

Indiana Cave Symposium 2005 Preview

by Dave Everton

The 13th annual Indiana Cave Symposium, co-sponsored by the Indiana Karst Conservancy and Indiana Cave Survey, will be held on Saturday, April 30 in Lawrence County, Indiana at the Scenic Hills Camp a few miles east of Spring Mill State Park. The customary cookout and pitch-in dinner will start at 4:00 P.M. Eastern Standard Time (5:00 P.M. Eastern Daylight Savings Time), with presentations beginning at 6:00 EST (7:00 EDT). The planned topics and presenters are as follows, not necessarily in this order:

- **Wayne Cave Property Update:** Several improvements have been made during the past year to the property containing this classic Monroe County cave now owned by the Indiana Karst Conservancy, and property manager Robert Sollman will update us on them.
- **Carcass Crypt Pit Cleanup:** Drum roll, please! Although the cleanup took place in 2003, Brian Leavell will finally show us how it was all pulled off in this nice southern Indiana pit. A last-minute situation prevented him from doing so in 2004, but he's agreed to try again in 2005.
- **To Be Announced:** Brian Killingbeck always seems to have his hands in some great survey project, and he promises to share some of his survey exploits of the past year with us, which of course involves Indiana caves!
- **Hoosier National Forest 3-year Biology Project:** Jerry Lewis had a scheduling conflict last year and was unable to present, but he's back again in 2005, eager to give an overview of his recently-completed 3-year biota study of caves in the HNF.
- **The 2005 Winter Bat Census:** Virgil Brack, Keith Dunlap, and company have been at it again, this past winter being one for the biennial bat survey. Hear Keith explain the details of how many Indiana bats were counted in which caves, and how the figures compare to those of previous surveys.
- **Lost River System Project Update:** It has been two years since we've gotten this program due to Tony Cunningham's busy-ness, and although he can't make it again, SJVGer Kim DeCero has volunteered to step up to the podium and deliver an update on this massive spaghetti-bowl type of cave system that just won't stop growing in hard-earned mileage.
- **Hoosier National Forest Cave and Karst Update:** Bruce Trotter will be telling about the progress that he, Ray Sheldon, Jerry Walker, and others have been making at improving the quality of cave data for the caves and karst of the HNF, which has proved to be a formidable task, especially due to the previously-incomplete record keeping.
- **Jake's Water Bowl Cave:** Dave Black has been at the survey helm as usual, and will treat the group to the story of the exploration and survey of a (in his own words) "nice little <5000-foot long cave east of Palmyra."
- **The Roberts Digs - - Caves East of Spring Mill State Park:** Have you ever dreamed of opening a 4700-foot, mainly walking cave in Indiana? Forget about opening one then; how about surveying such a cave? Thanks to owner Willie Roberts' digging persistence and hospitality, cavers have recently had the privilege of benefiting from his efforts, which include a couple of other caves he has opened on his property in addition to the 'big' one. Sean Lewis and Dave Everton will have the pleasure of presenting on the area caves, including participation from Willie.

Camping will be available nearby at Spring Mill State Park and on private property nearby. Contact Dave Everton by e-mail at deverton@indiana.edu or evening phone 812-824-4380 for more information about the Symposium. Reminders and additional details will also be posted to various e-mail groups as time draws nearer.