

THE MSS LIAISON

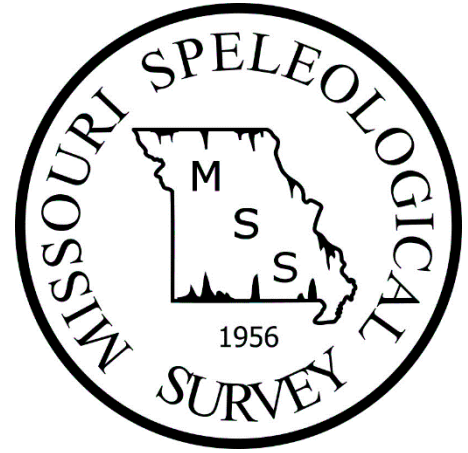
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AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS:

CHOUTEAU-KCAG-LEG-LOG-MMV-MSM-MVG-OHG-PEG-RBX-
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CURRENT RIVER CAVE-IN

*Fall meetings of the Missouri Speleological Survey and
Missouri Caves and Karst Conservancy*

Current River State Park

September 7-9, 2018



Join us at this historic site for a weekend of cave education, restoration, monitoring, and survey. The Alton Club was built in the late 1930's and served as a corporate retreat for 50 years before being purchased by the state of Missouri. This cluster of buildings and associated recreational structures is now listed on the National Register of Historic Sites.

Cave activities include: restoration and monitoring of caves at Echo Bluff State Park, public education at Echo Bluff and Current River State Parks, cave monitoring along the Current River, cave map and poster display, cave survey, cave files and cartography help desks, bat flight watch, and more. This is a public event and our main goal is public interpretation of how cavers promote cave conservation.

Most of these activities will be scheduled for Saturday. Organization meetings are scheduled for Sunday morning. Cave map display and organizational booths will be in the historic gymnasium. A limited number of NPS canoes will be available for canoe monitoring. You can also rent canoes or bring your own watercraft. Non-rental canoes can use the park for put-ins and take-outs.

Volunteers are definitely needed for interfacing with the public as cavers monitor and restore caves. We intend also to have a “cave gear through the years” display, so bring some of your antiquated and modern gear for display in the gym.

Camping for Friday and Saturday nights is available, at no charge, on the banks of the Current River in Current River State Park in a grassy bench area. This is a rare opportunity to camp at this site. There is one communal fire ring. Ice is available at Echo Bluff SP or at area outfitters. Communal meals for a suggested donation will be served in the historic buildings. Saturday and Sunday breakfasts and evening feed on Saturday are planned. Bring your own lunches, snacks, and drinks.

This weekend is being sponsored by Missouri State Parks in cooperation with Cave Research Foundation, Missouri Speleological Survey, Missouri Caves and Karst Conservancy, Missouri Bat Census, Ozark National Scenic Riverways and Mark Twain National Forest.

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The Many Facets of Frank Dahlgren By Jo Schaper. (Compiled from information provided by his son Craig, Elaine Hackerman, John Cantwell, Bill Torode, and Earl Neller.)



*From left: Frank Dahlgren, Oz Hawksley & Jerry Vineyard
Founders of the MSS*

Frank Dahlgren in the least known of the founders of the MSS. Born on December 28, 1928, Frank passed on July 18, 1993 of a heart attack, at age 64, leaving his wife Wilma and two sons Scott and Craig. Many people, myself included, only met the man at the 1990 Year of the Caves celebration at the DNR-Division of Geology and Land Survey that January.

Frank was from South St. Louis, and later moved to St. Louis County. He first caved with the Western Missouri Grotto, joining the NSS as #2892 in June of 1954. He was a founding member of Middle Mississippi Valley Grotto, and according to Elaine Hackerman, served as MMV president in 1958. Along with Oz Hawksley and Jerry Vineyard, Frank was awarded an NSS Citation of Merit in 1961 for

his work helping to establish the MSS. In 1967, all NSS members with a Citation or Certificate of Merit or an Honorary Member award were inducted as the first Fellows of the Society for 1966.

Professionally, Frank is usually listed as a machinist; according to Bill Torode, his specialty was making custom surgical instruments.

He began caving with the Western Missouri Speleologists in the mid-1950s, and in central Missouri, including Pulaski County and at Carroll Cave. In the early years of St. Louis caving,

John Cantwell, who was a student at St. Louis University, introduced Frank to the caves of the Meramec Valley in Franklin and Crawford counties— caves which were known to SLU cavers, but not as much to the MSS group outstate.

Cantwell recalls that Frank started an informal cave school for new people in the spring of 1957, and one of his students for that session was Tex Yokum. Frank was a natural teacher, according to Cantwell, but he had been denied the opportunity to become one in reality because he had to get a job right out of high school due to the death of his father.

Although Dahlgren was noted in the various memoirs to be personally gentle, easy going and joking a lot, he also stood his ground when confronted with other strong caver personalities. There seems to have been a disagreement between he and Oz Hawksley over what to do with the cave maps and reports which the infant MSS was generating. Dr. Hawksley thought a more academic approach was needed. The result? Missouri Speleology.

According to Cantwell, he also butted heads with Tex Yokum, resulting in Dahlgren caving with the SLU cavers for a while. During this time Frank undertook a remap of Carroll Cave— an activity in progress almost since that cave was first explored. His son Craig reported early this year that while his dad took he and his brother caving in the Meramec State Park area, Frank also led Berome Moore scout trips later in life— an obvious note that his breakup with MMV was not a long term situation.

Craig Dahlgren said of caving with his dad, brother and other adults: “I have fond memories of dad taking us caving with carbide lights, and always though Fish [Mark Brooks] had it going on with his battery-powered headlamp. I remember going into Little Scott Cave just south of Meramec State Park, and thinking that maybe dad had named it after my brother, which I don’t remotely think was the case anymore...I think it is funny that my dad would camp, canoe and cave, but didn’t hunt nor fish. I’ve followed in his footsteps and do or don’t do all the same outdoor activities.”

Earl Neller’s memories of Frank Dahlgren are of a man who was an all-around caver. “Frank Dahlgren spent a lot of time underground. He helped organize cave files. He wrote reports. He sat at the kitchen table and pondered questions about the subterranean world while eating cheese and crackers. He helped new people get their boots muddy. An easy cave can be a bruiser to a newcomer. Frank helped them learn the ropes.”

Neller recalls a trip in May 1959, when he was a high school junior. He was camped with his Boy Scout troop at Beaumont Reservation, and it was pouring down rain when Frank came to get him for a trip to Cathedral Cave in Crawford County, when that cave was between commercialization. They went in the dry river entrance, and explored the cave. By the time they returned, the river exit was filled with water, and it took time to find the low crawl to exit the cave. This had turned into an eight-hour trip, but no one was panicked.

Another time, Earl accompanied Frank into Carroll Cave where the water reversed and began to drain into the cave after a rain. They barely made it out. Tex Yokum and his crew, on the same trip, were trapped, and had to wait for the water to go down. He also describes trips into Meramec State Park’s Mushroom Cave, more Carroll Cave and State Parks trips in 1960 before graduating high school.

“I learned so much on those cave trips with Frank Dahlgren and the other members of the grotto. I learned about caving gear and carbide lights and what to carry in my side pack. I learned about troglobites and speleothems. I learned to appreciate a kind of underground wilderness a step beyond the trees in the forest. Frank was a good teacher, a keen observer, a good leader, a good caver and a good friend. My life is better for having known him. “

Missouri Speleological Survey - Files Report for July 2018: Remember if you have new information on any Missouri caves, my email address is slagrush@gmail.com . **Mark Brooks sent:** -Via Chad McCain, 11 sketches from various caves that Brooks had participated in survey across the state (one other did come from Mammoth Cave area). All of which led to follow up questions, which cave, where (?). One of answers came back from Onyx Cave in Howell County; turns out we didn’t officially report this cave as having been mapped. At the time of survey (1988), the team was excited and wrote about new passage in the cave. With Mark’s blessing, the database now has a sketch map of the cave and a nice report on the cave that we didn’t have prior. Thanks Chad and Mark. Mark is excited to return and finish the last 1000 feet of survey still missing from the map...and perhaps turn the sketch into a final map product. -MSB219 survey report on a possible water connection to Dorothy Taylor, much of the survey was a re-survey of the passage and looked very much like the original survey despite the low water crawl passage that offered less than ideal conditions (whatever they are) and an at least one ear dunk but sadly no connection. Perhaps a return trip might be successful if the passage dries out through the summer months. Chad McCain followed up with 10 pages of the survey scans for the archives. -Two interesting fauna for Berome Moore Cave, one is a troglomorphic at least but perhaps a troglobitic clam/mussel! This isn’t a discovery, but only the second report of this oddity with the first in 1978; seemed like healthy population. **Jim Cooley sent:** -Six new maps for caves mapped down in Shannon County: Pitt Cave (65SCL,

18VR), Lost Silver Cave (246SCL, 39VR), Holey Shelter (103SCL, 8VR), Two Legged Cave Buzzard Annex (42SCL, 8VR), Mary's Playroom Cave (73SCL, 20VR) and another small nearby cave (26SCL, 6VR). And yet no silver, other than pocket change, has ever been recorded being found in a Missouri cave! Surveyed cave length (SCL) and vertical range (VR) are statistics that are captured on most modern era maps. Cooley always sends his field sketches, book data, B&W, color and Xara files with his final map submissions. Here's a nugget of MO cave statistics: Shannon County currently stands at 690 caves (we track 14 extra cave leads in county), while Perry County has 701 caves (with 9 extra cave leads). Which county will be leading the count a year from now? -Three updated main table entries for the recently submitted new caves in Shannon County. -Faunal records, trip reports and use monitoring forms for caves he recently surveyed in Shannon and Oregon County. If you haven't seen a Missouri bear yet, you need to go caving down in Shannon and Oregon County!! -New maps for Northwest and Southeast Thrasher Ford Chute Caves in Oregon County. He sent lots of supplementary material including survey sketch and book, his Xara file and Walls data. -Cave and faunal reports on Flippen and Toby Caves in Benton and Camden Counties, respectively. Cooley has maintained a good landowner relations with these privately owned caves and has frequently reported on both caves. -A detailed design and cost estimate for Roubidoux Cave in Pulaski County for MCKC. Probably due to the highly visible entrance, off a HWY, the cave has received a lot of vandalism and quite a few rescues. Perhaps it is time to appease the landowner and gate this massive entrance!? -A private landowner's liability waiver for Drummond Cave in Camden County. Most Missouri caves are on private property, proper cave protocol is to ask the landowner for permission to enter their cave. Anything less can lead to prosecution. Cooley also sent a location plat for the archives. -The photos from a recent KCAG trip to Lewis Cave, yes, in Ripley County this time. Nice photography of some of the features of this MCKC managed property. Looking for a service trip? This formerly commercial cave could use some restoration, primarily removal of graffiti. Bill Elliott's list of "fauna caves" in MO included Lewis at about 25th place. -A nicely detailed report provided by a third party on Toby Cave in Camden County. -An email report on a transient bat colony noted on a private property in Shannon County. **Don Dunham sent:**-A brief description of Lewis Cave in Jefferson County. Previously no description was available for this cave. - Another big file addition: at the end of June, Dunham had managed to get access to the "cave archives" at the University of Central MO in Warrensburg, so we spent the day scanning 2500 pages of documents. Partly because Oz Hawksley, one of 3 founders for the MSS, taught at Warrensburg, there has "always" been a collection of newsletters at the college there. If you have read all of Liaison (yikes!), you'd know that the MSS has shared over the years lots of our publications with Warrensburg and the library collected much more from many other organizations. And the library does have an international collection too. If you can't find something you need locally, UCM-W library is a great resource with the best librarians to help find things. Thanks and praise go out to Maya Kucij and Russell Smith of UCM. For those more curious, we collected newsletters from KCAG, MSM, HOG and Gasconade Grotto. Publications came from James Gardner (cave biologist and significant recorder of public domain caves) and the Ozark Underground Laboratory. Perhaps 40% of the scans were from 2 Illinois grottos newsletters; although the MO cave reports may be thin from Illinois grottos, several reports and maps were found. Besides, Grush's alter-ego (Mr. Hyde) manages the Illinois Cave Database. **Dillon Freiburger sent:** -A copy of a preliminary map of Rattlesnake Cave that he and SPG cavers are working on. Although a 1972 map showed much of the cave, Freiburger and others had recently pushed a crawl that extended the map beyond the confines of the old map. **Ken Grush sent:** -34 faunal records, 21 monitoring forms for each cave visited, 4 trip reports for each day's activity, and updates for 3 new caves. Three leads were confirmed as caves and 2 were surveyed. A third cave, which had been reported as surveyed in 2000 and 2010 despite not having a map in the database, was surveyed for about 200 ft. All work was done for CRF, ONSR and MTNF on 4 days while staying at the Winona joint facility. New caves are Wraparound Cave and Downstream Rimstone Cave in Shannon County and Walled Cave in Oregon County. **Derik Holtman sent:** -98 photos from his trips in Berome over the MSS Sinkhole de Mayo weekend meeting. So many great photographers taking pictures and sending to the archives; I almost want to put my camera down. **Scott House sent:** -Almost 500 reports from an arcane piece of software that he had stored for several years. Getting the block of time to extract the data was the stumbling block for getting that data into the database. So, going to the Winona joint operating facility provided some quiet time to work on projects like this that benefit the whole database. Scott hosted a 4-day weekend at the facility in June. Including the above dataset, the database grew during this one weekend with the addition of 630 reports, 160

faunal records and 20 use monitoring forms. (Yes, some caving actually occurred in addition to working the database.) And more faunal records are likely to come from these new additions, with more time. The weekend also provided an opportunity to work with one of our agency hosts to introduce/re-introduce the database and its features to some of their staff. Six Mark Twain National Forest biologists were given a portion of the database for over 900 caves that they manage for all citizens. **Gary Johnson sent:** -Report and photos of flooding event at Vanderman Cave in Hickory County. The team had gone in to survey, surveyed and then got out of the cave. All is well in Hickory County. **Dan Lamping sent:** -A draft of City Park Cave (CL=515+) ft. in the town of Perryville. More work to come. -Report of his survey trip into Berome on Sinkhole de Mayo weekend. See McCain's summary of weekend. **Joe Light sent:** -Information on caves in Meramec State Park. An improved GPS location for a cave that many of us could lead a trip to; yet the information in the database was not a GPS location for the cave. Comments on closure for another cave in the park to protect habitat. -An interesting electrical study report on property near the old Benton Park Cave, aka English Cave, in St. Louis City. -A report with 3 faunal records and photos on Double Drop Cave in St. Louis County. -Two new reports that included fauna and updated GPS locations for 2 caves in Franklin County: Copper Hollow and Camp Caves. Copper Hollow apparently was a challenge to get to with the high temperatures and humidity that we have had recently. Camp Cave has an interesting map with the upstream end (swallet hole) taking in all the water of the small side valley that this entrance sits in and dumps it out at the downstream end of the cave. Cave has 45 ft. of elevation change from highest upstream to lowest downstream end. Joe consistently sends in GPS locations for all of his trip reports; always good to verify that locations in the database are accurate and to update them when they aren't accurate. -A really historic 1870 report on Cliff Cave in St. Louis. There has been lots of discussion and reporting of different functions that this cave has served; even long an almost tourist attraction for St. Louisans in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Ok, it was a "cool" place for residents to chill through the long hot summer. Caves have long served a common function throughout MO, social events/picnics in cave entrances. However, this time a report came in that documents the cave's history as a winery. **Alex Litsch sent:** -Three improved GPS locations for Chimney Cave, Dillard Pit and Rockhouse Cave, all in Ste. Genevieve County. Photos were submitted to show that this is a "traditional" looking chimney, that is, one attached to a home; it was installed to control water flow and debris entry into the cave below. -An email with 2 new caves in Perry County: South of the Border Pit and Barely Perry County; somewhat fitting names for caves submitted from the MSS Sinkhole de Mayo weekend meeting. Both caves are close to the Perry County line, but are within Perry County. Litsch provided photos for one of the caves, but Tony Schmitt provided an entrance photo for the other cave. -Report on his activities at Berome Moore on the MSS Sinkhole de Mayo weekend meeting, along with photos of the cave. -New GPS location for the Grindstone Shelters, about 2 minutes from his home in Jefferson County. The shelters used to be the center of a roadside picnic area just off the old highway; I-55 is now only about 1 mile west of these shelters and now abandoned picnic area. The old locations were close; just on the wrong side of the road. Simplest tasks are to collect GPS locations and report them for any caves you go to, if the new numbers don't correct/change the database they can verify that the numbers in the database are accurate. -A preliminary map of Black Rock Cave in Ste. Genevieve County. Litsch was looking for biologic support to help the landowner with information. Ste. Genevieve hosts a lot of limestone quarrying and this mining can have a serious impact on the caves of the area; in some cases the caves disappear altogether, in others the quarrying affects the local water table and can expose passage not previously seen. Litsch also sent some photos of the "fertile ground" for cave critters in Black Rock Cave. -A new cave record for Inconspicuous Pit in Ste. Genevieve County; photos accompanied the submission. -Nice report, GPS location and photos of Lewis Cave in Jefferson County (same cave, different trip to Lewis Cave, see Dunham report). A day or so later, a sketch map and faunal photos came in. These are all welcome additions to the database for this previously under-reported cave. -A nice map of Valles Mines survey. His teams have surveyed almost a mile of passage in this maze, regrettably the project seems to have stalled. No telling but there may 10-20 times this length yet remaining. **Chad McCain sent:** -A line plot showing the almost complete survey of Bear Cave in Crawford County done by 4 teams during the MVOR weekend. In any case, they collected more survey than was previously recorded for the cave. McCain also sent the 4 survey books, sketch and notes, for the teams, so the archives has scans of all the work done during the MVOR at Bear Cave. -Survey book, sketch and notes, for Berome Moore in Perry County, thanks to the Brooks survey crew who doggedly keep returning to Berome. -An email with faunal records for Grandpas

Hole in Ste. Genevieve County. -Archival material from the survey of Dorothy Taylor Cave in Perry County from 1987 and 1988. At least 6 trips were documented with scans of the original survey notes. Ultimately, the hope is to connect Berome Moore with Dorothy Taylor. -New survey books for 3 survey crews in Kohms Cave in Ste. Genevieve. Significant new passage was recently found calling for a resurvey of the cave. Also received an update of his Kohms Cave Walls files (Ste. Genevieve) for the archives. -Ten old survey sketches (which often had book notes on them) from Mark Brooks for caves in Perry County and one from the Mammoth Cave region. Lots of nice sketch that is good to add to the archives. -An updated Walls file for Berome Moore for the archives; this software file captures historical survey data and all the new survey in Berome. The MSS Sinkhole de Mayo weekend meeting at Berome was a great success with over 4751 ft. of survey in Berome, pushing the cave firmly into second position behind Crevice Cave for longest surveyed cave in Mo; Crevice at over 30 and Berome now at 21.35 miles. This is a huge effort for the weekend "11 survey teams, 3 on Friday, and 8 on Saturday." Kudos to all. "Since the Missouri Caves and Karst Conservancy has purchased the cave, 10.39 miles of survey has been obtained." Several reports have come in for activity from this weekend including reports from Mark Brooks, Michael Leer and Alex Litsch. Survey books are also coming in to the archives, these are scans of all the data, both sketch and survey measurements. -Emails from Alex Litsch and Jim Sherrell on Bieser Cave in Ste. Genevieve County. Sherrell's notes were already in the database from his 1988 report, but Litsch had several good comments to supplement the database record for this cave including a correction to the cave's name and a good GPS location with the landowner's guidance to a known karst feature. Another trip will have to confirm that this feature is the same as the old record. -Good view into what happens after the big survey weekend at Berome. Somebody (McCain) scans all the notes and sketches, puts them into a zip file and sends them off to be archived. On the archived end of this process, one weekend collected 12 survey books consisting of 76 files. I received 9 emails for Berome alone, 2 of which contained 28 files of 1989 historical survey notes from Stan Sides. Meanwhile nearby Dorothy Taylor's historic survey books came flowing in a stream of 8 emails containing 48 more files. Perhaps one day McCain will report the connection of these 2 caves. Stay tuned! **Ben Miller sent:** -Two new locations for Cross Joint Cave and Shale Shelf Shelter in McDonald County; more information to follow. **Jim Sherrell sent:** -A nice report on MMV's trip to the Cissell Caves in Perry County. As it turns out, only one of the Cissell Caves is now accessible, the other's entrance has been filled and a stand pipe placed in the entrance. MMV was able to push Cissell Cave No. 2 just a little beyond the map and hopes to re-enter the sealed cave. Also noteworthy is that the 1980 map is listed as the Cissell Caves, in the plural, but the other cave was not listed as having been mapped. Thanks to the report and MMV's activity. The map database will be corrected to reflect a map exists for both caves. Undoubtedly, when looking at the map, the caves are just two parts to one cave system. However, there currently is no way to walk out the entrance of one and immediately into the other. **Grush:** On a general files note, a lot of historical cave reports have recently come into the **database for Dent County**. So I thought it might be a good time to look at the "anatomy" of a county in the database. Dent is in the middle of the state in terms of counties with caves; its county seat is Salem. It is far removed from major population centers but does have a solid imprint of the MSM Cavers adding to the cave knowledge base for the county. The county does have a few "public" domain caves, that is, national park (7 are on ONSR), national forest (10 are MTNF) and Missouri's public lands (6 are on DNR or MDC) for people to have documented caves with easy access (pre-WNS) and through CRF post-WNS; roughly 20% of Dent's caves are on public lands. As it turns out, Dent only has about 110 caves and about 220 (latest 306) reports in the database, so about 2 reports per cave. Reporting started early with reports coming in bunches in 1922, 1930, 1951 and 1956. These came from Cave Explorations in the Ozark Region by Gerard Fowke in 1922; a St. Louis Post-Dispatch "travelogue" of Missouri caves from 1930; an Army study, for building a jet propulsion lab hidden in a MO cave, from 1951; and finally from J Harlen Bretz's Caves of Missouri in 1956. In addition to easy access to some of this information on the internet, MoSpeleo has provided access to these caves in volume 17, number 3-4, a report of Fowke's work, from 1977; and in volume 37, number 3-4, a copy of the Army's Project Cavern of 1951 but published about 1997 (actually undated). These 4 different sources basically covered the same 7 caves with occasionally an extra new cave or two. In 1960, MoSpeleo published the Caves of Dent County in volume 2, number 1 and discussed the twelve known caves at that time, only 6 more than Fowke reported on. A few new caves came into the files over the next 15 years, but in 1975 John Schwartz, a St. Louis resident (or at least a St. Louis address), started reporting on caves (mostly new) that he was visiting in Dent County. The years 1975-

1976 brought 30% of the current reports to the database, 25% of the 30% were from Schwartz. Schwartz's continued reporting through 1992 led to the publication of MoSpeleo volume 32, number 1-3, copyrighted in 1992, where 74 caves were described and most were mapped. In the years after the second Dent volume, 1994-1996, saw an uptick in reporting with 20 reports coming in. Then from 1998 to 2012, only 21 new reports came into the database; by comparison, 15 years to collect almost the same volume of reports of the 3 years of 1994-1996. Other than reports, there are 79 caves with maps in the database, that is, roughly 70% of the caves have been mapped and over 75% of them were mapped by Schwartz. Of course, there are fauna records for Dent County, but almost half the caves have no fauna reports at all; most only one faunal record. The caves with high faunal records are public caves, but this is really just a function of the monitoring that CRF does on public caves (less on private lands). And use monitoring forms are also available in Dent County, but for now, all forms are on the public caves; all ONSR have been monitored and reported on at least once, while only half the MTNF have been monitored and reported on at least once (and recognized in the database). So what makes Dent special; actually nothing, nothing more than any other county at least. For all Missouri counties, it will be a mix bag of historic (Bretz and earlier) reports and recent contributions (since the MSS founding, or post-Bretz). Almost all work done in Missouri caving is volunteer work. For most counties, there is usually a point person or grotto who is doing the work (read above Dent County for contributors and where they operate). Faunal records and use monitoring are things done regularly while volunteering with one of the federal or state agencies. But actually no reason not to monitor the private caves in the same way. In this instance, over half the caves in Dent County have only one author's report; slightly less than 10% have no formal (or informal) report. Thanks to all of our volunteers and cooperators for their contributions.—Ken Grush

Roubidoux Grotto (RBX). September 2017 to June 2018: The Roubidoux Grotto continues to work on meetings for learning more about caves, cave biology, and monitoring techniques. Dan Slais spoke at the October meeting about the geology of caves including a summary of counties in Missouri and how many caves the counties have (2007) due primarily to their geology. At the December meeting, Roubidoux Grotto decided to hold meetings at the Pulaski County Visitor Center (January) and the second month meet at a local restaurant. The following month will be back at the Visitors Center. All 6:00 PM meeting locations will be posted on the Roubidoux Grotto website. **Sept. 21st** - Roger Preston and Keenan Dillard picked up trash at Finley Cave. **Sept. 30th** - Keenan Dillard, Samantha Keeton, and Karen Hood checked out Campground Cave. **Oct. 5th** - Laura Huffman, Karen Hood, and Keenan Dillard did entrance monitoring and trash pickup at Roubidoux Cave. **Oct. 17th** - Kelsie Johnson, Roger Preston checked Finley Cave for trash and passage-ways for taking groups. **Oct. 19th** - Karen Hood and Laura Huffman went to the Newburg kids Museum dinner celebrating the active cave display set up. **Oct. 21st** - Roger Preston picked up trash at Finley Cave. **Oct. 29th** - Keenan Dillard was at Carroll Cave participating in the bat survey. **Jan. 13th, 2018** - Keenan Dillard and Roger Preston went in to Kiesewetter Cave with several members of the Lake of the Ozarks Grotto. **Jan. 15th** - Dan Slais participated in the Missouri Bat Census bat survey of Onondaga Cave. **Feb. 7th** - Tucker Palmatier was exploring a new cave called Blow Hole in the King Sink area. **Feb. 10th** - Keenan Dillard explored and did surveying on Allie Spring Cave with Brenda Goodnight, Rita Worden, Dennis Novicky, Caleb Schlager, Shawn Williams, and Ken Grush. **Mar. 13th** - Karen Hood and Laura Huffman set up the MDC cave display at the Master Naturalist's Evening with Nature in Rolla. **Mar. 24th** - Karen Hood, Samantha Keeton, Keenan Dillard, Roger Preston, Tucker Palmatier, and Tyler Skaggs worked with a new landowner picking up trash and looking for caves on the property off Hwy 28. **Apr. 14th** - Tucker Palmatier visited Jacob Cave, King Sink area, and Railroad Cave. **Apr. 20th** - Kirsten Alvey Mudd gave of presentation on bats and bat identification to the Roubidoux Grotto meeting. **May 5th** - Karen Hood and Laura Huffman operated the Osage Cave Room at the Newburg Children's Museum for its 2018 Grand Opening. **Jun. 9th** - Cheryl Keeton and Laura Huffman worked the Osage Cave Room at Newburg Children's Museum. **Jun. 20th** - Dan Slais and his wife Bobbie hiked the 7.5 mile trail and walked through Tunnel Cave in Bennett Springs State Park. -Dan Slais

Lake Ozarks Grotto (LOG). Apr. 29th - Ken Long, along with Klaus Leidenfrost and Chuck Lahmeyer pumped 6 ft. of water in the cave entrance at Goodwin, cut some locust trees and burned them. Ken brought sheets of tin to the site for a future pavilion. They found a raccoon in the cave entrance, just below the dripline that must

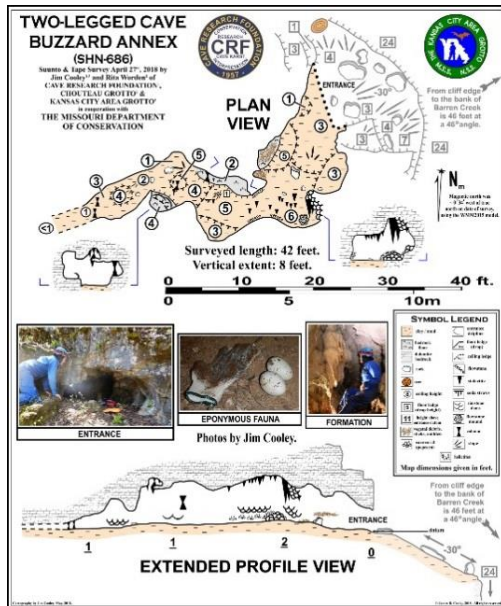
have fallen into the sinkhole. **Spring MVOR** – Kerry Rowland, Kira Rowland & friend, and Christopher Dopp took a day trip to Meramac Spring. **Other:** Abby Peper reported on a trip to Marvel Cave at Silver Dollar City. Ken & Monica Long, along with their Grandson checked out a lead on a cave near Bennett Springs. The GPs reading did not get them to the cave but a Thong tree did. But the cave didn't go anywhere. **Our May meeting:** Dwight Weaver brought huge maps of Skaggs Cave and Berry Cave for everyone to look at. Ken Long did a presentation on Goodwin. **May 12th** – Grotto trip to Skaggs Cave, attended by Ken Long, Stuart & Wyatt Carter, Abby Peper, Christen Easter, Steve Atteberry, Elena Newl & Robert Williams. **Jun. 2nd** – Ken Long weedeated at Goodwin from 5:30 am – 8:30 am. **June meeting** – The program was Caves of Laos by Krista Bartel. **Kiesewetter Cave** which has been managed by Ken Long for many years, is now owned by the MCKC. It was his dedication to this cave over the past years that led to the MCKC acquisition of the cave. –Alberta Zumwalt

Middle Mississippi Valley Grotto (MMV). Feb. 15th - This is a dated entry, but Darrol Gasawski reports that he and Barb, along with Mike and Nancy Joiner visited Hato Cave in Curacao of the Dutch West Indies during a cruise. It is a commercial cave. Interestingly, the guides did not allow flash photography because they would "damage the limestone and blind the bats". **Apr. 19th** - Jim and James Sherrell, Art and Peg Palmer, and Adam Marty visited Valle Mines. They entered the Discovery and Garrity entrances with a goal to study the geology and take geologic photos. Art and Peg Palmer provided a 7 page report on the mine/caves. (the origin and content of the report was not provided). **May 5th** – Michael and Doug Leer, with the help of Jason Hanewinkel, Ioana Herte and James Sherrell, continued the Cat Track Passage reflagging project in Berome Moore. The project was almost completed but the flagging string was depleted and the crew was forced to stop with about 90 - 95% completed. **Also** - Dane Driskill, Laura Belarbi and Jim Sherrell did survey work in Coon Passage of Berome Moore. **May 19th** - During the "Members Only Weekend" at the Berome property, the goal was to visit caves other than Berome and the plan was Mystery Cave. Unfortunately, there was an issue with the gate key and so Cissel Cave was chosen as an alternate. Visiting were Jason Hanewinkel, Ioana Herte, Mike Leer, Jim Sherrell, Larry Ablin, Michelle Leicht and Brett & Lisa Misel. During the visit, the group squeezed past a putrid dead armadillo in the entrance pit and then proceeded to explore beyond the end of survey. Ioana was able to squeeze into a hole to a small passage of about 15 feet long and 4 feet high. Not much, but virgin passage nevertheless. Getting back out of the squeeze hole turned out to be an effort in nerves and perseverance. **May 24th** - Laura Belarbi, Dane Driskill, Ioana Herte and Jason Hanewinkel visited Crystal City Underground for a 4 hour kayak float in the 150 acre underground lake. In one very low spot, it was necessary to lay down in the kayak and push along the ceiling to proceed. The trip leader was Don Marsan. It was reported that, after recent flooding, the complex has a long way to go to get back to its former state of having Frisbee golf, dances and other parties. A lot of the former areas are still under water.--Doug Leer

Meramec Valley Grotto (MVG). Apr. 28th: Jeremy Weih, Chad McCain, Jeff Fennell, Jackson Eberle, Erin Coates, Ben Esker and Alex Litsch resurveyed in Kohms cave. **May 4th- 6th** - Cavers descended onto Berome Moore Cave for the MSS meeting and to celebrate Sinkhole De Mayo. A ton of survey footage was gained in the cave over the weekend. Tony Schmitt, Chuck Breite, and Alex Litsch also ridgewalked the area and found 2 new caves for Perry County with a couple potential caves. **May 19th – 20th**- Alex Litsch took Jackson Eberle and Charles Barker to Tired Bed Pit Cave to survey. During survey, a tight connection was discovered to the nearby Leg-Eater Pit Cave. **May 24th** - Chad McCain and Alex Litsch did a weeknight trip to Roaring Well Cave to survey. The cave ended up not being very substantial and survey was completed. They visited Earthquake Cave afterwards to check on some leads. **May 27th** -Alex Litsch and Gary Resch started (and finished) surveying the recently discovered Smooth Pit Cave. A multi-drop pit cave consisting of a very nice 60' entrance drop and a 30' in-cave drop to a short horizontal section. **Jun. 2nd** - Alex Litsch and Derik Holtmann did a survey trip into Gegg Cave to "wrap up" one of the going leads. The passage goes from easy walking to a low, narrow belly crawl in water. Alex ventured up this for a ways and discovered it continues as such for quite a ways and needs survey. **Jun. 7th – 10th** - Alex Litsch went to KOR near Mt. Vernon, Kentucky. **Jun. 16th** - Alex Litsch attended a trip led by Jackson Eberle to Roubidoux Cave. On the trip was a reporter for the local newspaper whom wrote an article on organized caving in the area following the trip. **Jun. 20th - 22nd** - Chad McCain, Chris Doerhoff, Michael Bradford, Gary Resch, Alex Litsch, and Todd McCartney visited three caves in Tennessee: Run to the Mill, Rumbling Falls,

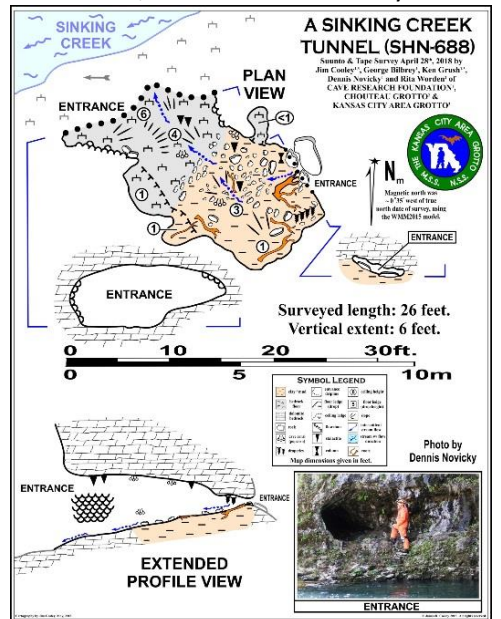
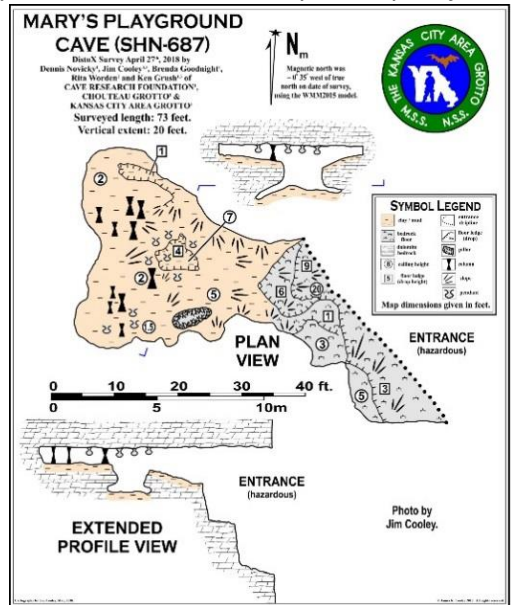
and Lost Creek. One highlight of the trip was exploring the Rumble Room of Rumbling Falls Cave. The floor of the room is about 4.5 acres of very large breakdown. A 201' rappel is required to enter the room from the ceiling. — Alex Litsch

Kansas City Area Grotto (KCAAG). Apr. 26th - Jim Cooley led a CRF survey team of Brenda Goodnight, Ken Grush, Dennis Novicky, and Rita Worden to survey three new caves recently discovered on the Missouri



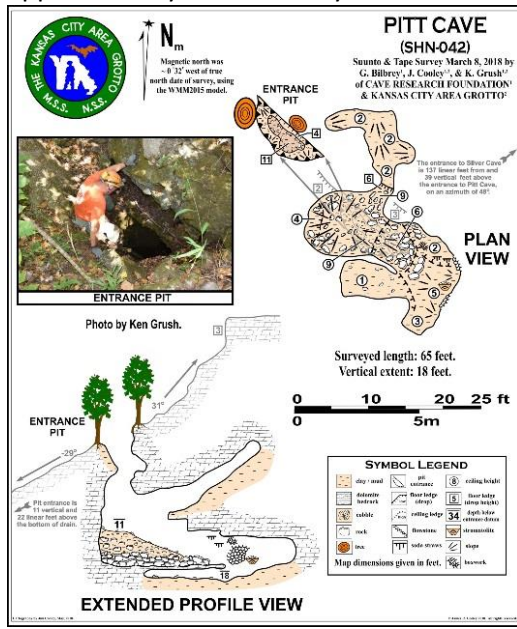
Department of Conservation's (MDC's) Sunklands Conservation Area, in Shannon County: Rock Pool Cave (SHN-679), Two-Legged Cave (SHN-678), and Two-Legged Cave Buzzard Annex (SHN-686). The effort netted 294 feet of survey in Rock Pool, which continues; 118 feet of survey in Two-Legged Cave, which continues; and completed the 42-foot survey of the Buzzard Annex, so named because of the two turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*) eggs it contained. The next day, Cooley led a KCAAG survey team of George Bilbrey, Grush, Novicky, and Worden to survey three caves on private land, two of which are recent Cooley/Grush discoveries. Surveys were completed on 73-foot-long Mary's Playground Cave (SHN-687), so named because the landowner played in this cave in her youth, and a small, 26-foot-long nearby tunnel right on Sinking Creek (SHN-688). The third, previously known cave that we surveyed netted 260 feet of survey (incomplete), and was discovered to be a hitherto unsuspected gray bat site, probably a minor one, with only around 50-60 bats in residence. **May 19th**- Gary Johnson, KCAAG's Hickory County Project

Coordinator, led a CRF survey team consisting of Bill Gee and Nathan Taylor to an on-going survey site in Hickory County, to a cave that is low and flood-prone, HKY-007. Gee and Taylor sketched an entrance profile while Johnson reviewed data for two other caves nearby. The National Weather Service forecast said there was only a 20% chance of rain. But during the drive from the Kansas City area, the team encountered light rain on several occasions. They saw no big thunderheads. However, not far from their destination, they did encounter a thunderstorm. Some of this rain was heavy and included pea-sized hail. When the team arrived at the cave, Johnson immediately checked the cave stream



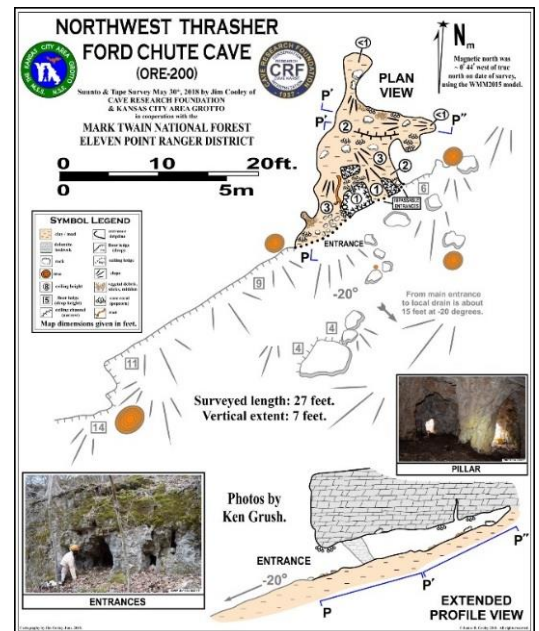
resurgence, a spring approximately 50 feet to the east of the cave entrance. His concern was about the state of the cave stream and whether they would be able to safely survey in the cave. The flow at the stream resurgence/spring is typically little more than a trickle. At this time, the flow had increased only slightly. The team discussed the situation and decided at the very least they would be able to review the map for the dry sections of the cave. Gee and Taylor would first proceed past the dry sections into the long crawl, which they call the "C Survey." They would proceed for 200-300 down this passage until they encountered the cave stream. At this point, they would decide whether it was wise to go any further. At 9:30 a.m., after donning their wetsuits, Novicky and Taylor entered the cave. Gee and Taylor proceeded to the C Survey and found the cave stream had changed

little from past visits. They proceeded into the water crawl and reached the final survey station at approximately 10 a.m. They then resumed the survey. While they were surveying, Johnson finished sketches of



the entrance and then visited a nearby cave (HKY-019). While visiting this second cave, Johnson saw a line of dark clouds approaching from the west. Just minutes later, at approximately 11 a.m., the storm hit. Johnson waited out the storm in his Jeep. Soon it began to rain, accompanied by pea-sized hail. It may have been the same storm they had passed earlier, but if that was true, it meant the storm wasn't moving very fast. And sure enough, the storm sat on the area and continued for nearly 60 minutes. After the storm passed around noon, Johnson headed back down to the cave to check the resurgence. He saw little change in the volume of water exiting the cave. However, he could hear a roar from off to the east. So he headed down the branch and soon encountered a cascade of water tumbling over a series of bedrock lips for about a 12 foot vertical drop. He did not see an immediate concern regarding the cave stream, and so headed off to review survey data for a

third cave (HKY-003). Johnson returned to the top of the bluff at the first (main objective) cave at 1:45 p.m. and found that Gee and Taylor were out of the cave. They had in fact exited at 1:20 p.m., after surveying 150+ more feet of passage in the C Survey. During this time they had noticed little to no change in the cave stream. They surveyed until they were cold from near constant crawling in the cold water. Before they stopped surveying, they scooped a few feet of additional passage and found a small room with initials and dates scratched in the cave wall. So there was more cave yet to be surveyed! They then crawled out of the C Survey passage and back to the cave entrance, so they could change out of their wetsuits and warm up before going back into the cave to review the cave map and draw some additional cross



sections in the dry area of the cave. They sat at the cave entrance, which is typically dry, and reviewed the cave map. While sitting at the entrance, they noticed a trickle of water at their feet. Within just a few seconds, the trickle grew to a rush of water coming out of the normally dry entrance, which went roaring down the branch. The water quickly filled the entrance passage nearly to the ceiling. They decided the survey trip was over. Some conclusions: The results of surface runoff were evident much sooner than changes to the stream level at this cave. One hour after the start of the thunderstorm, a high volume of surface runoff was cascading over a waterfall and into the branch. However, it took approximately 2.5 hours from the start of the thunderstorm for the interior cave stream to change significantly. When it did change, the change was fast and dramatic. They were lucky that Gee and Taylor decided to exit the cave when they did, or they may have become trapped in the cave. In retrospect, it was not wise to enter the cave when there was a thunderstorm to the west. This cave is



indeed dangerous during storms and should be avoided altogether when any rain is in the forecast. Gee and Taylor did add 188.7 feet of survey to the length of HKY-007, to bring the grand total to 1,338 feet. The additional passage beyond where they stopped surveying will add yet another 50 or more feet to the survey, including the area with the names scratched on the wall. So the field work is not yet finished. At least one more survey trip will be required. HKY-007 is officially now the second longest cave in Hickory County, having passed Clymore Cave. Neither Gee nor Taylor saw any bats on this trip, but bats are rarely seen in this cave. Before entering this cave again, Johnson says, he'll wait for a long dry spell. Possibly in July, Gee should be able to return and wrap up the survey there. Johnson has now completed all surface work on this property and will be turning in final maps soon for the other two caves, HKY-003 and HKY-019. **May 26th** -Cooley led a CRF survey team of Novicky and Joe Williams to Canyon Cave (ORE-157), on the Mark Twain National Forest's (MTNF's) Eleven Point Ranger District (11PtRD), where they completed the survey of this 1,528-ft-long cave and did a cartographic quality control (QC) check of the 1,488 feet of map already drawn up. **May 28th**- Cooley led a CRF survey team consisting of himself and Novicky on a five-mile round-trip hike onto the Irish Wilderness, on the MTNF's 11PtRD, where Novicky surveyed 314 feet in what we had thought were two caves on opposite sides of a small hill (ORE-172 & ORE-173). These caves had been discovered by Cooley in 2009. It turned out they were connected. Alas, both entrances were too small for Cooley to squeeze into, but Novicky and a CRF DistoX saved the day. When Novicky dropped through the first narrow slot entrance, he was quite surprised to find himself landing about three feet away from a turkey vulture nest, well populated by twin snow-white juveniles. The vultures were surprised, too, and responded with much umbrage and some hellacious hissing. An adult vulture nearby disappeared deeper into the cave and, in spite of Novicky surveying the entire cave, was never again encountered. Presumably it exited through the other entrance. An adult vulture did land sometime later in a tree directly above Cooley, which we assume was the mother. **May 30th**- Cooley surveyed two more small caves recently discovered by Cooley & Grush on MTNF's 11PtRD, Northwest Thrasher Ford Chute Cave (ORE-200) and Southeast Thrasher Ford Chute Cave (ORE-201). In both cases, the name and MSS accession number together were longer than the cave in question. **Jun. 17th**- Cooley and Julie Cottrell did a biological inventory, gate check and lock maintenance on Flippen Cave (BEN-009), a transient site for the endangered colonial gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*), located on private property in Benton County. This cave was gated at the landowner's request by KCAG and cooperators in 2010. The gate was breached in 2016 and repaired by a CRF gate team that same year. The gate was intact on this visit, but no bats were home. **Jun. 18th** -Cooley and Cottrell investigated a



The eponymous fauna in Buzzard Annex

landowner's report that he wasn't seeing any bats around his major gray bat maternity colony in Camden County (CAM-034), like he usually does. A very, **VERY** quick, careful, and silent visit to the site confirmed that, no, indeed, there were **at least 100,000** gray bats roosting in this cave on this date. We attributed the landowner's report to the fact that he's now 86 years old and doesn't get out much anymore. **Jun. 30th**- Cooley led a survey team including Cottrell and Kristen Godfrey for a map QC check to Drummond Cave (CAM-189), which completed the field work on this project. Highlight of this trip was otter-crawling

through a low mud belly crawl with a very fretful, worried wood rat (*Neotoma floridana*) running back and forth alongside us along the far wall. This provi-rodential experience led Cottrell to decide she doesn't want a pony for Christmas after all, she wants a wood rat. The team then changed into entirely new, clean caving gear and did biological inventories in MDC's Kings Onyx Cave (CAM-102), two-entrance Onyx Mine Cave (CAM-100/101), My Cave (CAM-122), and Onyx Crawl Caves (CAM-123), the latter three of which are also on queue for cartographic surveys later this summer. All of these caves are known WNS sites. The high point of this trip was watching Cottrell and Godfrey screw up their courage to enter one of these caves, from which were emanating loud, angry hissing noises (good trip leaders lead from the rear!) They abruptly found themselves confronted, five meters into the cave, by two very tough birds – again, both snow-



Better than a pony?

white, juvenile turkey vultures. After a lengthy meet 'n greet, Cottrell

added a juvenile turkey vulture to her Christmas wish list – or maybe two, so they can keep each other company. Besides field work, Cooley submitted six more cave maps during the reporting period.--Jim Cooley

Springfield Plateau Grotto (SPG). May 3rd—Jon Beard and DNR naturalist Chris Crabtree inspected Carter Cave (Jasper Co) in Battle of Carthage State Historic Site for any new safety hazards after a report that recent rock fall had occurred. After inspection, the cave itself seemed the same as it was when mapped in 2014, but a large slab had fallen in a small shelter a few tens of feet from the cave. Fauna in the cave consisted of five dark-sided salamanders, one pip and several arthropods. The entire 178-foot cave is crawlway with multiple entrances. **May 5th- 6th**—Jon Beard rejoined 11 stalagmites in the Formation Room of Berome Moore Cave (Perry Co) as part of 11 groups of cavers in the cave that day, most of them surveying various parts of the cave. On Sunday, he briefly returned to the cave to check the repairs. The weekend was promoted as “Sinkhole de Mayo” that included a taco supper Saturday night and the MSS Board of Directors meeting on Sunday. **May 12th**—After socializing at the Meramec State Park open house in Franklin County, Jon Beard and Joe Light did some hiking in the park to get GPS coordinates and photos of the entrances to Sheep Cave and Paul-Petroske Cave. Jon continued entrance photography at Fisher, Mushroom and Camp Caves. **May 19th**—Jon and Alicia Beard continued the restoration work on Cowdry Cave (Ozark Co) as part of CRF projects for Mark Twain National Forest. Both spray paint and etched graffiti just inside the dripline were the focus of the day. **May 26th**—Treavor Bussard (with Jon Beard along) cave a local scout group did an educational trip through Breakdown Cave, then nearby Fitzpatrick Cave (Christian Co). Also-Dillon Freiburger caved in Janus Cave (Ark.) with Ben Miller and crew. They got 1000' of survey in the downstream section of the cave in about a 14 hour, exiting the cave about 3 AM. **May 30th**—Cynthia and Clayton Russell, Nicole Ridlen, Jon and Alicia Beard began restoration work on Flutestone Cave(McDonald Co). The 500-foot cave, documented by Jerry Vineyard over 50 years ago, mapped by Bob Taylor and Lon Odell in 1974, had its share of etched, carbided and spray painted graffiti and some trash. After some three hours of using cordless drills with buffing attachments, brushes and squirt bottles, most of the graffiti and trash are gone. After this, Nicole (the manager of Bluff Dwellers Cave nearby) gave everyone an informal walk through this cave where they talked of the cave’s history and geology. After this, they ate a late lunch at the Cave Bar and Grill. The restaurant is in the entrance foyer of what was once commercialized as Truitt’s Cave, but past the large cave overhang, the cave is sealed off. **Jun. 2nd** —Bill Palmer, Jim Huckins and Roy Gold were among others (including Rita Worden, Kevin Feltz from Missouri) who took a photo trip to Nunley Mountain Cave in Tennessee, followed by a day to photograph waterfalls. **Jun. 8th** — Dillon Freiburger was assisted by Jon Beard in the completion of the resurvey of Rattlesnake Cave (Christian Co) as part of CRF projects on Mark Twain National Forest. They entered the cave at 10:30am and began surveying shortly after. After about 650 feet were surveyed, they exited the cave at 10 pm, wet, muddy, tired and happy it was done. The cave was mapped to 250 feet in 1971, but the new map will show about 1,000 feet of cave, much of it low, narrow and wet, but with several joint-determined domes offset from the stream crawl. Also - Clayton and Cynthia Russell visited Blanchard Springs Caverns (Ark.) And went on the Discovery Tour, Just for a fun. **Jun. 10th** —Brandon Van Dalsem, Treavor Bussard and Jon Beard continued the survey of Shoal Creek Cave (Newton Co), a gated cave managed by SPG. Despite pools of water in bellycrawls normally dry, they sucked it up and surveyed anyway. The good news was the survey of the day was all in walking passage, 289 feet of it, all the way to the Waterfall Dome, considered the end point of cave trips. The total for the survey thus far is 2,942 feet, but there are hundreds of feet of side passages, loops and upper levels yet to map. Biota noted were 5 bristly cave crayfish, 9 cave salamanders, 1 slimy salamander, 1 caecidotea isopod, heleomyzid flies and cave crickets. **Jun. 12th** —Jon Beard assisted Nettie Sittingup Perez and four Forest Service interns in the completion of the restoration of Cowdry Cave (Ozark Co), a very much restored cave on Mark Twain National Forest. The remainder of trash (consisting mostly of small pieces of beer bottle glass) and graffiti were removed using brushes, squirt bottles and powered buffing equipment, part of SPG’s extensive restoration arsenal. **Jun. 16th** — Dillon Freiburger was assisted by Jon Beard in surveying and monitoring Artos Cave (Taney Co) in Mark Twain National Forest as a CRF project. The 85-foot cave is nearly all bellycrawl, but has three recent bear den beds including dung from this past winter. Several salamanders and insects were also seen. **Jun. 19th** —Cynthia and Clayton Russell, Jon and Alicia Beard took a leisurely stroll through some of Three Forks Cave (OK), taking some photos. **Jun. 20th** —On the way home, Jon and Alicia Beard visited Old Spanish Treasure Cave (AR), a show cave

they hadn't seen since their honeymoon in 1971. The rock is the same as the Pierson Limestone, but in Arkansas it is a part of the St. Joe Limestone. **Jun. 22nd** —Jon and Alicia Beard briefly saw Turner Station Cave (Greene Co) in the process of photographing rock samples. **Jun. 23rd** —While continuing to photograph rock samples, Jon and Alicia visited Old Soldiers Cave (Taney Co), a small cave surveyed on separate trips by Ben Miller et al and Bob Taylor et al. **Jun. 25th** —Jon and Alicia wrapped up rock sample photography in McDonald County, meeting with guides and the owner of Bluff Dwellers Cave, briefly visiting the cave to discuss rock layers. **Jun. 26th** —Jon Beard presented a cave program at the Lockwood Library (Dade Co) as part of SPG's program on public outreach education. **Jun. 29th** —Jon and Alicia Beard took the tour of newly reopened Stark Caverns (Miller Co), photographing some of the cave's passages, speleothems and spongework. The cave was commercialized decades ago, known for a time as Fantasy World Caverns before the current owner reverted the name to Stark Caverns. **Jun. 30th** —Dillon Freiburger and Jon Beard of SPG and Arkansas caver Aaron Thompson began surveying a group of small caves near Eureka Springs, Arkansas. The first cave, Vulpes Cave was surveyed solo by Dillon while Jon assisted Aaron in the survey of Harvestmen Cave. Dillon surveyed the third small cave while Aaron and Jon explored the hollow. Jon found an upper sink entrance to a wide shelter cave that netted about 100 feet of tall passage (they named the cave Vaulted Hall Cave). Lastly Aaron and Dillon peered into Oil Spring Cave (wet) before they called it a day.--Report by Max White. Materials provided by Jonathan Beard, Dillion Frieburger, Roy Gold and Cynthia Russell

MCKC Acquires another cave. Ken Long, Lake Ozarks Grotto, has been



Entrance Crawlway



managing Kiesewetter Cave for many years for Fred Hartwig, landowner, who wanted the cave preserved. The cave was always Ken's favorite cave and his "baby." After Mr. Hartwig passed away, Ken, along with Klaus Leidenfrost, Peter Chulick & Bill Kacerovskis worked with Mr. Hartwig's kids to acquire the cave for the MCKC. The finalized deal came with 20 acres which includes the cave, land above the cave and a few additional acres between the cave and the county road. The pictures are by Ken Long. LOG started the MCKC with the hope that it would be successful and conserve many caves. That goal is being accomplished, thanks to all the people who have been involved with the MCKC and have made it flourish.—submitted by Alberta Zumwalt.



MSS MINUTES. The Spring 2018 Board meeting of the Missouri Speleological Survey was called to order by President Dan Lamping on May 6th, at the Berome Moore pavilion, Perryville, MO. **Introduction of Officers:** Dan Lamping, President; Alberta Zumwalt, Secretary; Absent were Scott House, Vice-President; Don Dunham, Treasurer. **Roll Call of Directors:** Al Quamen, LEG; Gary Zumwalt, LOG; Krista Bartel, CCC; Ken Grush (proxy for Jim Cooley), KCAG; Alex Litsch, MVG; Chad McCain (proxy for Alicia Wallace), MCKC; Gary Resch (proxy), SEMO; Doug Leer, MMV; Kris Corbett (proxy for Rita Worden) Chouteau; Max White, SPG. Absent were: Dan Slais, RBX; Jessica Self, MSM; Craig Williams, CAIRN; Bill Heim, OHG; Lorin O'Daniell, PEG. **Secretary's report.** Alberta Zumwalt reported that the minutes of the Winter 2018 meeting were distributed after the meeting to the Directors and Officers and were printed in the Jan.-Feb. issue of *MSS Liaison*. The minutes were approved. **MSS**

Liaison. Gary Zumwalt reported cash on hand of \$313.45, sending out 42 paper copies and the rest as electronic copies with The next deadline is July 1st. **Treasurer's Report.** Don Dunham had sent out the report electronically before the meeting and copies were distributed at the meeting. Pres. Lamping read the report. REPORT OF THE TREASURER – April 30, 2018 - ACCOUNTS: General fund \$10,011.28; Subscriptions *Missouri Speleology* \$3,375.12; Research Fund \$12,724.78; Anne Johnson Data Fund \$19,484.73. Interest checking \$94.80; Affiliation fees \$1225.00; Subscriptions *Liaison* \$561.00; Total \$47,476.51. ASSETS: Savings bonds \$2,000.00; Interest checking \$5476.51; Certificates of deposit \$40,000.00; Total \$47,476.51. **Missouri Speleology.** Pres. Lamping reported that Joe Light is working on the History of Cherokee Cave and Pres. Lamping on maps. He encouraged people to submit material for publication. **Projects. Cave Files/Database** – Ken Grush reported that his most recent report is in the last *Liaison*. He welcomes GPS locations which can confirm locations and written reports. Pres. Lamping said there are around 100 near caves per year. **Agency Reports. MTNF** – Ken Grush reported a big turnout for work in Barry Co. Pres. Lamping said they are using the new Forest Service facility at Winona. **MDC** – Pres. Lamping said that 10-12 cavers were able to obtain permits which is required to do work. A permit holder must be on the trip. They are doing monitoring and re-survey. **State Parks** – Pres. Lamping said work is being done in individual parks. Jon Beard reported that Carter Cave at Carthage had a recent rockfall just outside the dripline which caused the park to close the cave for visitation. He and a state park person went through the cave and saw that it was unchanged. They will allow people to go back in. Jon also added that Scott House had a long list of caves to be mapped and monitored in Mark Twain National Forest in Christian Co. Jon said he got all done but about four of them. **Ozark National Scenic Riverways** – Pres. Lamping said this includes the Current and Jack's Fork Rivers. Caves are closed but contact Scott or Dan to get sites that need to be monitored. **Affiliate Organizations Project Reports.** Pres. Lamping mentioned the cooperation by the city of Perryville with cavers. **Carroll Cave** – Pres. Lamping said there was not a lot to report. There may be an announcement on ownership in the future. He said flooding in the cave causes the stream to raise 20 ft. – 30 ft. **Berome Moore Cave** – Chad McCain reported on the progress this weekend with three teams surveying approx. 3,000 ft., 500 ft. or more of new survey. He said water in the cave was up about 1 ft. **SEMO** – Chad McCain reported the group has starting remapping Kohms Cave, 1800 ft. last weekend, 400 ft. before then. He said the historic length is 4800 ft. but could become a mile or more. Alex Litsch said they are still finding caves in St. Genevieve. **Public Outreach.** Pres. Lamping said if anyone has anything to put on the Facebook page, get it to him. He will manage it. **Announcements.** A taco feed was held on Saturday night with money collected to be split between MSS and MCKC. They decided that the money should go to MMV for their upkeep on the Berome Moore property and Chad McCain presented a check for over \$400 to the MMV President. **Next meeting:** Pres. Lamping said the Fall meeting will be at Current River State park at the old Alton Club House on Sept. 9th. There will be cleaning up of some caves, monitoring on Current & Jack's Fork, and setting up an interpretive center. Round Spring Cave will be open. There will be camping. Sept. 9th, 10 am, old Alton Club House, Current River State Park. – Respectfully submitted, Alberta Zumwalt

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

Ozark Caving web site– 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>

ATTENTION MSS DIRECTORS: MSS affiliation fees were due at the Winter meeting in January. The organizations that still have not paid are: CAIRN, CCC, Chouteau, MVG, MSM, OHG, Roubidoux, and SEMO. Annual reports are no longer required but affiliation fees are. Send a check or money order for \$25.00 to: MSS Treasurer, Don Dunham, 147 Ron de Lee, Arnold, MO 63010.

CALENDAR:

Aug. 29th – Deadline for the next *MSS Liaison*. Because of the date of the Fall MSS Meeting, we will have an early deadline in order to get the *Liaison* out to everyone before the meeting.

Sept. 7th-8th – **Fall MSS meeting weekend**, Current River State Park (old Alton Club). The MSS meeting will be on Sunday at 10 am. The MCKC meeting will probably precede the MSS meeting on the same day. There will be activities all weekend. Plan to attend.

Sept. 28th – 30th – Fall MVOR, to be held at NRO Canoe Rental, Lebanon, MO.