKC.

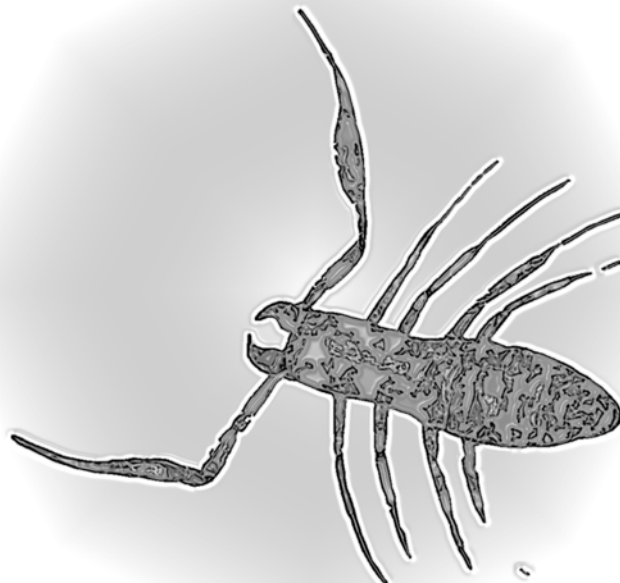
Vandeventer noted that it's difficult to get donations right now. We need creative ways to talk up our efforts. It's difficult to agree to speaking engagements if expenses are not reimbursed.

Winner reported that contamination in Clicks Cave was noted during a recent Harrison Crawford Grotto trip.

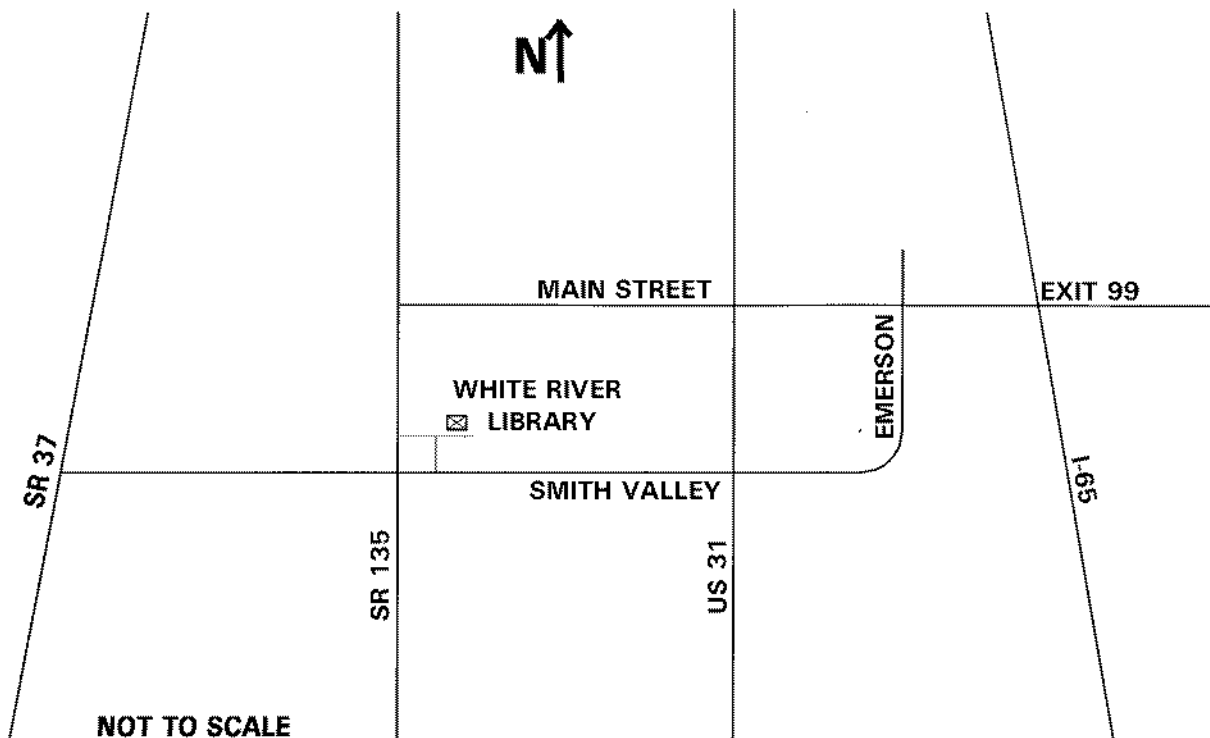
The next meeting of the Executive Board was scheduled for Saturday, February 7, 2009 at the IU Geology Building beginning at 1:00 PM. Lewis will follow up. The annual meeting has been scheduled for Saturday, March 21, 2009. Adams will follow up with the White River Public Library for a 10:00 AM start.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:31PM.

Respectfully Submitted, James Adams, Secretary



**IKC ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
SATURDAY, MARCH 21st, 10 AM
WHITE RIVER PUBLIC LIBRARY, GREENWOOD, INDIANA**



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.

