

THE MSS LIAISON

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AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS:

CAIRN – CHOUTEAU – DAEDALUS – KCAG – LEG – LOG – MCKC - MMV

MSM – MVG – OHG – PEG – SEMO – SPG - Stygian

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Missouri Speleological Survey - President's Message March 2024

by Dan Lamping

The Spring 2024 MSS board meeting at the Missouri Geological Survey will be in Rolla on Sunday, April 14. The MSS board meeting is scheduled to begin at 10:00 AM with the MCKC meeting following. The weekend will be centered around field work at Paddy Creek Wilderness in Texas County to focus on mapping and inventorying caves on the Mark Twain National Forest. Cave trips will begin on Friday, April 12 and continue on Saturday, April 13. We will have exclusive use of the campground at Paddy Creek for the weekend. Paddy Creek is a beautiful chunk of the Ozarks with quite a few caves. CRF will be providing dinner on Friday and Saturday nights and breakfast on Saturday morning. Scott House is coordinating caving trips. Come prepared to hike in a beautiful area to access caves that few people ever visit. This is a great opportunity for people in your grotto to learn more about and gain experience with cave monitoring, bio-inventory and mapping. If you're planning to go, please follow this link bit.ly/paddycreekmss and fill out the Google form so that we know how many to expect both for meals and for coordinating trips. If the link doesn't work, copy and paste it into your web browser, or you can manually type in the URL, or you scan the QR code with your smart phone to fill out the Google Form. For those who need directions to the meeting site, visit the MSS website at mospeleo.org



Missouri Speleological Survey Files Report for March 1, 2024 - By Ken Grush

If you have **new information** on any Missouri caves, my email address is slak@grush.org. We need your help to improve the database and make it more complete. I can and do work with Facebook entries, but for information or photos to be incorporated I need to be "private messaged" with the cave name and county. **Kirsten Alvey sent:** -46 photos for Camp House, 32 photos for Little Hurricane Creek Cave and 21 photos for Black Dagger Cave in Oregon Co; and 28 photos and 1 video for the sinkhole entrance of Jam Up Cave in Shannon Co. **Marks Brooks sent:** -Survey report for Onyx Cave in Howell Co., he included 8 photos and 4 pages of survey notes. **Karamea Christofferson sent:** -28 photos of Reiter Cave in Jefferson Co., along with additions to Directions and Description in Main Table of database and a Monitoring form. This is a cave that has not been reported on since 2011! **Jim Cooley sent:** -15 Faunal records and 6 Monitoring forms for a Conservation Area in Camden Co. and a private cave in Benton Co. -New map of Buzzard Babies Cave (CL=47, VR=6) in Camden Co. His

submission included all his sketches and Walls data. -An entrance photo for Island Cave in Camden Co. **Josh Cooper sent:** -Supporting information for a landowner visit in Perry Co. that found 3 lost caves and 1 new one (see Young below). -An update after he got past a squeeze in a re-found cave, Poehner Cave, in Perry Co., now estimated at 700+ ft. -A new cave, Crawlway Cave in Perry Co. **Nathan Curran sent:** -Via Dan Lamping (see below), 4 Narratives from the MVG trip in Shannon Co. -4 reports on as many caves in St. Louis Co. These caves hadn't been reported on in almost 20 years. One cave had a fourth entrance blasted into by a quarry! Good to know. He included entrance photos and GPS locations. He also included a good lead on a culvert flushing clean water and a nearby spring that seemed to be related. **Bill Gee sent:** -A new cave called Sarah Cave in Miller County; photo and brief description included. And new ownership records for this cave and nearby Starks Cave. **Ken Grush sent:** -3 new caves and updates for a 4th cave in Texas Co.: Anderson Spring, Creekside Blowing and Double Slot Collapse Caves. The known cave was Donovan Cave. The Main Table was updated for all 4. Maps were submitted for the 3 new caves. Entrance photos were also sent. Maps were subsequently sent for each: Donovan (CL=377), Anderson Spring (CL=30), Double Slit Collapse (CL=86) and Creekside Blowing Caves (CL=28). About 8 Faunal records were added for these 4 caves. **Scott House sent:** -New map of Runaway Boat Cave (and Annex; CL=150 ft) in Carter Co. -4 new cave locations as imports direct to the database; 5 Use Monitoring forms for the 4 new caves plus one older cave record; and 10 Faunal Records for the 5 **JJ Huelsing/Dawn Martin sent:** -2 new cave records for Montgomery Co.: Kramer and Annabel Caves. Several photos were included with 2 entrance shots, and 11 Faunal Records were also added. -New information on caves in Texas Co. including an entrance photo and GPS (see Grush above). **Mike Kovacs sent:** -2 LIDAR models for caves in Greene Co. It's interesting to get some comparison against very early maps. He's collected a lot of detail on Junction Cave and plans to make a new map of the cave from LIDAR. -Entrance photos, GPS and 3D LIDAR model for Boy Scout Cave in Greene Co. **Dan Lamping sent:** -A final version of the Tumbling Creek Cave (CL=10782) map in Taney Co., which is also known as the Ozark Underground Laboratory. -A photo collection of over 200 images of a Karst Terrain in Shannon Co., including Bowen and Lower Schoolhouse Caves. -Entrance photos for Barton Cave in Shannon Co. One is now the cover photo in database. -13 Use Monitoring forms (i.e., 13 caves) for Shannon Co. Among the data were several great comments to add to directions and hydrology, and 7 new GPS readings. This was an MVG event and several others contributed data (see also Lawson, Light and Schmitt). He followed up by sending Trip Reports (TRD) that I usually don't report on, but there are 5 narratives to capture for the Missouri Cave Database (MCD). **Rob Lawson sent:** -25 photos from Bowen and Lower Schoolhouse Caves in Shannon Co. **Joe Light sent:** -A photo showing a sinkhole collapse within city of St Louis; probably not natural, maybe water main lead? **Alex Litsch sent:** -A survey Narrative for Gegg Cave in Ste. Genevieve Co. Two faunal records and almost 70 photos were sent too. **Kyle Mann sent:** -His first Missouri cave map for Baumgartner Cave (CL=100) in St. Louis Co. **Chad McCain sent:** -Updated cave lengths for Gegg (CL=5.04 miles, CD=134 ft) and Blackfathom River (CL=7.14 miles, CD=213 ft) Cave in Ste Genevieve; along with Berome Moore (CL=26.24 miles, CD=147 ft) and Crevice (CL=31.17 miles, CD=182 ft) in Perry Co. -4 trip Narratives: 2 for Gegg Cave in Ste. Genevieve; 1 for Carroll Cave in Camden Co. and 1 for Berome Cave in Perry Co. **Kohl Mitchell sent:** -6 new caves with complete Main Table entries for the database, including Use Monitoring forms and a handful of fauna records. All caves were surveyed with maps in progress. -2 Narratives, 2 Faunal Records and 2 Main Table updates for Donivan Sink Cave (CL=105 ft, CD=47 ft) and Nine Point Pit (CL=80 ft, CD=34 ft). This was a survey trip with map now in progress. -5 newly-mapped caves for Monroe Co.: Twin Trees

(CL=22), Three Doors (CL=43), Grungy Grotto (CL=70), Coon Trap (CL=90), Cornered Possum (CL=25) and Mushroom Hollow (CL=67) Caves. There are 12 reported caves in the county; one was mapped in 1961, Mitchell has mapped 83% (10/12); looks like he's going to have to learn to scuba to get the one missing cave. It is believed to be sitting at the bottom of Mark Twain Reservoir. Or maybe, he'll just keep finding more to map! He did also find all 10 of them. **Richard Orr sent:** -3 new caves for Osage Co.: his submission included entrance photos, dimensions and length of all 3 new ones. River Cave was also photographed from the river. **Tony Schmitt sent:** -4 photos of Yellow Layer Cake Cave in Shannon Co. A Narrative of 5 found caves and 3 "not-found" cave in Shannon Co. (see also Lamping and Curran). **Mick Sutton sent:** -37 reports for various caves in Shannon and Oregon Counties, all during the 1991 - 1992 time-frame. **Craig Williams sent:** -Use Monitoring forms and Cultural Assessment for Indian and Window Spring Caves in Texas Co. Five Faunal Records were also added. **Richard Young sent:** -A landowner visit report that "re-found" 3 caves: Lemon Peel, Drainage and Poehner Caves in Perry Co. Lemon Peel was not entered. -New information on Offset Pit (aka Dead Calf Pit) and Possum Pit, included entrance photos and GPS location. Then historic entrance photos of Hoff Cave, Spider Pit, Ted Ballmen and Truck Wreck Cave, all in Perry Co.; and a photo of Kohms Cave in Ste. Genevieve Co.

Chouteau Grotto. Jan 20 - Kohl Mitchell, Martin Carmichael, Emma Buckingham, Bryn Downes-Ward, Nevin Dubinski, Kayla Heady, Carter Kinkaid, Ian Pelletier and Maria Rodriguez braved temperatures of -8F to survey six newly reported caves at the Rocky Hollow Natural Area in Monroe County. The caves were Twin Trees Cave (22ft), Mushroom Hollow (67ft), Three Doors Cave (43ft), Grungy Grotto (70ft), Coon Trap Cave (91ft), and Cornered Possum Cave (25ft). **Jan 27** - Kohl Mitchell, Jack Rufener and Rita Worden dropped and surveyed two pits in Ralls County that hadn't been visited since at least the '70s. Nine Point Pit was 34ft deep and 80ft long, and Donivan Sink Cave was 46ft deep and 105ft long. **Feb 3** - On a trip to Three Creeks Conservation Area organized by Martin Carmichael, Kohl Mitchell, Jack Rufener, Tiffany Stoots and Sean Zimmerman surveyed the 30ft long Bird Bone Cave. **Feb 22** - Jarrett Whistance and Kayla Heady led 2 groups of bat researchers from MDC and USFWS into Devil's Icebox to census hibernating bats. The data gathered included: 82 bats - 69 Tricolored, 3 Big Brown, 7 Little Brown, 2 Gray, 1 Indiana. **Feb 24, 25** - Grotto members Jack Rufener, Amy Fawkes and Kohl Mitchell attended a Carroll Cave trip leader training exercise led by Bill Gee. -- Rita Worden

Kansas City Area Grotto (KCAG). Jan 6: Bill Gee led a data logger service trip into Carroll Cave, which included Mike & Candace Kovacs, Jack Rufener, and Matthew Hernandez. Eight people were originally signed up, but only these five made it to the cave. The trip lasted from 9:10 until 2:15 p.m. The very interesting details on this trip (and all of Bill's Carroll trips) can be found under the Carroll Cave tab on the Missouri Cave and Karst Conservancy's (MCKC's) website, located at www.mocavesandkarst.org. **Jan 7:** Bill Gee led a ridgewalking excursion on the Stark Caverns property, which included Mike & Candace Kovacs, Dustin Schmidt, and the property manager. They spent several hours walking some draws in the southwest part of the property, and found one new cave, Sara Cave, MIL-040, which although known to the landowner, was not previously known to the MSS. Dustin had also been identified as a likely cave location using public-domain-available LIDAR images. Dustin is rapidly emerging as our grotto LIDAR ridgewalking expert. It is not a large cave, but needs a survey. (Survey was completed on March 2nd, about 135 feet.) **Feb 12:** Jim Cooley led a trip,

including Nate Nesteruk (KCAG) and three Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) personnel, Kristen Goodrich, Lance Bushan, and Dilan Simmons, to do cave map quality control (QC) checks and biological inventories of the six known caves on an MDC conservation area. This completes Cooley's project to identify and map all of the caves on this conservation area. **Feb 24:** Bill Gee led a "trip leader training trip" (route finding) consisting of Mike & Candace Kovacs, Sarah Peterson, Jack Rufener, Alex Stump, Martin Carmichael and Nathan Taylor to show routes in Upper Thunder River to current and potential trip leaders. Except for Bill Gee, none of the participants had ever been through the breakdown pile to the terminal waterfall. The team started entering the shaft at 9:15 a.m. First, Bill made a very quick solo trip to replace the data logger below Thunder Falls, and set up a cave intrusion detector. The data logger arrived back from the factory with a fresh battery just three days prior to the trip. When Bill got back to the ladder, there were still two people to come down. They left the ladder at 9:45 a.m. The water level was quite low, which made the trip a bit easier. They arrived at the Round Room at 11:00 a.m. and took a short break, then continued on to the start of the breakdown pile. There were a few wrong turns, but they did not get seriously lost. It was a good refresher for both Martin and Bill. They arrived at the entrance to the breakdown pile at 12:00. Everyone had lunch. We started through the breakdown pile at 12:30, and arrived at the water fall at 1:50 p.m. They left for the return trip at 2:15, and were through the breakdown pile at 3:00. They were at the Round Room shortly after 4:00, and arrived at the ladder at 5:20. Alex and Jack made a quick trip over to see Thunder Falls while the rest of the crew went to the ladder and geared up to climb out. Everyone was out of the cave by 6:00 p.m. **Feb 25:** Bill led a surface-only trip leader training session at Carroll Cave with three instructors and 12 students, all of whom are either KCAG or Chouteau members. Bill recommended six people to be given trip leader status. **Feb 25:** While Bill did trip leader training, Rick Hines continued work on the Pic Walenta Memorial Pavilion at the Carroll Cave campground. Rick purchased a large metal tank and a 12-inch diameter pipe to build a fireplace on the south end of the shelter house, which he prepared beforehand for easier assembly on site. The tank and flue were assembled and centered between the two four-foot walls on the south end of the pavilion. They notched the metal ridge of the roof and anchored the flue to the peak of the roof, with five feet of flue above the roof. The fireplace is now ready for use. Rick was pleased to note that Nathen Taylor completed framing the last of the four four-foot walls. We now need to get the oak siding up on the four-foot walls and build a masonry wall around the firebox. Rick asks: Does anyone have concrete blocks or bricks to donate?-- Jim Cooley



Installing the fire box at Carroll Cave Pavilion

Springfield Plateau Grotto (SPG). Jon Beard conducted restoration 17 days in January and 16 days in February in Fantastic Caverns (Greene Co.). Currently, the total number of speleothems restored there is 1,464. Jon was assisted on 4 days by Sarah Peterson, one day by Candace Kovacs and one day by Loren Kuntz. This project is almost done. Jon was featured in an article in the *Springfield News-Leader* and on KY3 TV about the restoration project. The project will also be featured in the Annual Conservation Issue of the *NSS News* later this spring. Jon Beard conducted restoration 5 days in January and 4 days in February in Bridal Cave (Camden Co.). The total number of speleothems restored there is 37. Jon was assisted on one day by Eric Hertzler and one day by Alicia Beard. This project is done for the season.—Jon Beard. **Jan 3rd**--- Mike Kovacs attended a trip to Carroll Cave (Camden Co.) led by Martin Carmichael. The trip took them to Upper Thunder River where they saw the Chocolate bunny at the 2nd Azure pool and onto the breakdown barrier as well as a short stint into UL2 to the Conference room. **Jan 7th**--- Mike Kovacs attended a trip to Carroll Cave (Camden Co.) led by Bill Gee to check the data loggers. **Jan 20th**--- Mike Kovacs attended a mapping trip to Indian Creek Cave (Stone Co.) led by Matt Beeson. Mike was on instruments (Disto x2) on this trip on a secondary team. **Feb 3rd**---Mike Kovacs attended a SPG Family Trip/Survey Trip to Skylight Cave (Greene Co.), led by Matt Beeson. After the Family Trip concluded, part of the group stuck around to survey for the rest of the afternoon. Mike, primarily, did profile view for this section of survey stations C1 thru C14. Instruments: Disto x-2 & Topodroid for sketching. **Feb 4th**---Mike Kovacs and his wife, Candace, located Copperhead Pit Cave (Greene Co.) They did not enter this cave (the cave is closed) as this was just a personal scouting trip only. **Feb 24-25th**---Mike Kovacs, Sarah Peterson and others attended a trip to Carroll Cave: Beyond the Barrier Trip through Upper Thunder River Passage to the waterfall at Tony's End, led by Bill Gee and Martin Carmichael as an informal second. The trip, Feb. 24th, was intended to train trip leader candidates the route of Upper Thunder River. Feb. 25th was above ground trip leader training for Carroll Cave which is a prerequisite to be qualified as a trip leader. This was conducted by Bill Gee, Kristen Vogel & Marty Griffin. --Report by Max White, Content by Jonathan Beard and Mike Kovacs.

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Cave Files Committee: Scott House (Chairman), Ken Grush, Mick Sutton, Dan Lamping, and Jeffrey (Spike) Crews.

Missouri Speleological Survey - Spring Board Meeting - Agenda

April 14, 2024

*Division of Geology and Land Survey Annex Conference Room
111 Fairgrounds Road, Rolla, MO*

Morning Session

- Building opens at 9:00 AM

Board meeting begins at 10:00 AM

Administrative Business

- Roll call – Officers and Board
- Secretary’s Report and approval of last meeting’s minutes – Alberta Zumwalt
- Liaison – Gary Zumwalt
- Treasurer’s Report – Don Dunham
- *Missouri Speleology* – Don Dunham

Old Business

New Business

Projects and Announcements

Cave files / Database

Agency Reports

Mark Twain National Forest

Ozark National Scenic River

Missouri Department of Conservation

State Parks

Others

Affiliate Organizations Project Reports

Carroll Cave

Berome Moore Cave

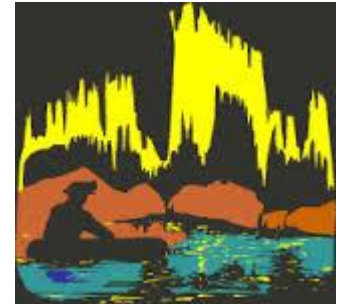
Others

Public Outreach

Facebook & Website

Next meeting

Adjournment



**NOTE: The MSS meeting
Starts at 10:00 AM on
Sunday.**

**Next Liaison deadline is:
May 1st.**

