

THE MSS LIAISON

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AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS:

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

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

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Missouri Speleological Survey President's Message July 2023

by Dan Lamping



The fall 2023 meeting of the Missouri Speleological Survey is planned for Sunday, October 15 at 10:00 AM, to be held at the Lloyd and Ethel Hoff Nature Preserve in Perryville, MO. This is the site of Berome Moore Cave. Our original plan was to have a meeting at Cuivre River State Park in Lincoln County the same weekend so that we could focus doing field work associated with privately owned caves in the Lincoln County karst. Without knowing that we were awaiting confirmation on the Cuivre River site for that date, MCKC made plans to hold a meeting at the Berome Moore site on the same weekend. With so much overlap between the two organizations and with it already being a really busy time of year, efforts should be made to avoid having two Missouri cave-based meetings at different sites, on the same dates or even dates close to one another. So, we are going to postpone the plan to have a meeting at Cuivre River and hope to do so in the spring. This way we can meet in Perryville, the same weekend that MCKC is meeting, at the same site. Likely, there will be survey trips into Berome Moore on Saturday, October 14. Though, keep in mind that many of the mapping objectives in Berome are further out from the entrance and/or are low and wet.

Feedback from MSS directors suggest that sometime in May would be preferable over April. Once I get confirmation from Kirsten Alvey-Mudd regarding the availability of the group sites at Cuivre River, I'll communicate the dates with the board and we'll settle on a time. The group sites have more than enough bunk space for MSS, a kitchen, and a communal dining area. Lincoln County is a region where we know there are more caves than what we have records of and of those which we do have records of, we know very little about. The MSS often gets emails from people interested in getting involved in organized caving and many come from Lincoln County. My hope is that MCKC will also get involved so that we can get both some field work done as well as some outreach in the area. If you're interested in helping lead some sort of public outreach aspect for the spring 2024 meeting, please let me know.

Missouri Speleological Survey Files Report for July 1, 2023. If you have **new information** on any Missouri caves, my email address is slagrush@gmail.com. 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. **Matt Beeson sent:** -Via Scott House, the current map of Lawson Cave in Laclede Co. (CL=~7200).

Jim Cooley sent: -59 Faunal Records, 12 Use Monitoring forms, and 2 very detailed cave Narratives. With these records came 2 new caves: Raccoon Requiem and Gladys' Grotto in Camden Co. Five new entrance photos were also sent. **Josh Cooper sent:** -4 Faunal records for a trip to the Moore Cave System in Perry Co. **Corey Ellis sent:** -A location for new Rope Swing Cave in Hickory Co. He also sent description and entrance photos. **Ken Grush sent:** -LIDAR based cave maps for Double Back (CL=60 ft), Single Back (CL=29), Pedestal (CL=25), Rat Mother Refuge (CL=45), Tight (CL=25) Caves in Henry Co.; Mossy Arch (CL=48 ft dripline), and Stonebridge Shelters (CL=60 ft dripline), in Jefferson Co.; Buzzard Roost Annex (CL=30), Buzzard Roost (CL=40), and Crow (CL=23) Caves in St. Clair Co.; Tree Farm Cave (CL=60) in Warren Co. **Derik Holtman sent:** -23 photos from Flowstone Pit in St Louis Co. **James Huelsing sent:** -A new cave for Warren County along with a dozen photos, location and brief description. It was thought to be Hollman Cave, but that is still being resolved. **Gary Johnson sent:** -A report on activities at Mule Shoe CA in Hickory Co. Reports, Narratives and Photos were captured for database and archives. **Mark Jones sent:** -A collection of reporting of CRF work on the ONSR and MTNF for June: 14 Narratives, 39 Faunal Records, and 14 Use Monitoring forms for 14 caves visited in Carter, Howell, Pulaski, Shannon and Texas Counties. He also reported on repairs for the Sodalis Preserve in Marion Co. -2 Faunal Records, 5 Cave Narratives and Use Monitoring Forms for work in Ralls and Marion Co. -Photo collection for the first half of the year including 53 caves and over 700 photos. **Gerry Keene sent:** -Narrative for a trip to the Moore Cave System in Perry Co. **Dan Lamping sent:** -7 Faunal Records for Cliff Cave in St Louis and Nameless Cave in "Nameless" County! -2 Use Monitoring forms for CRF work on MDC properties in Shannon Co. by Jim Ruedin; and five Fauna Records for these 2 plus Cliff Cave in St Lous. -A historic map of Nameless Cave in Crawford Co. from Paul Hauck, 1980s; this map record previously eluded entry into database or archives. -3 Narratives for trips to Nameless Cave and included 2 Faunal Records. **Rob Lawson sent:** -Data (photos, location, brief description) on Another Fort Bellefontaine Cave, in St Louis Co. He also had comparison photos of the other Fort Bellefontaine. Make no mistake there are 2! **Jerry Lewis (well-known biologist) sent:** -Via Dan Lamping a nice entrance photo for Woods Cave in St Louis Co. He also sent 2 Faunal Records. **Joe Light sent:** -An article on cave paleontology by Paul Parmalee dealing with historical records of the fisher and porcupine in Missouri. I believe both occasionally get into Missouri today but were more common in the past. The article addressed 5 specific caves but also mentioned 3 others for the paleontological remains. -Trip Narrative, 5 Faunal Records, 8 photos from a trip to Cliff Cave in St Louis Co. -Photos and new location for a brewery cave in St Louis City. -An 1875 newspaper clipping for bones in a cave in St Louis Co. -Sent some photos of the cave display in Johnny Morris' new store in St Louis; Morris used Onondaga Cave as a model for his aquarium portion of the display. Then, Light went to Onondaga returning with a dozen photos for comparison! Well not quite, but he did send 5 photos from Bass Pro Shop and 10 from Onondaga. -A lead for St Louis Co., the location is in close vicinity of a "little-known" cave and another lead. -A 2019 correspondence he had for Cliff Cave, referencing the geology from a Washington University professor, in St Louis Co. -Report on Cliff Cave in St Louis Co., including 4 Faunal Records and several photos. **Alex Litsch sent:** -33 photo and movie files, along with his Narrative of the survey of a new section of a long-known cave in Ste. Genevieve Co. -8 photos and a Cave Narrative for Grandpa's Hole cleanup in Ste. Genevieve Co. **Kohl Mitchell sent:** -A map of Bonne Femme Bridge Cave (CL=146, VR=24) for Boone Co. -A map of Animal Den Cave (CL=455) in Ralls Co. **Chad McCain sent:** -Survey report for Nameless Cave in Crawford Co. -3 photos of Myotina bats and 2 Faunal Records in Grandpas Hole in Ste Genevieve Co. -A survey Narrative for a trip to Valles Mines in St Francois Co. -A survey Narrative for Nameless Cave. **Richard**

Orr sent: -3 new locations for Dent Co.: Bridge Shelter, Buzzard Roost and Twin Springs Caves. He included brief description and entrance photos. -3 GPS locations, photos and dimension on 5 of the 6 Morehouse (#1-#2-#3) and Overhang Bluff (#2-#3) Caves in Laclede Co. **Kayla Sapkota sent:** -A map of Phlox Cave (CL=178+ ft) for Ozark Co. **Mick Sutton sent:** -51 Faunal Records for Cliff Cave in St Louis; Camp Branch and Corral Caves in Washington and 3 other caves. **Keith Thompson sent:** -An entrance photo and GPS location for Harley Patterson Cave in Shannon Co.—Ken Grush

Meramec Valley Grotto (MVG). **May 12th – 14th** - Jim Rueden led a group of MVG members to Shannon County to do some cave monitoring for CRF. **May 20th** - Several MVG members surveyed in the Big Lode Cave/Mine in Valles Mines, MO. **June 10th** - Nathan Curran, Dan Lamping, and



other MVG Members surveyed a cave in Illinois. **June 10th** - A team of MVG and SEMO members continued survey in a Ste. Genevieve cave with the objective of getting to the end of the passage where a massive chamber was found a few trips prior.

The "Atlantis Chamber" (as we have named it) once surveyed, measured about 200 feet long, 40 feet wide, and 30 feet tall. Judging by the vertical bedding in the chamber, it appeared to have formed in a fault line of some kind. The historic

map shows this chamber having been entirely underwater and it still gets submerged today with heavy rainfall. (Photo above) **June 11th** - MVG members did a recreational tour of Cathedral Caverns. (Photo on right)



June 17th - Several MVG members surveyed in the Big Lode Cave/Mine in Valles Mines, MO. (Photo above)

June 23rd - MVG and SEMO cavers pulled tires out of the 60-foot pit entrance of MCKC's Grandpa's Hole Cave. An estimated 100 tires were removed in





a few hours. (Photo bottom of previous page) **June 24th** - MVG members Chad McCain, Alex Litsch, Jen Sutherland, and Cathleen Yung volunteered for Over The Edge and used their vertical caving knowledge to help everyday folks rappel 250 feet off of the Lumiere Place building in STL. Over The Edge is a fundraiser for charities and this one was for the Asthma and Allergy Foundation. (Photo on left) – Alex Litsch

Chouteau Grotto. June 3rd - Kohl Mitchell and Erica Hroblak finished the survey of Animal Den Cave in Ralls County, ending up with a total length of 455 ft. Also on that day, Kohl, Erica, Martin Carmichael, Bryn Downes-Ward and Kirsten Alvey began surveying Ed's Pit, also in Ralls County. About 600 feet of survey was completed, with several going leads still needing to be pushed. **June 10th** - Kohl Mitchell and Mark Jones surveyed Ure's Cave and Clemens Swimming Hole Cave in Hannibal. The entrance of Ure's Cave had to be dug open, but it opened up to about 70 feet of surprisingly well decorated passage. **June 11th** - Kohl, Mark and JJ Huelsing surveyed Steel Trap Cave, Bedspring Cave and Last Lane Cave, all in Ralls County. These caves are located in a sinkhole plain near the much larger Wieczorek Cave.

June 7th - At Chouteau's monthly meeting, Dave Webster, a founding member, gave a presentation about his caving 'career'. I believe Dave is the oldest caver in Missouri at 84 (I think...probably more) and though he is a very quiet man, one can sometimes notice his name here and there, on maps, photo captions, in publications, dating back to forever. Dave often brings things to meetings that pique the interest of young cavers, that show there are still many leads out there that have been 'forgotten'. We celebrated his birthday too. --Rita Worden

Springfield Plateau Grotto (SPG). In May, Jon Beard spent 11 days in Fantastic Caverns to complete the initial restoration project there. A total of 460 speleothems were restored. Another restoration project in the cave will begin in September. **May 18th**--SPG had their monthly meeting at Talking Rocks Cavern (Stone Co.) After the meeting, the members visited and took pictures of the cave's many formations. **June 7th** --- A group of students from Arkansas' Project Caves visited Old Spanish Cave (Stone Co.) Nathan Burton and his sons (Jacob and Zach) lead the students, teachers, Biologist from MSU and SPG members (Jon Beard, Heather Pyle and Max White) through the cave. While in the cave, Jon demonstrated how to remove spray paint from the cave's walls. **June 8th** - The students and teachers from Project Caves visited Talking Rocks Caverns. While there, Matt Beeson demonstrated how to map caves. He also showed the students some finished Cave maps. After attending Matt's class, the group visited Mud Cave (Stone Co.) **June 25th** - Ashley Mitchell, Heather Pyle, Phillip Johnson and Matt Beeson started the SPG grotto project of resurveying Breakdown Cave (Christian Co.). They became familiar with some of the cave and surveyed Handshake Hall. It was sketcher training for Heather and Ashley. --Report by Max White. Content provided by Jon Beard and Matt Beeson.

Lake Ozarks Grotto (LOG). Following our April meeting at Stark Caverns, we gathered near the cave to place the plaques on the Memorial bench for H. Dwight Weaver, Bill Pfantz, Kerry Rowland and



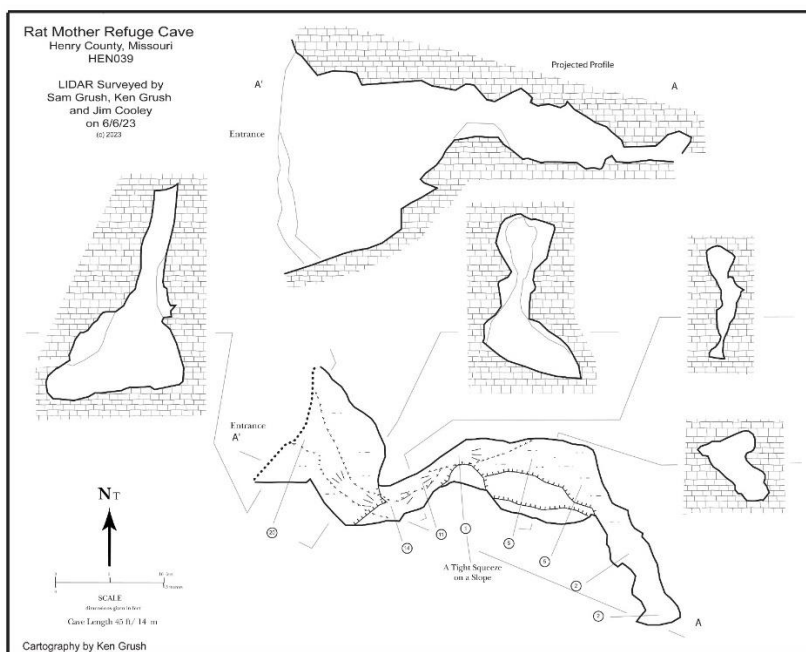
Bob Gitchell. Grotto members took a tour into the cave to see what had been done since our last trip into



the cave. Grotto members in picture: Karen & Rosie Weaver, Gary Zumwalt, Ken Long, Christen Easter, Buzz Caldwell.

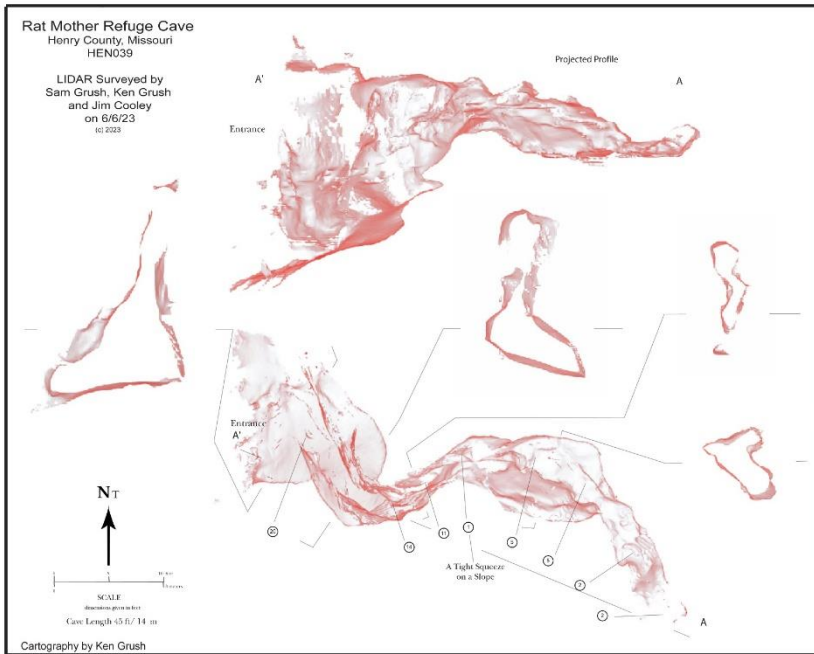
Goodwin – Klaus Leidenfrost reported that the area is drying out and more work will be possible at the cave. **Kiesewetter** – Ken Long has been trying to schedule a day to install a gate in the fence for the parking area for the cave. The hot weather has been a deterrent. —Alberta Zumwalt

Kansas City Area Grotto (KCAg). **May 20th** - Bill Gee, Corey Ellis and Gary Johnson led a large vertical training exercise with between 20 and 30 attendees at the Mule Shoe Conservation Area in Hickory County, under a special use permit from the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). Johnson has identified and mapped several caves for MDC on this conservation area, as part of his decade-long Hickory County project for Cave Research Foundation. As an additional objective, the team intended to attempt entry into an apparent cave opening in a bluff that would require vertical access. Corey Ellis was able to enter this feature and survey 40 feet of passage, which is now known as Rope Swing Cave (HKY-068). **June 5th-6th** - Ken Grush led a three-person expedition consisting of himself, his son Sam and Jim Cooley to locate and map caves that he had originally identified in 1977 as part of a summer cave location project prior to Truman Lake being filled. The plan was made possible by use of Cooley's 16-foot jon boat and 9.9 Yamaha outboard motor. **June 5th** - We put in at Talley Bend and located and conducted LIDAR surveys of Buzzard Roost Cave (SCL-017), Buzzard



Roost Annex (SCL-016), and Crow Cave (SCL-021). Attempts to locate Chalk Cave (SCL-019), Cedar Cave (SCL-018) and Rail Ford Cave (HEN-015) were unsuccessful. We spent the night in a hotel in Clinton. **June 6th** - We put in at Bucksaw Public Use Area and marina, from which we located Double Back Cave (HEN-025), Scat Tube Cave (HEN-026, and Tight Cave (HEN-020). These caves were scanned and surveyed using LIDAR. Bear Wallow Cave (HEN-023) and Roundabout Cave (HEN-016) could not be definitively located. Two new caves were also located and surveyed using LIDAR, Rat Mother Refuge Cave (HEN-039) (named after

an encounter with a maternal *Neotoma floridana* protecting her young) and Single Back Cave (HEN-040). One BIG take-away from this effort is that the shoreline of Truman Lake has changed radically since the lake filled in 1979. Steep dirt slopes that once made several of these caves accessible have



been dramatically eroded by the 40-foot range of water levels in Truman Lake, leaving many of them accessible only during very high water, or via rappel. **June 15th-19th** - Jim Cooley led a team to Cloud 9 Ranch, hosted by ranch member, Lee Krout, to continue the KCAG cave survey project of the 37 known caves on this 6,500-acre property. Assisting with this effort was Andrew Erickson of the Philadelphia (PA) Grotto, and ranch members Bryce Teriet and Peter Schnegelberger. **June 15th** - Cooley, Krout, Erickson and Teriet started off the day exploring a large

rockslide that occurred earlier in the year on the south side of Spring Creek. The investigation was conducted via drone (Krout) and rappel (Erickson, Teriet). Despite some promising openings, nothing large enough to admit a human was found on the exposed cliff face created by the rockslide. Cooley,



Investigating Rock Slide Bluff at Cloud 9 Ranch.

Erickson and Teriet did map quality control on Make Your Mark Cave (OZK-107), specifically to add an otter latrine noted in 2013 to the cave map. The latrine has disappeared (some shit is ephemeral), but Erickson and Teriet pushed the cave to the extremely tight and bitter end, only to discover another room beyond the extent of the current map. After that heroic effort, Krout led Cooley, Erickson and Teriet on a hot, mile-long hike up a boulder-strewn drainage to Man Cub Cave (OZK-125), which was originally discovered by Teriet late last year. A survey of this cave was begun.

June 16th - Lee Krout turned Cooley

and Erickson loose with his ATVs (Teriet had his own), so that Cooley, Erickson and Teriet could do map QC checks on Taylor Hollow Caves #1 and #2 (OZK-101 & OZK-102), Jacob D Cave (OZK-094) and Mike's Trail Cave (OZK-096). **June 17th** - Cooley, Erickson and Teriet continued map QC work with visits to Take Your Pic Cave (OZK-105), Spider's Nest Shelter (OZK-106), Otter Romp Den Cave (OZK-097), Big Rock Spring Cavelet (OZK-091), and Dolly Cavelet (OZK-092), where they admired the eponymous formations in this largely decorated little cavelet. Lastly, Erickson and Teriet monitored Frank Cave (OZK-049). **June 19th** - Erickson and Teriet finished up the effort by doing a map QC check

in Fogey Cave (OZK-012), and then continued the survey in Man Cub Cave (OZK-125), which involved digging. Fifty-eight feet of passage have been surveyed so far, and the cave goes! **June 24th** - Jim and Julie Cooley led a grotto two-night camp trip to survey the newly reported (to the MSS) Raccoon Requiem Cave (CAM-131) and Gladys Grotto (CAM-205). Participating in the trip were landowner, Jennifer Pratt-Hyatt and her son, Theo, Bill Gee, Dustin Schmidt and his son, Malcolm (who, incidentally, goes to the same French magnet school as Theo – *quelle chance!*), Becca Marlin, Seth Burks, and Mike and Candace Kovacs from SPG. Line plots for Raccoon Requiem had been done previously. On this day, half of the upper section of and all of the lower section of Raccoon Requiem were sketched, and part of Gladys Grotto. **June 25th** - The rest of Raccoon Requiem was completed, as well as all of Gladys Grotto. To keep folks focused on the work of survey, communal meals were prepared and served by Julie Cooley, to wide acclaim! -- Jim Cooley

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

MSS Affiliate Dues were due at the first of the year. If your organization has not paid, please send a check or money order for \$25.00 (made out to the Missouri Speleological Survey, Inc.) to the MSS Treasurer: Don Dunham, 6104 Valley Creek Ct., Imperial, MO 63052. Those shown not paid last issue were: MCKC, MSM, PEG, Roubidous (also owes \$10 for 2022).

CALENDAR:

Sept. 10th – Next MSS Liaison deadline

**October 15th – Fall MSS meeting, Lloyd and Ethel Hoff Nature Preserve in Perryville, MO.
(Berome Moore Cave), 10 a.m.**

FIRST CLASS

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