

THE MSS LIAISON

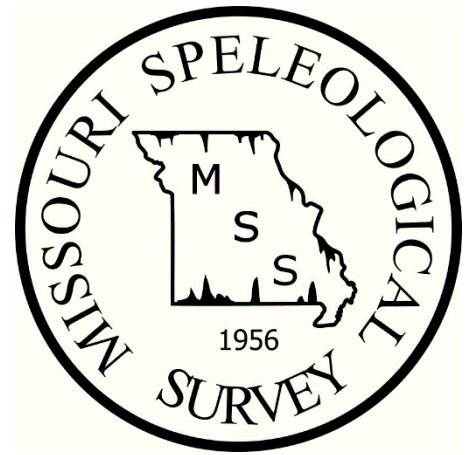
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AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS:

CAIRN – CCC – CHOUTEAU – DAEDALUS – KCAG – LEG – LOG – MCKC
– MMV – MSM – MVG – OHG – PEG – RBX – SEMO – SPG.

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Missouri Speleological Survey

President's Message July 2020 - by Dan Lamping

With the cancelling of our spring meeting, we're hopeful that conditions will be favorable to get together in the fall. That same hopefulness is extended to all things returning back to some state of normalcy, and deviating from the current trajectory 2020 has put us into. It has been suggested that we consider having the fall meeting at Berome Moore in Perryville as it would be outside and won't take much in the way to arrange having it there, making it less burdensome should we have to cancel. If anyone has thoughts on the matter that they'd like to share, please contact me. Directors should be on the lookout for an email requesting they vote on approval for the last meeting's minutes and treasurer's report, as a consent agenda, along with an inquiry for input on the fall meeting, whether we should have one, whether we should try hosting online, etc.

While everyone may be at different comfort levels regarding getting together in groups, going underground, etc., we at least have some good news in regards to access to caves on public owned lands. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had issued warnings against going into caves given the potential for Covid-19 to spread from humans to bats. That warning has been clarified and applies only to those in direct contact with bats. This means that we can lead approved trips into caves managed by *Mark Twain National Forest*, *Ozark National Scenic Riverways* and even *Missouri Department of Conservation*, should people feel inclined to do so at this time.

For those who have not heard, it is regretful to announce that Bill Pfantz recently passed away. While it had been some time since he had come to an MSS meeting, Bill was our circulation manager for *Missouri Speleology*. Reliably, he mailed out issues of *Missouri Speleology* to subscribers, as well as mailed purchases of *Missouri Speleology* made on the MSS website. Recently, Bill had reached out to Don Dunham and asked that the inventory of journals he had at his home in Kansas City, be removed and that someone else take over the job of circulation manager. Going down to his basement to retrieve issues was becoming more of a strain for him. He and Don were in the process of making arrangements to retrieve the issues sometime in July and we were discussing options of where to move them. Unfortunately, before a plan could be carried out, Don received word that Bill had passed and that members of his family, unaware of Bill's role with the MSS, had assumed the inventory of *Missouri Speleology* was part of his personal collection, which was decided to be disposed of. Fortunately, Don found out that boxes of printed issues had been thrown out into a dumpster, still at Bill's house. Don began his journey west the next day to recover what he could. Thankfully, KCAG members Jim Cooley, Rick Hines and Jeff Page also came to help. To make matters worse, it had rained the previous night, with the issues, uncovered in the dumpster, leaving many to be ruined. The crew saved what they could and put them in a storage locker in Kansas City. Recently, Don, along with Gary and Alberta Zumwalt, retrieved the issues from storage and separated the damaged copies from the good. Don is still in the process of auditing what we have, but it sounds safe to estimate nearly half of our inventory was lost. I don't have a good grasp on how many issues that could be, but I know it was many boxes worth. As Don called it, a "terrible coincidence"

that this all happened as plans were being made to get the issues. Many thanks to everyone who helped and my condolences to those close with Bill.

I hope everyone is doing well. While the caves aren't going anywhere, I sure do miss going caving. This has been the longest period I've gone in nearly 20 years without doing any real caving. I miss being underground, and I miss being with cavers. I hope to see you all soon.

P.S. This year's NSS Convention will be held online. While that will certainly take away from the camaraderie and fellowship, it will increase access to many sessions, which will be posted online. There are some really impressive lists of presentations in the U.S. Exploration Session, the International Exploration Session and the West Virginia Exploration Session. Go to NSScon2020.org for more information.

Missouri Speleological Survey Files Report for July, 2020. If you have **new information** on any Missouri caves, my email address is slagrush@gmail.com. We need your help to improve the database and make it more complete. I can and do work with Facebook entries, but for information or photos to be incorporated I need to be "private messaged" with the cave name and county.

Just a short diversion to start--according to a Vineyard report, Bretz reported 437 caves in his Caves of Missouri in 1956. The MSS also began in 1956. So it would seem caving began in 1956? However, our cave files actually have over 500 caves that have reports before this time frame. In fact, we currently have over 1000 reports that predate 1956. There are 3 primary early reporters (not necessarily cavers). Perhaps one of the earliest reports comes from a Commonwealth of Missouri publication on the Physical Geography of Missouri by George Clifton Swallow, in a timeframe thought to be around 1867. Our records indicate 14 caves were listed. In 1922, Gerard Fowke wrote his Cave Explorations in the Ozark Region and he reported on more than 60 caves. In 1947, Edward Clark, "State Geologist," compiled a list of over 200 caves in Missouri. It's Mr. Clark who stirred up this interest in caving history, since these reports were only recently added to the database (see below).

Project Cavern, reprinted in *MoSpeleo* v37, was originally published in 1951 by the military to use caves for a "secret" jet propulsion lab. They had a long list of caves that predate Bretz but did not cover the entire state.

Matt Beeson sent: -Maps of both Crinoid Pit East (SL=194, THC=112, CD=78) and Crinoid Pit West (SL=166, CD=65) in Benton County (see Cooley below). **Shelly Colatskie sent:** -Sent landowner information for a cave in Lawrence County. **Jim Cooley sent:** -16 files for a new map on Wagner Cave (CL=30, VR=16) in Shannon County. The original sketches, Walls and Xara files were included. The cave had been in our files since 1961, 59 years ago. -2 location modifications and entrance photos for the Crinoid Pits in Benton County. Either by typographical or PLSS (Public Land Survey System) error these were originally reported 6 miles to the east of their "modified" locations. -8 Use Monitoring forms for the Butler Hollow area in Barry County. **Jeff "Spike" Crews sent:** -Sheet 1 of the update of the map of Devil's Icebox in Boone County. He also provided a description of the new cartography and survey project. **Bill Gee sent:** -A new location for High Shelter (CL=269, dripline) in Henry County. Later Gee sent a copy of the map for the archives. For a county with 31 small caves, this is actually the first map. **Ken Grush sent:** -195 brief reports from the 1947, Edward Clark (see above) "cave catalog." There are several caves that Clark reports but we don't have equivalent caves to link to his reporting. -56 (historical, not recent) faunal records from various reports in Shannon County that I have recently transferred over to the Shannon County archives. -About 300 corrections to the main table, mainly where items hadn't previously been entered: almost 70 management units were blank before, not identified for MDC; almost 200 had missing survey information and 40 were missing the fact that the length numbers were only estimates without survey. Admittedly these are small changes but are improvements over blank fields. -Collection of all my personal database that I had started compiling before the cave archives were started. This includes over 30k files, mostly photo files from cave trips since 2011, but also all *MoSpeleo* and Bretz documentation that I had started work on. **Josh Hafner sent:** -A video from the exploratory drill hole to find a lost cave in St. Louis. **Paul Hauck sent:** -Black and white and color images of the Crevice Cave map (in two parts, northern and southern halves). The mileage reported on the map is 30.8 miles. **Scott House sent:** -Hundreds of changes/additions to the database. These changes were made directly to the "operative" database. House takes back the database sometimes for a week or more at a time and makes adjustments to the records. Many changes are additions, and some correct the records. -Almost 200 additional modifications to the database, all in Perry County. **Mark Jones sent:** -A new shelter in Texas County, Barn Hollow Shelter, which was surveyed (see

Klausner below). Also sending information on the new Centipede Cave in Shannon County. -97 new faunal records for work on ONSR, in Carter, Shannon and Texas Counties when he and others (for CRF) monitored almost 30 caves. He sent Use Monitoring and short reports for each of the caves. **Ed Klausner sent:** -A map of Barn Hollow Shelter (CL=83) in Texas County. **Dan Lamping sent:** -Three LIDAR images in the vicinity of the Buzzard-Stillhouse (Pike County) map. Two are overlays and the third is to display the background LIDAR image without the overlay. The 5 entrances fit nicely with the bluffs and sinkholes. Sounds like great survey techniques for the 1962 crew. **Alex Litsch sent:** -Information and photos to document two new caves in Ste. Genevieve County: Grass Cave and Morel Pit. Shortly thereafter, he sent the new maps of Grass Cave (CL=109) and Morel Pit (VR=37). -Two maps from 2016 via Scott House: Creek Bend (CL=~220) and Creek Side Column (CL=~30) Caves, both in Pulaski County. -Two new caves in Ste. Genevieve County: Brown Nose Cave (for the low passage) and Deer Bones Cave (for those found there). -A new lead in Ste. Genevieve County. Based on the information gather, this will be a nice find. **Joe Light sent:** -Surface photos from the lost cave of St. Louis (see Josh Hafner above). Then followed up with an air quality assessment for the cave: deficient oxygen levels! Light also sent a visual display/cross-section through one of the exploratory holes into the historic (1850s) cave. -Nice historical post card of the bluff and one of the caves at Monegaw Springs in St. Clair County. **Aaron Nathan sent:** -Sent almost a dozen new cave leads in Pulaski and Phelps Counties that are leads for now, since Nathan did not explore them. **Mick Sutton sent:** -18 faunal records, about half dealing with sculpin across the state. **Robert Swain sent:** -Photos and GPS location of the cave entrances in Onondaga State Park. Of the 35 entrances (some have multiple entrances) in the park now, we now have a fairly complete set for the park. Now onto getting the remaining caves surveyed! -A remarkable 1878 land plat that shows Pigeon/Foley Cave of Lincoln County; it hasn't been heard from since 1956 and Bretz's Caves of Missouri. Swain had been in the cave when a youngster and shared his recollection too. **Shawn Williams sent:** -A new cave location for Thermometer Cave in Madison County. He added a trip report with a good cave description to add to the database. **Hou Zhong sent:** -23 photos and a video of the new High Shelter (CL=269, CD=12) in Henry County (see Bill Gee above).—Ken Grush

AS A CAVER YOU SHOULD DO THE SAME by Dwight Weaver

What the hell is wrong with Missouri cavers?

Are we losing the PR war with the non-caving public?

Are we losing our hard earned caving legacy?

As a speleo-historian and life-long Missouri caver I am really worried because I see a trend that suggests too many of our Missouri cavers are blind, deaf and dumb to the forces that think cavers are crazy and that caves are not important natural resources and that everything we have learned about caves since 1956 when the MSS was established can be ignored and scrapped! On top of that too many cavers don't consider what will happen to their caving materials and records once they die. In most cases you can't depend on someone else to do it for you and the chances are your family members who are not cavers will be the least dependable. You should not wait to the last minute to consider and act on such issues.

In recent years and as recent as yesterday, cavers who have been important to Missouri caving in one way or another have passed away, some of them sudden and unexpectedly, and the list includes Tex Yokum, Curtis Scott, Kate Johnson, Paul Johnson (no relation to Kate Johnson), Kerry Rowland, Oz Hawksley, Jerry Vineyard and Bill Pfantz and they are just the ones I have been most familiar with because I have known them for many years and caved with most of them. I generally don't know the circumstance surrounding most other cavers of the past many years outside of my arena of activity. Beyond their interest in caves, cavers are often difficult to get to know on a personal family level.

With each of these individuals we were losers and with the passing of several of them really, really big losers. And whose fault was it besides the grim reaper? In their passing we lost valuable publications, documents and other materials vital to our historic achievements. It is time for all Missouri cavers, especially those closely associated with the MSS, to take the time to figure out who among the cavers you know who have made contributions to Missouri caving and who might have materials in their possession that should be preserved. And so should your own personal letters, documents and caving history. Caving is hard work. We have worked

diligently to locate, record, explore and study our caves and we are too complacent about who has what and who knows what. Cavers alive today must not let the trend continue.

I knew **Tex Yokum** a long time. He was an early caving companion of mine before he got involved in the Perry County work. When he and I went to Washington D.C. in 1985 to receive the Volunteer Action Award from the president on behalf of Missouri cavers for all the cave mapping and research that had been done in Missouri for decades, Tex and I were together every minute of much of that week. I spent a lot of time trying to get Tex to plan for the safe keeping of all his records and mapping work and he just kept saying he didn't have the time to focus on it then. He said he was too busy and that he'd "let Sandy take care of that." Well, when he died suddenly, we probably lost a lot of valuable materials and who was at fault – Tex, of course, but his family cleaned out his belongings and obviously threw a lot of his stuff away before a reliable caver was consulted.

Curtis Scott was a caver that did most of his cave work at locating and surveying caves in central Missouri and was a member of Lake Ozark Grotto (LOG) and Chouteau Grotto. He had a filing cabinet full of his caving records as well as materials on Morgan County created by several conscientious younger cavers in LOG. They had given him the materials to be submitted to the MSS but Curtis died before he got that material turned in. When he died, I attended the visitation and I pleaded with his daughter and others to be sure and give Curtis' records to members of LOG. What happened? As best as I can tell all of his files were lost. His family probably trashed the materials.

Kate Johnson was a hard working contributor to the MCKC for several years when the Conservancy was publishing the MCKC Digest. When she died, I had hoped to attend her funeral but was then informed that her family didn't want cavers to attend. I had talked with Kate several times, enough to know that her family did not care for her caving interests and cavers in general. My conversations with her husband who pre-deceased her were not favorable. That was sad but at least we didn't lose valuable documents that the MSS should have had.

Oz Hawksley was very instrumental in the creation of the MSS and left us with numerous publications he was responsible for. His biological and paleo contributions were many. I caved with him in the early days of the MSS. In the twilight years of his life he went down slow and painfully with memory loss and by the time he was awarded a major conservation award by the MDC, he couldn't even remember who I was at the ceremony. When I talked to him and tried to jog his memory, he looked at me vacantly as if to ask Who Are You? Do I know you? And then his son moved him out west where I understand that he vegetated in a special home until he died with total memory loss. We should have gotten him to write his caving recollections early on. He should have been interviewed at length. He did, years ago, turn over his early correspondence to the MSS cave files. I wrote an obit for Oz that was published in the *NSS News* but that was surface dressing, not the nitty gritty from the man himself. I felt a real loss when he passed.

Jerry Vineyard died only recently and we saw his death coming. I had begun more than two decades ago when his mind was sharp to get him to write about his caving years and to start organizing his cave contributions. Jerry kept telling me in emails "well I'm thinking about it" but I never saw anything in writing even though we were very close on many occasions. He was one of my caving mentors. His wife is a wonderful lady and Rosie and I continue to stay in touch with her but so far she has been unresponsive as to what Jerry might have recorded about his cave work. He also made very significant contributions to the state of Missouri in water resources and geology. When he got seriously ill with Parkinson's disease, I had a couple of non-cavers who knew him from his state work ask me about him and said they were planning to go down to Ozark to interview him. At the time I told them "you'd better hurry because he is fading fast." As far as I know that interview did not take place. It got to where Jerry was in such bad shape that it hurt me too much to try to even visit with him. I don't do well emotionally under such circumstances. I made promises to Jerry a few months before he died to preserve certain cave records for posterity and he was thinking less about himself and more about others. That is how he lived his life. I wrote an obit for him that was published in the *NSS News*. But that was just highlights, not good solid memoir material. A caver needs to speak for themselves and Jerry would have had much valuable insight to share with us. What a terrible loss!

Paul Johnson was a long-time central Missouri caver, member of Chouteau Grotto and as most cavers know he and I were very close associates and published a variety of cave books together. I could never get Paul to sit down and write his earlier caving memories. When he died suddenly, his sister was in charge of his house and belongings because Anne, his caving wife, had pre-deceased him. Paul had no children. Paul had tons of stuff

and I got lucky because she contacted me about some of the things she found in his house and didn't know what to do with them. At least the Jefferson City set of the cave files he was caretaker for were removed from his house several years before he died. But Paul had so much stuff even he didn't know what he had in stacks and stacks of boxes. I couldn't remember all of his cave-related stuff and couldn't tell his sister all of the things she needed to watch for. As she went through the boxes she at least got in touch with the Zumwalts and someone in the Cole County Historical Society because Paul was an authority on the cemeteries of northern Missouri. As a consequence that material probably got saved. But she tossed a bunch of stuff related to our cave book publishing he and I had done before she ever got ahold of me and I really hated that. At least I got his cave photograph collection and it will be preserved. As far as a person's personal possessions go, family members who are not close to the deceased person usually don't know what should be saved and often don't know how to get ahold of the right people before they toss the materials out. Often this is because the deceased caver did not prepare well enough for their eventual demise. If divorces, death of loved ones or family conflicts are present in a person's life those things can have a very damaging impact on a caver's legacy. I wrote Paul's obit for the NSS News but obits always leave a lot to be desired.

Kerry Rowland was widely known and a wide variety of opinions about him circulate among cavers, but Kerry was genuine. I didn't always agree with his way of doing things but I liked Kerry and I think he liked me even though he and I lived and caved in two different kinds of reality. Yes, I caved with him many times and in caving he was a great companion. He was an active member of LOG since 1975 and more or less grew up caving with LOG. He was one of the founding board members of the MCKC. I cite him because his passing was a loss for the caving community, for LOG, and particularly those who enjoy vertical caving and caving below the southern border, but he was divorced and left a grieving daughter to whom he was very close, a young lady that all the cavers of LOG grew very fond of even if she may not have realized it.

And now I come to **William "Bill" Pfantz** whom so many cavers in the MSS have had contact with. I spent hundreds of hours with Bill out on Lake of the Ozarks and the Osage River in his boat from the Kansas Line to the Missouri River in the early 2000s gathering photographic and historic material for my lake history and Osage River work. Like Ron Lather said to me "Bill would give you the shirt off his back if he thought you needed it." And Ron was correct. Yes, Bill was eccentric, meaning unconventional, and it was hard to get to know who the "real Bill Pfantz" was deep down but he was genuine. He wasn't perfect but then nobody is. There are always two sides to every story. Yes, he was interested in strange signs and marks he found in caves and on the faces of bluffs and dabbled in theories of early America that lots of conventional people considered crackpot thinking but that should not be an excuse to dismiss him and his accomplishments. Yet his family considered him "mentally ill" and went into his house and tossed away everything, labeled him troubled, and this time the MSS lost thousands of dollars because Bill was the care taker of MOSPELEO issues and they were trashed. It took a heroic effort by some KC cavers and Don Dunham to save at least a portion of the back issues of MOSPELEO. Bill obviously did not anticipate what would happen to the things in his house after his demise and a family member stepped in.

So I'm preaching to you and pleading with you to care about your caving legacy and that of other cavers. You may not care about what happens to your caving legacy and materials but I can guarantee you that many of your caving companions do care. Please don't let the grim reaper catch you unprepared. Plan ahead and please help put a stop to this loss of Missouri's caving materials. So, am I taking my own advice? Well, I am along in years and don't know how much time I have left but what I wish done with my caving materials is recorded in my will and I am working hard with what time I have left to organize everything so the family that survives me will know what to do with the tons of material, caving and otherwise, that I have accumulated over the past 60 plus years. You should do the same.

REMEMBERING Kerry (KR) Rowland By Randy Rose

Hey KR, when you going to get the fryer going someone would ask? As soon as I get this wet caving gear off he would reply. KR loved to cave and he loved to entertain his fellow cavers. He had a knack for making people laugh and even those not prone to a good laugh could not resist a chuckle at the words that would come from KR. Whether it was in his younger years at Carroll Cave, his many trips to the pits in Mexico or caves in Southeast Asia, or at one of his favorite places, Ennis Cave, KR was always surrounded by friends. KR had that personality that drew people to him and in conversation.



I'm not a fan of the "system" KR would tell you, but I respect the system and the constitution. KR deeply believed in his first and second amendment rights and exercised them every day. Whether he was at the gun range, caving, or at a brew house, KR was full of life and ready to share his plethora of knowledge he learned from the school of hard knocks (and maybe a few rocks).

KR cherished his daughter Kira. They were best of friends and went everywhere together. KR knew Kira was going to be a great caver and took her on her first trip when she was 4 days old at Ennis Cave. They went to Mexico and Southeast Asia caving almost every winter but you knew where they

would be Memorial Day weekend and the weekend before Thanksgiving – at Ennis Cave.



KR started caving at a young age joining the Lake of the Ozark Grotto in the early 1970's and was a major part of the early trips down Thunder River in Carroll. On one trip with Tim McClain and Steve Atteberry, the trio spent several days camped near the T-Junction while explorer leads down river and were eventually forced to leave when Atteberry blew out his caving boots and basically walked barefoot 4 miles to the entrance with Kerry at his side. KR loved his cave brothers and you knew he would always be there for you if needed.



I remember on one trip to Carroll with KR in 1975, Randy Rose said, we were in the cave several days and had just returned to camp wore out and ready to crash and KR said hey, look what I found and pulled out a can of beer out of his camp bag. I was waiting for the right moment to drink this beer and

he opened the beer and passed it to me. We shared that beer which I don't remember what kind it was, but it was the best beer I ever had!



KR loved his friends and he had many, from all walks of life and all points on this earth. KR was well respected in the caving and shooting communities volunteering much of his free time supporting training and education to many people. Safety and knowledge of the sport was his priority and he expected you to have both or be willing to learn if you were going to join him on an expedition. KR loved to have fun but the safety of those around him was very important and was an instructor with a nationwide shooting group and was verified with the NRA.



KR was part of the 1992 National Geographic trip into Lechuguilla Cave in New Mexico serving as a Sherpa transporting equipment and supplies. KR said it was one of the most physically demanding trips he ever did but one of the most memorable. KR's last cave trip was to Ennis Cave in November

2019 for the 34th annual November gathering where the entire group went to the Chandelier Room and Tim McClain lit up the 72 candles on the chandelier and lifted it to the ceiling.



KR was born in 1957 in St Louis, Missouri and passed away in December 2019 from complications of a stroke at his home after returning from a bird hunting trip. KR is survived by his ex-wife Zulema, mother Joyce, and daughter Kira. A celebration of life is planned at Ennis Cave in November and all of KR's friends are welcome to come and enjoy the incredible life of Kerry Rowland.



Kansas City Area Grotto (KCAG). May 8th -11th - Jim Cooley and Julie Cottrell surveyed a cave for two days, then did final map quality control checks on two more caves on a large private property in northern Shannon Co. **May 29th** - Cooley & Cottrell joined a bat biologist from a Federal agency to evaluate two gray bat caves for possible use in an upcoming joint Federal- and university-sponsored research project into how to count emergent gray bats using audio technology. The caves examined proved to be suitable for the project. **May 30th** - Cooley and Cottrell accompanied Bill Gee (KCAG) and Matt, Mike and Bud Beeson (SPG), as well as the landowner, to survey two pit caves in Benton Co. The resulting cave maps and photographs of this trip were included in the recently released on-line SPG magazine, *Subterranean Journeys*. **June 6th** - Bill Gee led a survey team consisting of Seth Colston and Kristen Godfrey to Stark Caverns, to continue his on-going survey effort there. They worked in the Grand Canyon area, where they completed the main trunk and one section of some side passages. There is much more to do at Stark, most of which is tight, crawly and multi-level. **June 5th** - Jim Cooley, Rick Hines, Jeff Page, Mike Modlin, Seth Colston, later joined by Don Dunham and his wife from St. Louis, undertook a massive emergency “cave (literature) rescue” to retrieve 7,000 copies of *Missouri*



KCAG 6/5/2020

Rick Hines becomes the first person EVER to drive a Tesla to a Dumpster Dive (left-to-right: Mike Modlin, Seth Colston. Rick Hines)



KCAG 6/5/2020

Rick Hines, Jim Cooley and Mike Modlin (left to right) with some of the rescuees

Speleology, the journal of the Missouri Speleological Survey, from the 40-cubic-yard dumpster in front of recently deceased Bill Pfantz’s house. Bill’s family, not realizing that the 7,000 caving magazines in Bill’s basement represented the entire unsold inventory of over 50 years of the MSS journal, had tossed them into a large dumpster, where they were subsequently rained on. The dumpster was in fact due to be removed that Friday. Fortunately, some of the magazines were not ruined by water damage and could with great effort be retrieved. Don Dunham took some of them back to St. Louis that day, and stored most of them in a storage unit in Kansas City. He has since received the balance and taken them all back to St. Louis, where the laborious task of separating them back into separate issues remains.



Bill Gee and Seth Colston survey at one of six entrances to newly reported Just Low With A Flow Cave, in Shannon County

June 10th - 12th - Cooley and Mike Modlin ridgewalked the Piney Creek Wilderness area, without finding any new caves. After that, Cooley moved on to Butler Hollow in Barry Co., where for three days he monitored and did lock maintenance on 15 cave and mine gates, most of which he built, in the last five years. He also measured for and designed a new cupola gate. **June 21st - 24th** - Cooley, Gee and KCAG’s Seth Colston returned to the large private tract in northern Shannon Co.,



**Unusual Mobile Snow-White Cave
Formation discovered in Shannon County**

where they ridgewalked, discovered and surveyed two new caves (131-foot-long, six entrance Just Low with a Flow Cave, and 33-foot-long Bhudda's Shrine Cave). They also continued two existing survey projects, one of which they finished, a 682-foot-long tunnel cave. **June 25th** - Cooley and Colston continued on to Ozark Co., MO, where they measured the entrance to a cave containing a gray bat colony for a potential bat-friendly cave gate, and assessed the substantial logistical challenges. **June 20th** - Kristen Godfrey led a novice trip to Perkins Cave in Camden Co., with eight novices. Five had never been on a grotto trip before. Masks were worn, and social distancing was practiced. A week later, Krista Bartel led seven cavers back to Perkins Cave, as part of a weekend memorial celebration in honor of Kerry Rowland.--Jim Cooley

Springfield Plateau Grotto (SPG). **May 9th** —Jon and Alicia Beard were invited by the owner to check damage to a column in Meramec Caverns (Franklin Co). Tentative plans are to make a repair in the fall season later in the year. **June 4th** -- Treavor Bussard, Jon Beard, Matt Bumgardner and Max White visited the entrance area of Garrison Cave #2 (Christian Co) to check the cave gate and lock, look for biota and refill illegal looter pits in the floor. **June 12th** —Jon Beard conducted some stalactite restoration work in Fitzpatrick Cave (Christian Co), finding three matching piece/base pairs. These will later be rejoined using epoxy and pins. **June 16th, 24th, 26th** —Jon and Alicia Beard mapped the newly landscaped surface at or near the new parking area of Fantastic Caverns (Greene Co) to map dye injection areas conducted by Tom Aley earlier in the year. Tom was sent the map on the 28th. **June 20th**—Brandon Van Dalsem, Treavor Bussard and Jon Beard checked out Bear Cave (Lawrence Co) on behalf of the new landowner who wanted to know about it. As there was almost no information in the Missouri cave database, this was a fact-finding mission. The cave is about 600 feet in length with a few short tributary passages, developed in the Burlington Limestone. The cave is almost entirely a crawlway in mud and cobble. Fauna was recorded. Brandon and Treavor took some photos.--Material provided by Jonathan Beard, Report by Max White.

Lake Ozarks Grotto (LOG). Grotto members have been extremely saddened by the loss of two of our active members in the past five months. Kerry Rowland, who passed away in December 2019, was a LOG member since the 1975 and a charter founding member of the MCKC. He was one of the seven people who attended meetings and working on the logistics of the organization. Kerry's Mom hosted a Celebration of life for Kerry at Lake of the Ozarks State Park #1 on June 27th. LOG member, Buzz Caldwell, attended and reported a large crowd in attendance. He said current members, Kira Rowland and Jason Synder were there, along with former members Steve Atteberry and Darren Donley. In May, we lost Bill Pfantz, an active grotto member since 1989. He was serving as the Circulation Manager for *Missouri Speleology*. Our grotto has not had any meetings so far this year so none of us had seen Bill recently but kept in contact by email. Bill's website on rock art of Missouri is still up but may not be for long. I am sure he had many paper files which were destroyed by his family when they cleaned out his house and threw everything in a large dumpster. Gary & I did make a trip to Kansas City to meet Don & Jan Dunham at the storage shed to pick up *Missouri Speleology*. The bonus on the trip was stopping at Les Bourgeois Winery at Rocheport on the way home. In our defense, we had to have something to eat, right??? (By the way, the wine was good, too.) Goodwin project — Klaus Leidenfrost has been doing some work there.—Alberta Zumwalt

MSS OFFICERS:

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MSS Caving website: www.ozarkcaving.com Maintained by Joel Laws

Carroll Cave Conservancy Website – <http://www.carrollcave.org>

MCKC website – <http://www.mocavesandkarst.org>

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

Petroglyphs, Inscriptions & Pictographs: rockartmo.com (Bill Pfantz’ website)

CALENDAR:

July 24th, 2020 – Carroll Cave Conservancy Annual Meeting – 10 am CDT. The meeting will be held via Zoom video conference.

Zoom meeting number is 869 8201 1701

Direct link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86982011701>

Business will be election of officers for next 2 years. Current CCC members will received a ballot by email. All conservancy members are encouraged to attend. Others are also welcome to attend. – Taken from CCC website.

Sept. 1st – Next Liaison deadline.

