

# THE MSS LIAISON

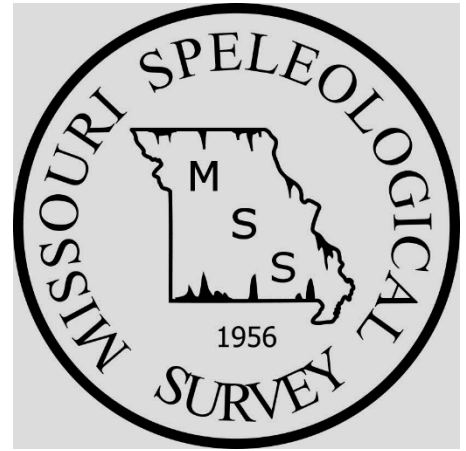
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CHOUTEAU-KCAG-LEG-LOG-MMV-MSM-MVG-OHG-PEG-RBX-  
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**MSS President's Message - September 2017.** All seems to be going well. Despite WNS closures, organized cavers in Missouri who volunteer for and collect/contribute data from within caves managed by public agencies are largely enjoying access. Some projects have required specific permits and others have been under more general cooperative agreements. In some cases we have more tasks to complete than we have experienced cavers willing to perform them. Though while we have access within the organized, project based caving community, recreational caving is still largely not happening due to blanket closures. Perhaps it's good that some caves are getting a break but no doubt an unintended consequence is that we're likely losing out on some potential new cavers and while cave closures can be effective at keeping cavers out, they do little to curb entry among the general public. Despite the inconvenience, opportunities are there through local grottos for those who want them.

This past spring, much of southern Missouri was devastated by severe flooding. One consequence of this was that the Powder Mill Research Center at Owls Bend on the Current River went underwater. This was a base of operations for CRF Ozarks and site to several MSS meetings. Anyone who's actively involved in the Missouri caving scene has likely stayed there. While it remains to be seen what will happen with the facility, fortunately due to the relentless work of Scott House, an agreement has been made for us to make use of a MTNF facility in Winona to work on both MTNF and ONSR tasks. Perhaps it'll be a good site for a future MSS meeting?

Across the Mississippi River in Illinois, several active MSS cavers have been helping the Illinois Speleological Survey (ISS) to develop a database. Namely, Ken Grush, along with the help of Scott House. The ISS gave both Tony Schmitt and I all of the data it currently has, to organize and put into a FileMaker database structure developed by Scott House. We then turned it over to Ken and collaborated with Scott on making small changes to it and later Chad McCain to help input a large body of data amassed by Edmund Tucker. Using a system similar to what has been successful in Missouri, the ISS hopes to get a better handle on what we know and don't know about the caves of Illinois. Many thanks to Ken Grush.

The ISS files aren't the only cave files we've been working on though. Recently, Ken Grush, Tony Schmitt and I moved the St. Louis Cave Files from Washington University to Tony Schmitt's office in Fenton. The St. Louis files are a satellite copy of the Master Cave Files in Rolla. Due to changes with how space is being utilized at Washington University, the area where the files were kept was no longer to be available after September and Tony kindly offered space in his company's new office area. Thank you, Tony.

The fall meeting of the MSS is coming up on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM at Berome Moore Cave. There will be surveying Saturday before the meeting in Berome so come prepared to help if you'd like to get underground. We're expecting a little smaller turn out for this one since our meeting is not being held in conjunction with the MCKC, as they had their meeting the weekend of the eclipse. That said, we'll probably all be on our own for food for the weekend rather than the standard fare of Don and crew cooking eggs, hot dogs and such. So, bring what you need to cook or plan to go into town to eat. I hope to see you all there. -Dan Lamping

**Missouri Speleological Survey Files Report for September 2017.** Are you bemoaning that you haven't gotten underground lately, well here's a smattering of some of the projects that are ongoing all across the state.

Contact the MSS or the local grotto to get involved. My regrets to those that I have missed in this listing of the past few months. **Kirsten Alvey sent:** (Although previously sent her) faunal records for the 2016-2017 winter; her 1200 records have now been entered in the database. **Jonathan Beard sent:** Map of Long Cave in McDonald County with the added comment, “We risked our lives as it was dark outside, and as many landowners will ask you, “how did you find your way back to the car?” **Michael Bradford sent:** A nice map, photos and report on a biologically significant mine in Franklin County. This information provides crucial input in assessing how best to protect this habitat. **Spike Crews sent:** Nine faunal records and a use monitoring form for a visit to McCormick Cave in Phelps County. Trip was planned to show interns the work that CRF cooperators do for the USFS. **Dillon Freiburger sent:** Finished map, survey notes and Illustrator files for Window Rock Cave in Christian County. Nice work from one of our newest cartographers. Finished map, survey notes and Illustrator files for Moss Cave in Christian County. **Paul Hauck sent:** Two maps of the Crevice Cave remapping project in Perry County, an aerial photo-montage with the cave overlay and a lineplot of the system with labeled passages. Lots of volunteer hours by many cavers on this massive project, the longest cave in Missouri! A report and map of the most recent trip was sent and captured in the database. Sent in location for a new cave in Perry County, Double Barrel Pit. More to information to come, no doubt. **Scott House sent:** Maps drafted from Stan Sides’ old (late 1990s) survey notes for Hanners Cave in Ste. Genevieve and Whitewater Cave in Bollinger. Whitewater Cave is the seventh of seven records for Bollinger County. Preliminary map of Heuszel and Zoo Cave, drawn together. The map nicely displays the context of a much more linear system juxtaposed with the maze-like Zoo Cave. Although Zoo was previously mapped as early as 1971, a Heuszel map has not previously been in the database. Preliminary maps of Alphen Hollow Spring Cave, Bealert Blowing Spring Cave and McCubbin Hollow Cave in Shannon County and SHN383/SHN458, Huffman Cave and Mud Spring Cave in Douglas County. Although many of these map additions remain unfinished, they represent a significant amount of work under harsh survey conditions and complex cartographic challenges. The work continues onward, but good idea to capture the volume of work already done. Additions to the Tunnel Cave complex map “montage” down in Carter County. Eight caves are featured on the map; and now four are portrayed in a vertical profile through the system. A Fisher Cave map that spans over 10 years of survey work on this 2+ mile cave. Although work has been ongoing all these many years, the map is now preserved in the digital map archive. Comparing maps shows many features that weren’t previously displayed on the older versions. The MSS Cave Map Archive has maps on only 5 caves that were mapped before the oldest 1931 version of Fisher Cave. **Gary Johnson sent:** Two reports on survey work in Vanderman Cave in Hickory County for the MDC initiative to inventory, monitor and survey caves on MDC property. **Dan Lamping sent:** Two photo reports on Tower Pit and Three PM Pit in St Louis County that Joe Light submitted to him. Trip report, 4 faunal records, monitoring form and a report for Plundered Canyon Cave in Shannon County. **Alex Litsch sent:** Report on a trip to the Valles Mines Project, via the Little Bill entrance. Survey is progressing in this mazy cave that was mined extensively for lead and other minerals. Faunal record of Spotted Salamanders at the Discovery Shaft of the Vales Mines Project; as many as 30 were “spotted” at one time. **Chad McCain sent:** Detailed reports on two caves that MDC’s Jason Crites commented on as they continue to work in Perry County cleaning out sinkholes for the landowners. The new caves are Indian Camp Cave and Closed Canyon Pit. Detailed information on a new cave that developed in a Perryville city park, Northdale Park Cave, bringing the Perry County cave count over 700. Working with Alex Litsch, 14 new cave locations with reports, all in Ste. Genevieve, including one with a non-cave adapted squirrel. Updated location and photos on Bums Cave, in Warren County, off by about 1000 ft. And a new cave location with photos, Schomberg Cave, in Warren. Needs landowner approval for further details. A new cave entry for Ste. Genevieve which became the bicentennial cave (200<sup>th</sup>) for the county. This represents a great effort to add so many new caves in a county that is overwhelmingly private property. A collection of Berome Moore data for the digital archives: all the survey notes, photos, Walls data, Illustrator files, Lidar, Google Earth files. You name it, he sent it; using all the tools in the tool box. Not to mention regular reporting on all the activities that all the many cave volunteers have contributed during this remapping project. Kudos to all. **Ben Miller sent:** A detailed map of Spanish Cave, a multi-level cave in Barry County. The vertical profile helps unravel this vertical complexity. **Shawn Williams sent:** A trip report for a recent trip to Allie Spring Cave in Pulaski County. Jeremy Weih and Williams captured 150 ft of tough survey, mopping up 2 leads and pushing a third.—Ken Grush

Kansas City Area Grotto (KCAG). Jul. 5<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> – Jim Cooley, Joe Williams, Adam Marty and George Bilbrey worked with a revolving cast of Americorps volunteers to build the Mother of All Cupola Mine Enclosures—at least by Missouri standards. Eight tons of stell went to close the Discovery Shaft mined pit-type cave entrance,

with a cupola measuring 35 feet long, 12 feet wide, and five feet high. This project was done on private



property for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, division of Land Reclamation. **Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Heidi Fletcher led a Scout trip to Cleveland Cave, a well-choreographed educational activity that also involved rappelling off the nearby Younger Outlook Bluff. Accompanying Heidi were Jim Cooley and Tyler Smith. **Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>** - KCAG president Jack Peters led a novice trip including Pic Walenta, Austen Peters, Alex Parnell, Alex Buzicky, Jaclyn Danger, and Zach Schmidt. They camped Friday night at the lovely Lake of the Ozarks State Park, on a gorgeous night with a beautiful full moon. The next morning, the team picked up Kristen Godfrey in Camdenon for her first cave trip, and everyone went to Perkins Cave. One group went as far as the waterfall, the other explored multi-levels of cave. The crew had loads of fun and emerged covered with mud, but scrubbed up in the nearby creek. Then the group drove to Onondaga Cave State Park (in a torrential rain) to attend the "Music in the Cave" benefit concert for the park. They listened to an acoustic beauty of cool music inside the big room, featuring Violet Vonder Haar and the Undercurrents. This is unique group of folk artists with a touch of rock, jazz, country and jazz genres. They camped at Onondaga that night. Pic Walenta, KCAG's treasurer and fund raiser, was so impressed that she is planning to have Violet and her band do a benefit concert/fundraiser for KCAG, to be held at Rick Hines's home in Stilwell, Kansas, date to be announced. **Aug. 12<sup>th</sup>** - Jim Cooley and Joe Williams visited a mine entrance on private land near St. Clair, MO, at the behest of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to evaluate the entrance for a chute gate. The site is a major gray bat summer maternity colony. **Aug. 19<sup>th</sup>** - Gary Johnson (KCAG's Hickory County Project Coordinator), Laura Jaynes and Bill Gee returned to Vanderman Cave in the Murphy Memorial Wildlife Area and State Forest, Hickory County. Jaynes and Gee checked out a lead that Jaynes discovered July 8<sup>th</sup>, and took photos of the (historic?) graffiti in the main room, while Johnson hiked several miles and ridgewalked for caves. Mostly Johnson found hundreds of seed ticks. Jaynes and Gee surveyed over 170 feet in the low crawl that Jaynes discovered -- and it was still going! They ended the day having seen another 100+ feet of passage. So the total length of the cave is likely now approaching 900 to 1000 feet. The crawl was floored with fist-sized cobbles, which made the surveying something less than comfortable. The crawl continued from the "room" that Laura discovered on the previous trip. This passage occasionally encounters joints in the bedrock where the ceiling height soars to possibly as much as 30 feet. Eventually, the passage intersected a stream passage. Then Jaynes and Gee saw a low miserable crawl at water level and an upper level of maybe crawling height. So we'll need to return here again soon. Might take two or more trips yet! The graffiti, including what might be ("FISHERM") the name of the gentleman who once owned this property, John Fisher Murphy. Signatures carefully scratched on a wall had dates reaching back to 1898. One doesn't see graffiti carefully etched onto cave walls like this anymore (spray paint is preferred nowadays), so Johnson suspects these dates are genuine. **Also** - Peters led ten scouts and five adults from Scout Troop 510 (Belton, MO) to Cleveland Cave, including rappelling on the Younger Lookout bluffs.-- Jim Cooley.

**Missouri School of Mines (MSM).** Over the summer most of our members left Rolla to peruse internships or return home. The few of us that did stay in Rolla continued the regular weekly meetings and bonded over barbeques and float trips. Jeremy Weih spent all but two weekends helping survey in Valley Mines and Berome-Moore. **July 19<sup>th</sup>** - Spike, Jessica Self, Lukus Shoffner, Sarah Klaas, Badger Johnson, Kristen Schaefer visited Skaggs Cave. **July 28<sup>th</sup>** - Spike, Jessica Self, Lukus Shoffner, Sarah Klaas, Joey Castrilla, took Delaney DeJames and three Forest Service interns to McCormick Cave to show them how we do biological inventory. **Aug. 21<sup>st</sup>** - Jeremy Weih, Jessica Self, Lukus Shoffner, Olyvia Self, and Owyn Self joined MMV at Berome-Moore to view the eclipse. **Aug. 25<sup>th</sup>** - The University holds an event called MinerRama. This is an event where incoming students can see what organizations they can get involved in around campus. We brought the speleobox and our trifold to intrigue students. We filled four pages with names of people who are interested. **Aug. 30<sup>th</sup>** - Our new members meeting had a turnout of about 45! We briefed the new members of who we are, what we do, and safety protocol for caving. (And free pizza!) –Jessica Self

**Lake Ozarks Grotto (LOG).** **At the July meeting:** Dwight Weaver reported that since the death of the owner of the commercial cave, Fantasy World Caverns, new owners are from Kansas City and will re-open the cave under its original name, Stark Caverns. Bob Gitchell and Gary Zumwalt brought carbide lights from their collections to show. LOG members are busy working on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of our grotto. **July 29<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>** – Klaus Leidenfrost and Ken Long worked at Goodwin Sink, pumping water out of the cave entrance. Rainfall in the area was 4.9 inches in two days. **Reported at Aug. meeting:** Ken Long checked out 2 sinkholes



*Picture by Klaus Leidenfrost*

that are in line with the way Goodwin lies. He also looked at Stone Lake which is a big sinkhole full of water. **Aug. 6<sup>th</sup>** – Ken Long took pictures at Goodwin. The upper sediment trap was full of water and water was running over the spillway. By the next day, the water had drained out of the trap. **Aug. 12<sup>th</sup>** - Klaus Leidenfrost, Ken Long, Chuck Lahmeyer and Jean Knoll worked at Goodwin. A pallet was stuck in the sump, so Jean used her kayak to free the pallet and remove it from the cave. They also did brush cutting & burning and weed eating. There is now an on-site location for primitive tent camping during volunteer workdays. Klaus spread winter wheat seed to try to help with erosion of the area.—Alberta Zumwalt

**Roubidoux Grotto (RBX).** The Roubidoux Grotto started its 3rd year in August. Goals for the upcoming year are to provide more informative meetings, to increase membership, and to continue working to monitor more caves. Officers this year are: Chairman Karen Hood, Vice-Chairman Kelsie Johnson, Secretary/ Treasurer Laura Huffman, Safety Officer Michael Aalsburg, and MSS liaison Dan Slais. **May 31<sup>st</sup>** - Laura Huffman and Andy Free went in Railroad Cave. **June** – Andy Free toured Cameron Cave. **June 30<sup>th</sup>** - Bruce Avchambault went to Mill Creek Cave. **Aug. 12<sup>th</sup>** – Laura Huffman, Karen Hood, and Keenan Dillard visited Gourd Creek Cave in Phelps County. **Aug. 26<sup>th</sup>** – Karen Hood and Laura Huffman led the Meramec Hills Master Naturalist Class through Spencer Cave in Phelps County.- Dan Slais.

**Springfield Plateau Grotto (SPG).** **Jun. 2<sup>nd</sup>**—Jon Beard used Magic-Sculpt to fill in a missing gap in a drapery in Paul's Gallery in Fitzpatrick Cave (Christian Co). The drapery repair began with four pieces being rejoined to their original location, but there was a small gap. Repeated attempts to find the small missing piece failed, so the gap was filled with an epoxy with the consistency of modeling clay. Six cave salamanders and two bristly cave crayfish were seen, but no bats. **Jun. 4<sup>th</sup>**—Treavor Bussard and Jon Beard continued the survey of Little Bear Cave (Ozark Co), part of the 3,000-foot cave system involving two segments of a truncated maze cave. One more survey trip is needed to complete the in-cave survey. While there, they searched the cave for Ozark big-eared bats, however, not finding a bat of any species. **Also**—Melvin conducted two-each one-hour Bat and Cave Presentations for the Springfield Salvation Army Day Camp involving 58-participants. **Jun. 10<sup>th</sup>**—Grant Spoering, Cynthia and Clayton Russell and Sara Baldwin counted fauna in Three Forks Cave (Adair Co. OK), a lengthy,

biodiverse cave owned by the Russell family. Salamanders included 25 cave salamanders, two slimy salamanders and one Oklahoma salamander. **Also** —Melvin had a Bat & Cave Display at the James River Basin Partnership & Bass Pro Shops Outdoor Days at Finley River Park in Ozark with support from the Missouri Dept. of Conservation's MO Master Naturalist Jr. Leaders and the Conservation Venturing Crew #2006. The event drew in excess of 10,000 participants. **Jun. 13<sup>th</sup>**—Jon Beard returned to Fitzpatrick Cave (Christian Co) to repair and make whole again, another small stalagmite using Magic-Smooth, a thick Vaseline-like two-part epoxy. While there, Jon also cleaned several white stalactites of human hand stains using a toothbrush and a squirt bottle of water. **Also** —Melvin conducted a Bat Presentation at the Lockwood Library for eleven participants. **Jun. 15<sup>th</sup>**—Melvin along with two MDC - MO Master Naturalist Jr. Leaders conducted a Bat & Cave Presentation at the Smallin Civil War Cave for some forty-seven participants and staff of the Logan - Rogersville Fire Department's Safety Day Camp. **Jun. 16<sup>th</sup>**—Cynthia and Clayton Russell visited Sassafras Cave (Adair Co. OK) with the help of a 30-foot handline and found one cave salamander. **Jun. 17<sup>th</sup>**—On their way to the NSS Convention (Rio Rancho, NM), Jon and Alicia Beard stopped off at Alabaster Caverns State Park (OK) to take the guided tour of the cave for which the park is named. This is the longest gypsum show cave in the world (nearly a mile long). **Jun. 19<sup>th</sup>**—Melvin conducted a Bat & Cave Presentation at Marshfield High School for 31 participants and 2 teachers. **Jun. 21<sup>st</sup>**—On a break from the NSS Convention sessions, one of the scenic places Jon and Alicia Beard visited was Bandelier National Monument. Here, prehistoric people built above-ground stone villages as well as carving small “cavates” (pronounced “cave eights”) into cliff faces of volcanic ash deposits. Some of the small rooms in the cliff face were interconnected. Lastly, in the park, they visited Alcove House Shelter Cave, accessed by way of a somewhat tiring, steep 140-foot climb up the bluff. Inside the large shelter cave was a kiva structure and three cavates. **Jun. 23<sup>rd</sup>**—Jon Beard chaired the Cave Conservancies Roundtable session on the last day of the NSS Convention attended by various NSS cave conservancies throughout the country. This is a very useful discussion where questions and answers assist conservancies in managing their conservation efforts. **Jun. 24<sup>th</sup>**—Max White assisted Dillon Freiburger in the surveys of Window Rock Cave and nearby Moss Shelter (Christian Co) as part of CRF surveys in Mark Twain National Forest. **Jun 25<sup>th</sup>**—Charley and Abby Young, Bill Palmer, Jim Huckins and Roy Gold shared a photo trip through the Discovery Tour section of Blanchard Springs Caverns in Arkansas. **Jun 28<sup>th</sup>**—Jon Beard began the slow, tedious task of measuring, labeling, recording and photographing the break surfaces in more than 700 speleothem pieces in the Paul’s Gallery section of Fitzpatrick Cave (Christian Co). **Also** —Cynthia and Clayton Russell made a return trip to Three Forks Cave (OK) and counted 15 cave salamanders, 12 slimy salamanders and four Oklahoma salamanders. **Jul. 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup>**—Caleb Schlager (Saturday only), Diana Parra and Dane Driskill (Sunday only), Matt Bumgardner and Jon Beard (both days) were among multiple teams of surveyors in Berome Moore Cave (Perry Co) to add over three thousand feet to an expanding survey total for this giant cave system. Several photos were shared on Facebook. **Also**—Dillon Freiburger and Brandon Van Dalsem were among several CRF cavers surveying in Janus Pit (AR). **Jul. 2<sup>nd</sup>**—Cynthia and Clayton Russell took the tour at Bluff Dwellers Cave (McDonald Co). **Jul. 7<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>**—Jon Beard assisted manager Justin Smith on lock problems at Giboney Cave (Greene Co). The key would not completely turn within the lock despite numerous attempts and spray solvent. The lock was eventually cut, removed and replaced with a more cooperative lock. **Jul. 7<sup>th</sup>**—Nicole Ridlen (manager at Bluff Dwellers Cave), Ben Miller and Jon Beard continued Ben’s survey of No Lions Cave (McDonald Co), another fairly lengthy cave in the Pierson Formation. The survey was halted for the day in a genesisic dome with a low watercrawl continuing. **Jul. 8<sup>th</sup>**—Dillon Freiburger, Jake Colton and Jon Beard assisted Ben Miller in the continuing survey of lengthy **Decker Cave** (McDonald Co), a Pierson Formation cave about 1,500 feet in length with a very impressive breakout room. Due to recent rain, nice waterfalls were present as well as nuisance drips. This day’s session ended in a low, sharp chert, cobble strewn bellycrawl with significant air movement to go along with significant discomfort. Jake did it without elbow pads and managed to exit the cave with both arms intact (mostly). **Jul. 9<sup>th</sup>**—Ben Miller and Jon Beard hiked a jungle-infested bluff along Big Sugar Creek and newly documented Hissing Vulture Cave (McDonald Co), seeing about 75 feet of cave while avoiding a close encounter of the bad kind with a down-covered black vulture chick. **Also**—Brandon Van Dalsem and Treavor Bussard checked the conditions in Shoal Creek Cave (Newton Co). It had ponded water 3 to 12 inches deep along the crawls, but they saw the entire main passage anyway. Also did some digging in side passage leads, but they weren’t very lengthy. Plans are being made to have at least one summer survey trip to complete the ~4,000-foot mapping project. **Jul. 15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>**—Two teams of SPG members surveyed the entire length of Long Cave (McDonald Co) on MDC property. The cave was mapped in 1994 but is being resurveyed for added detail and a profile. Cheryl Paulson assisted Dillon Freiburger in the survey from the exurgence entrance while Max White helped Jon Beard in the

survey from the insurgence entrance. The surveys met in the middle of the 1,741-foot cave. The survey began at 10am and ended at 1:14am the next morning. **Jul. 18th**—Roy Gold and Jon Beard did some minor survey work and measuring in Giboney Cave (Greene Co) to augment the survey directed by the late Bob Taylor. Most of the sketching was in the entrance area with additional ceiling height measurements taken. The survey was conducted between 2004 and 2011. **Jul. 20<sup>th</sup>**—Jon Beard continued the photographing and cataloguing of broken speleothems in the Paul's Gallery section of Fitzpatrick Cave (Christian Co). **Also**—Cynthia and Clayton Russell counted biology in one of their caves, Three Forks Cave(OK), counting five slimy salamanders, two larval salamanders and two Oklahoma salamanders. **Jul. 22<sup>nd</sup>**—Dillon Freiburger was assisted by Jon Beard in the survey of the first 200 feet of Rattlesnake Cave (Christian Co), a national forest cave gated by Jim Cooley et al in 2013. The cave was mapped in 1972, but a resurvey will add much more detail and some passage off of the old map. While Dillon sketched, Jon sketched the profile and counted fauna, including 23 cave salamander, 2 grotto salamanders, one dark-sided salamander and a few other critters. **Jul. 27<sup>th</sup>**—Cynthia and Clayton Russell counted biology in Sand Cave (OK), finding five slimy salamanders, two pips and one Ozark big-eared bat. **Jul. 29<sup>th</sup>**—SPG members Brandon Van Dalsem, Dillon Freiburger, Matt Bumgardner and Jon Beard participated in a multi-task project trip to Fitton Cave(AR) as part of CRF work at the Buffalo National River. Jon and Arkansas caver Jeff Bridgman measured and created potential cave gate designs and later joined Matt for entrance passage photography. Dillon surveyed in the Camp Three passage with Wesley Wilson and friend Steven while Brandon and others surveyed the Kansas Turnpike. Several others participated from Arkansas and Oklahoma.-- Report by Max White. Material provided by Jonathan Beard, Brandon Van Dalsem, Cynthia & Clayton Russell and Dillon Freiburger. **Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>** —Dillon Freiburger began the survey of McDowell Cave (Barry Co), a relatively short cave with a large entrance. **Aug. 5<sup>th</sup>** - Brandon Van Dalsem, Dillon Freiburger, Abby Young, Jeff Young, Charley Young, Cheryl Paulson and Max White participated in a CRF weekend on the Buffalo River in Arkansas doing survey and bio. **Aug. 10<sup>th</sup>**—Treavor Bussard and Jon Beard continued the survey of the south section of Boswell Tractor Pit Cave (Polk Co), reaching the 772-foot mark in the survey. The cave is entered through a 25-foot pit and has several winding, sub-parallel passages. Already known for its very sticky clay floors, it didn't disappoint. The cave is developed in the lower Burlington Limestone. **Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>**—Jon Beard guided MSU grad student Sam Miller into Breakdown and adjacent Fitzpatrick Caves (Christian Co) to enable Sam to take multiple swabs of walls and substrate as part of his study of microbes and fungi. Afterwards, Jon conducted more photo-cataloguing of broken speleothems in Fitzpatrick and returned on Aug. 29<sup>th</sup> to photograph 131 pieces and bases. There are more than 700 broken pieces. **Aug. 19-21**—Brandon Van Dalsem and Jon Beard participated in the "Total Eclipse" weekend at Berome Moore Cave (Perry Co). On both Saturday and Sunday, Brandon assisted with surveys in Upper Stream Annex and the Maze while Jon led efforts to rejoin 17 stalagmite and column pieces to their rightful place. All but one were in the Formation Room of Gasoline Alley. A total of 47 speleothems have been repaired in the cave since dedication day six years ago. **Aug. 21<sup>st</sup>**—Treavor Bussard visited Junction Cave (Greene Co) where he was surprised to find seven gray bats.--Report by Max White. Material provided by Jonathan Beard, Trevor Bussard, Brandon Van Dalsem and Dillon Freiburger.

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**Historian**-Dwight Weaver – 38 Village Marina Rd., Eldon, MO 65026. 573-365-1171 dwightweaver@charter.net

**Cave Files** - Scott House, 1606 Luce St., Cape Girardeau, MO 63701. 573-651-3782 scott\_house@hotmail.com

**MSS web site** –www.mospeleo.org **Carroll Cave Conservancy website** <http://www.carrollcave.org>

**Ozark Caving web site**– [www.ozarkcaving.com](http://www.ozarkcaving.com) **MCKC website** – <http://www.mocavesandkarst.org>

**Caves of Missouri Discussion Group** – <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cavesofmo>

**Petroglyphs, inscriptions, & pictographs:** rockartmo.com

**The new MoCaves:** <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/mocaves/info>

A thank you from Helen Vineyard on the special memorial issue of MSS Liaison for Jerry D. Vineyard:

*Dear Folks,*

*How do we say “thanks” for Vol. 57 of MSS Liaison dedicated to the love of my life!? I know he was everything described in there. He pulled many pranks on me over the years! He cared for his friends and co-workers and his profession was chosen well, I believe. It suited him. Respectfully, Helen Vineyard.*

Thanks to everyone that took the time to submit articles for the memorial issue.

**CALENDAR:**

**Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> – Fall MSS Meeting**, 10 am, Berome Moore Cave, Perryville. There will be work-related activities for the weekend. Affiliate Annual reports and fees were due at the January meeting. If you have not turned them in, send reports to Dan Lamping and fees (\$25.00) to Don Dunham.

**Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>** – Fall MVOR, Green’s Canoe Rental, 724 W. Hwy 8, Steelville, MO Theme: Dirtbag MVOR.

**Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> – Next MSS Liaison deadline.**

# Missouri Speleological Survey

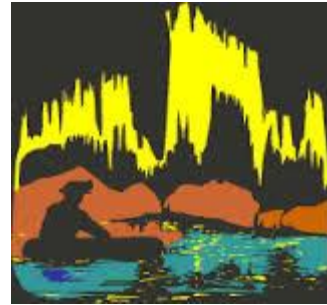
## Fall Board Meeting Agenda

September 17, 2017

*Lloyd and Ethel Hoff's Underground Nature Preserve - Perryville, Missouri*

*Hosted by Middle Mississippi Valley Grotto and Missouri Caves and Karst Conservancy*

### 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
- Affiliate Organizations – Vacant

### Old Business

Affiliate Organizations Officer

### New Business

Appointment and approval of Secretary

### Projects and Announcements

- Cave files / Database
- Agency Reports
  - *Mark Twain National Forest*
  - *Ozark National Scenic Riverways*
  - *Missouri Department of Conservation*
  - *State Parks*
  - Others
- Affiliate Organizations Project Reports
  - Carroll Cave
  - Others
- Public Outreach
  - Facebook & Website

### Next meeting & Adjournment