

THE MSS LIAISON

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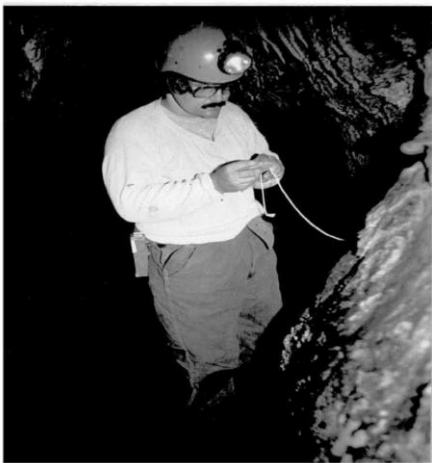
November - December 2015

AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS:

CHOUTEAU-KCAG-LEG-LOG-MMV-MSM-MVG-OHG-

PEG-SPG-SEMO-MCKC-CCC-CAIRN.

Subscription rate is \$10.00 per year, send check or money order to the Editor, Gary Zumwalt, 1681 State Route D, Lohman, MO 65053. Telephone: 573-782-3560.



Remembering: Mark Oliver. If you walk along a Passageway, in the depths where there is no day. Listen.....for the silence that is now my voice. Look.....for the path that was my choice; and treasure for me those caverns beautiful and stark, where it is forever dark. For any light that shines there should be brought by those who care..... (Reprint from *Liasion* June 1991). **Mark Oliver** grew up in Rockford Illinois where his passion for caves developed. Often times led Boy Scout trips into the local caves to increase his knowledge of caves. Mark was an active member of the Rock River Grotto. **In 1975**, Mark moved to Carbondale IL to start his studies at Southern Illinois Univ., once there he became a member of the Little Egypt Student Grotto. Over the years, he proved himself a leader and became their Grotto President for the year 1975-1976. In the following years, Mark became a proficient caver honing his skills and knowledge of caves and karst

topology in Perry County Missouri along with many other areas of Missouri. His name is on maps of many of the significant caves as a contributing cartographer and surveyor: Fisher Cave in Meramec Park, Onondaga Cave in Onondaga State Park, Meramec Caverns, Berome Moore, and Mystery Cave both of these in Perry County. Along with countless others in Perry County Missouri. **In 1979**, Mark relocated to O'Fallon IL; joined the Middle Mississippi Valley Grotto. During his membership in MMV his many accomplishments include: coordinating a week-long field trip to Perry County for the 8th International Congress of Speleology, serving as the President of MMV, serving as the Vice President and President of the MSS, becoming active in the Missouri Academy of Science, a member of the National Speleological Society, president of the MVOR. Mark's passion for the advancement of Speleology did not stop there. In 1982, Mark became the project coordinator of the Perryville city Project. A job that he took over when Tex Yokum moved into the world of cavers of the past. Mark acted as the chief liaison between the City of Perryville, the local landowners and other cavers equally devoted to the project. Due to Mark's efforts, as well as many other Missouri and Illinois cavers, the MSS received the President's Volunteer in Action Award. While Mark himself was recognized by receiving the Lester B. Dill award. **Mark's accomplishments** during his tenure as a member of the MSS also included: the adoption of the Articles of Cooperation between the MSS and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The MSS also started developing a membership and administrative manual so that the guiding principles would be passed on to the new individuals stepping into Leadership roles in the MSS. In his strives to make the MSS more well-known and respected in the Science Community, Mark helped in the development of a portable display of the MSS's history and Cave Conservation. At the same time, Mark and a team of dedicated cavers worked on a brochure that would

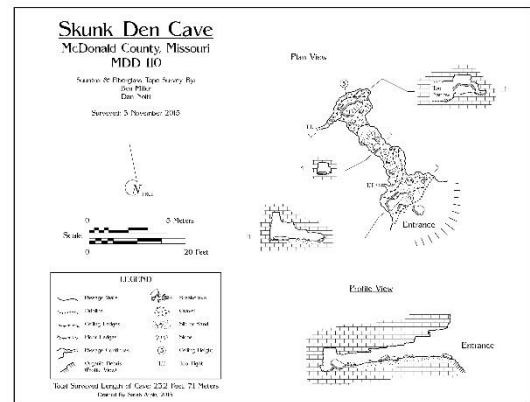
further the advancement of the MSS and its goals. Two other projects that I have neglected to speak to were: the Grand Gulf State Park mapping project and the travelling to Pinedell Arkansas in support of the local government trying to stop one of the largest Poultry processing plants from “dumping” chicken renderings into the local landfills. **I’ve spoken** of the many and varied accomplishments of Mark Oliver but have one more individual who was also instrumental in contributing to his success. Mark met and later married Marie Wakefield who saw and encouraged Mark’s passions in the World of Speleology. As Mark’s knowledge and skills advanced, Marie was always there to help whether it was in how to approach a project or dealing with his many articles. **Marie moved** to Germany in 1987 to serve as a civilian in the US Army; Mark soon followed. While in Germany, Mark was able to visit some of Europe’s karst landscapes. **Mark Oliver** was a man with a passion – to wander far and near ---but was always looking to understand the significance of Karst topology and where the “dark” and endless passages lead. Myself and many others from the world of Speleology fondly remember this man and his passions.—Pam Saberton

Missouri Speleological Survey Files Report for October - December 2015. Wow, such a vast amount of information has come in this year that it is hard to keep track of who sent what and when. And material is still coming in. Major notes include the creation of qualified point locations for the entire state and an updated maps table with over 4200 records. The other huge advancement is the addition of the fully functional faunal records table, which now enables us to enter our own faunal records in our own database and have each occurrence linked to a point location. **Many, or most**, of these records are coming in already in FileMaker format. Expect that we will widen the circle of contributors with run-time versions of the database (NB: training required!) **Here**, in alphabetical order (and no doubt incomplete) are the contributors and their contributions. **Kirsten Alvey** sent a pile of locations from Boone County. Some are new caves and others are revised locations. **Jon Beard** sent: 42 new faunal records; New cave for Greene County; New cave/shelter for Christian on MTNF; Four new cave maps from Barry County on MTNF land; Map of Pinnacle Cave in Cedar County; Map of an interesting karst area/cave in Christian County; FileMaker records of three new caves in Barry County, found by Jon and Matt Bumgardner; FileMaker records for three new caves in Christian County, all on MTNF land, and a map of one of them: Calico Rock Cave; A beautiful map of Lowell Cave, Fuson CA, Wright County. This is a result of numerous trips by Jon over several months. The work was done under a permit from the MDC. Map of Calico Rock Cave in Christian County on MTNF land; Nice map of the Low Arch area caves (five of them) in Lost Hill Park, Greene County; One hundred forty new faunal records from cave trips over the years. Jon has been digging through his records pulling these out, now that we have somewhere for them to go. Twenty-two new FileMaker records for the main table of the database including a number of new caves for Christian County; A new point location file for Christian County; A map of Miners Cave in Christian County. Jon does a good job of showing the lithology and geologic formations on his maps, something a lot of us are doing these days. It really helps with understanding cave formation processes. **Josh Brewer** sent: Two new cave maps from Pulaski County, originally drawn by James Corsentino and finished by Josh; A map of Skunk Den Cave, McDonald County drafted by **Sara Arpin** of New Zealand,



Jon Beard – Lowell Cave

which probably constitutes the submission from the greatest distance. Map of Cliff Side Cave and Green Bluff Shelter, both from McDonald County. **Matt Bumgardner** sent: Three new cave locations for Barry County; Digital piles of photographs from various caves. **Shelly Colatskie** of MDC sent: Information on bristly crayfish sites near Wilsons Creek NB; A new cave location and photos from St. Clair County (info also provided by Aimee Coy, private lands biologist.); Information on a pit on quarry property in Jefferson County (owners are not interested in visitation). **Jim Cooley** sent: Faunal record and a new completed record for Santa Fe



Skunk Den Cave by Sarah Arpin

Trail Spring Cave, certainly an important historical site along the westward migration trails; New record for James Brothers Cave in Jackson County, named for a couple of bank examiners; New faunal records for a cave in Pulaski County and four from Lake Ozarks SP; Two new caves from Ripley County, which gives it 21. There are many more caves hiding out there in this county, which is bisected by the Current River; Map of Green Knees Cave, Oregon County; Photos of several caves from Cloud Nine Ranch. Faunal records and monitoring records from Camden, Carter, and Ripley counties; New cave from Camden County and several revised database records from various places; Draft map of Pin Oak Cave in Lake Ozarks State Park; Map of Accident Cave, MTNF Oregon County; Numerous (like >100) faunal and use monitoring records from caves in and around Ozark Riverways; Database records for three new caves in the Ozark Riverways; Map of Baptizing Hole Triangle Cave in the Ozark Riverways.

James Corsentino sent: Draft version of Folly Cave, Pulaski County. **Spike Crews** sent: Map of Joint Shelter Cave on MDC land in Phelps County; 24 new faunal records from USFS caves in Pulaski County; Four new cave reports from Alex Litsch; Monitoring records on several FS caves. The MSM folks, including Alex and Jessica Self, are doing a great job of relocating, monitoring, and bio-inventorying FS caves on the Rolla/Houston District. Map of Wreck (or Wrecked) Cave, Pulaski County, which Spike finished from a James Corsentino draft. **Brenda Goodnight** sent: Several monitoring reports and faunal records from the Ozark Riverways and Mark Twain National Forest. It's great to see so many people contributing new faunal records. **Ken Grush** sent: Wonderful new updated cave map records table; Entire backup archive of cave maps, some 4700 of them; twelve new related records for caves. **Eric Hertzler** sent: Map of Rank Cave, Christian County; Map of two Linden Caves, Christian County. **Scott House** added: A bunch of revisions from various locations; Two new caves from Douglas County; Numerous monitoring records from various places; Location revisions and new caves from Howell County accomplished by Mark Jones, Rick Haley, etal; Maps of Skull Cave, Robinson Hollow Cave, Dugout Cave, and Grassy Falls Cave, all in Douglas County on MTNF land; Maps of Blue Spring Shelter, Owls Bluff Cave, and Nature Trail Cave from Ozark County, MTNF; Map of Noblett Creek Cave in Howell County on MTNF; Maps of the following caves and cavelets on MTNF in Howell County as surveyed by Jones, Haley, etal: Door to Door, Cartridge, Twin Sinks 1, Twin sinks 2, Camel Cricket, Walking Stick, and Omega Cave. A pile of other digital maps that had escaped being sent in earlier; incorporated everything that was sent in by everyone else. 😊 **Mark Jones** sent: A pile of trip reports which get added to the related records. And this was followed by even more reports. **Dan Lamping** sent: Faunal records and trip report from Carroll Cave; Map of Hanley Cave & Western Turkey Cave on MTNF land in Phelps County; Faunal records from monitoring trips to several Pioneer Forest caves; New records, including directions for a couple of caves on Ozark Riverways; Several database records for Banker Hollow Cave, Shannon County; Faunal records from SH Cave, Shannon County. **Joe Light** sent: A cave report on a large cave in Crawford County; Scans of old newspaper reports on Onondaga Cave, Indian Creek Caverns, and The Devils Icebox. **Alex Litsch** sent: New monitoring reports for two caves in Jefferson County that he and the other Alex (Roberts) did. **Chad McCain** sent in: Map of Blue Hole Shelter Cave in Howell County, MTNF; Map of Quick Cave in Christian County, MTNF; Draft of Jim Ridge Cave, Howell County, MTNF; Map of Pinnacle Cave, a new cave from Bollinger County. That makes five in a county that has plenty of good geology and several large stream valleys. Four new cave reports (in the database format no less!) from Ste. Genevieve County, plus location corrections and photos; Trip report, map, overlays, etc. for an interesting project under Ste. Genevieve in which Chad and an ace team mapped a storm drainage cave. Great local publicity as well; our work with Perryville helped pave the way for this effort. Trip reports and new FileMaker record for Fairhill Farm Cave in Perry County; Map of Jim Ridge Cave in Howell County (MTNF); An overlay map of Fairhill Farm Cave in Perry County; Finished maps of Talus Cave and Pointed Boulder Cave, plus working maps of Gegg Cave, all in Ste. Genevieve County; Database records and description for a new cave in Jefferson County, which Chad mapped and inventoried with Shelly Colatskie; New cave reports for Perry County. **Adam Marty** sent: Information on Ashley Cave in Dent County. **Ben Miller** sent: Very nice and detailed map of Fleming Cave on MDC Huzzah CA; FileMaker records for eight new caves, five from Barry and three from McDonald County; Maps of Bone Cave and Tornado Cave, McDonald County; map of Trapper Cave, Crawford County; Map of Little Spring Cave, Boone County; Maps of Fissile Spring Cave and Pyramid Cave in McDonald County. **Jim Ruedin** sent: Photos and information on a cave in Warren County. **Rhonda Rimer** of MDC sent: Faunal records for a Christian County cave. **Alex Roberts** sent: New cave location and photo



Fishing spider in a USFS cave by Jessical Self

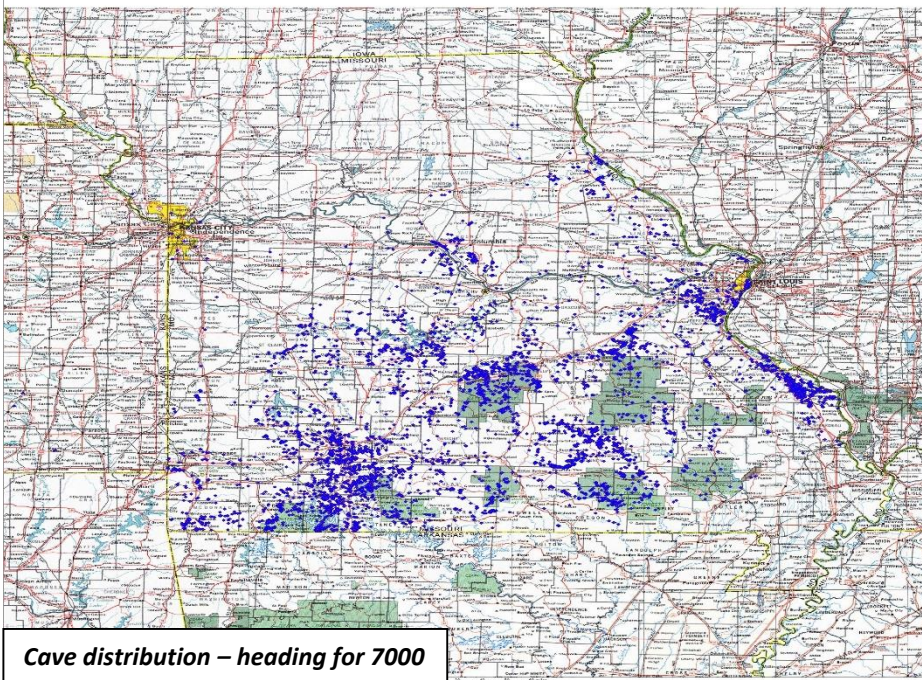
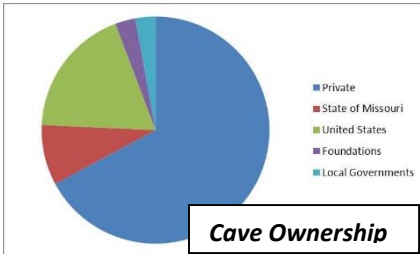
from Crawford County. Tony Schmitt sent: Photos of cave entrances in Greensfelder Park, St. Louis County.

Jessica Self sent: Photographs of several FS caves in Phelps and Pulaski Counties, plus results from several

monitoring trips. **Mike Slay** (The Nature Conservancy, Arkansas) sent: A preliminary report on findings under the city of Perryville, showing how “lively” the place is, a marked improvement over the years. **Mick Sutton** sent: Brand new species table for the database showing 1138 different species records. (One record per species found in a Missouri cave.) A number of new monitoring records for the database; New points file for Mark Twain National Forest; New cave from Crawford County on MTNF; Maps of two caves on MTNF (Pulaski County) mapped by Andy Free, Jessica Self, and

Jacob Self; Over 300 new faunal records, many from Missouri Speleology; One map showing three caves in a cluster along the St. Francis River in Madison County (MTNF); Map of 500 foot-long Crane Pond Creek Cave in

River in Madison County (MTNF); White Pine Cave, Phelps County, a 2,000 foot long feature on MTNF land; Eight-eight new faunal records from field investigations And past records; a draft version of the second sheet of Powder Mill Creek Cave. **Whew!** As of this writing, in late December, there are nearly 7000 cave entrances documented in the data, along with 4700+ map records, 11900+ report records, 2100+ public-use monitoring records, and 20900+ faunal records. – Scott House, Missouri Cave Database, 1606 Luce St., Cape Girardeau, MO 63701. 573-651-3782 Scott_house@hotmail.com



Springfield Plateau Grotto. Nov 1st—Matt Bumgardner and Jon Beard joined Scott House and Don Dunham in the mapping of Blue Spring Shelter, Owls Bluff and Nature Trail Caves (Ozark Co). While that was happening, Brandon Van Dalsem joined Richard Young, Mark Jones and Rick Haley in the mapping of some small caves in Twin Sinks (Howell Co). These efforts were part of CRF monitoring and mapping of national forest caves. **Nov 2nd**—As part of a float trip on the North Fork River to document and monitor caves on Mark Twain National Forest, Brandon Van Dalsem and Mark Jones assisted Jon Beard in the mapping of some of the interior portions of Huffman Cave (Douglas Co) while Scott House was assisted by Richard Young, Rick Haley and Don Dunham in the mapping of the cave’s entrance passage and some of its upper level. **Nov 7th**—Jon Beard continued the restoration efforts in Fitzpatrick Cave (Christian Co) by cleaning broken speleothem pieces and attempting to find from where they were broken by vandals prior to the cave’s 2014 gating. He counted 16 pips, 6 pickerel frogs and 46 hibernating herald moths. He was later joined by Luke Buzzard and a friend. At the end of the day, they visited parts of adjacent Breakdown Cave where 62 pips were counted. **Nov 8th**—Jon Beard assisted MSU grad student Olivia Graves in the continuing study of urban vs. rural salamander populations in caves. In Dream Cave (Ozark Co), they found 17 salamanders which Olivia measured, then marked with blue dots near their front shoulders. They also counted 610 pips and three northern bats and four pickerel frogs. Three of the salamanders (one dark sided and two grotto were gravid females with developing eggs visible in their torsos). **Nov 10th**—Jon Beard, representing SPG, participated in a winter bat monitoring schedule meeting in Rolla, attended by representatives of state and federal agencies, Scott House of the CRF and Kirsten Alvey and Susan Wilkinson of Mo. Bat Census. **Nov 11th**—Doug Gouzie and Jon Beard led the MSU speleology class through Crystal Caverns

(Barry Co) to discuss the cave and its features. The cave has been featured the past few years on the several field trips the class takes to selected caves in Missouri. Two cave salamanders were seen, one of which was devoid of pigment on parts of its body (piebald). **Nov 12th**—Eric Hertzler was assisted by Jon Beard in the completion of the CRF survey of Blue Ridge Karst Window (Christian Co) in Mark Twain National Forest. This is a short cave developed in the Pierson Limestone with a joint-determined open joint that leads to a few dozen feet of passage. The unenterable wet-weather resurgence is included in the survey. Later that night, SPG held its annual “caverns” meeting in the Auditorium Room of Fantastic Caverns. After the meeting, members and a few guests strolled through the tour portions of the cave. **Nov 13th**—Charley and Abby Young, Bill Palmer and Roy Gold assisted Jon Beard in the continuing survey of Big Bear Cave (Ozark Co). While Jon sketched, the others photographed slimy salamander mommas, eggs and newborns. They also briefly visited Little Bear Cave across the hollow). **Nov 14th**—Jon Beard and CAIRN’s Craig Williams and Jessi Schoenewies checked three caves and one shelter for archaeology and biota in Mark Twain National Forest in Christian County. One has an authenticated “headless figure” petroglyph 300 feet into the cave, a place accessed through a tight squeeze. Jessi took a series of photos of the petroglyph with a mounted 8 ball (billiard ball) that will be used to make a 3D image. The 8 ball’s reflections of the camera flash will enable software to make a 3D image. **Nov 19th**—Charley Young and Brandon Van Dalsem assisted Jon Beard in mop-up survey in Lowell Cave (Wright Co) on MDC property to complete the CRF survey project of the long cave. Afterwards, the three monitored biology in Little Smittle Cave across the creek, counting 125 pipistrelles, a few dozen salamander larvae, three cave salamanders, four grotto salamanders and four golden crayfish. Photo documentation of some of the critters and cave features were taken. **Nov 21st-22nd**—Brandon Van Dalsem, Matt Bumgardner and Bethany Bruman participated in a CRF weekend in the Buffalo National River area with other CRF cavers. **Nov 22nd**—Jon Beard split time between cleaning broken speleothem pieces in Paul’s Gallery and supervising boy scouts in cleaning flowstone in the lower level of Fitzpatrick Cave (Christian Co). About 100 feet of complex flowstone was cleaned including areas of microgours and cave coral encrusted flowstone as well as a few dozen pieces of speleothems to be rejoined later to their original places. Jon returned to Fitzpatrick for additional speleothem cleaning on Nov 24th. **Nov 23rd**—Jon Beard was called by a Taney County resident to visit a cave on a property he recently purchased. After checking, Jon concluded it was Pennington Cave, a short cave with tanks, PVC piping and two concrete dams. The owner plans to remove the human modifications. Five cave salamanders, crickets and mosquitoes were the only biota observed. **Later**, Jon presented a cave conservation program to Nixa scouts and their parents that included information about WNS and endangered species. **Nov 25th**—Roy Gold assisted Jon Beard in some mop-up sketching in the late Bob Taylor’s survey of Pinnacle Cave (Cedar Co). While there, the two also monitored and photographed nearby Bear Creek Cave. The two caves are developed below a cap of Pennsylvanian sandstone in the Burlington and Pierson Limestones. The Pierson appears to be very dolomitic as pink dolomite crystallization can be seen on some of the ceiling surfaces. One pip, three herald moths, a black rat snake, a slug and several camel crickets were seen in Bear Creek Cave. A herald moth and some crickets were found in Pinnacle as well as profuse scat from a coyote. **Nov 29th**—Eric Hertzler assisted Jon Beard in the beginning of the survey of Dripping Cave (Christian Co) on Mark Twain National Forest as part of CRF projects in the area. The first half of the 200-foot cave was mapped this day, awaiting drier conditions to map the second half later. Past the entrance, the cave is all low crawlway until the very end where there is a 60-foot long genesis dome about 20 feet tall. **Dec 1st**—Brandon Van Dalsem, his companion Taylor and Jon Beard conducted a bat count of Pearson Creek Cave (Greene Co) and picked up some remaining small pieces of trash as part of the final stages of restoration of the cave. The cave was gated in 2011 and has been managed by SPG. A total of 18 pips and 3 slimy salamanders were found. **Dec 4th**—Eric Hertzler and Jon Beard met with the new landowner of Coyote Cave (Christian Co), a 400-foot cave developed in the Cotter Dolomite, mapped by Ken Thomson et al in 2002. The owner wants to have it gated to protect the speleothems and biota from vandals. Eric and Jon measured for a gate that Jon will design. The owner will pay for materials—might be gated in the spring sometime. Afterwards, Eric and Jon put on their CRF hats and ridgewalked not far away, finding two small undocumented caves, Calico Rock Cave and Angular Cave, both developed in the Pierson Limestone. Eric assisted Jon in the survey of Calico Rock Cave. **Dec 5th**—Colton Zirkle, Charley Young, Abby Young, Brandon Van Dalsem, Kendall Loyd, Jim Huckins, Roy Gold, Jon Beard and Kevin Feltz spent the day in Crystal Caverns (Barry Co). While everyone else involved themselves with photography, Colton and Kendall searched for biology while Jon worked on survey cross sections of various passages within the 2,000-foot cave. Ten cave

salamanders (two of them piebald) and one pickerel frog were seen. **Dec 6th**—Eric Hertzler and Jon Beard ridgewalked in Mark Twain National Forest in Christian County, documenting a cave they named Mirror Cave. It wasn't entered past 15 feet due to a grim bellycrawl in water that will be targeted for further investigation in drier times. A distometer reading of 65 feet was hopeful. **Dec 8th**—Alicia assisted husband Jon Beard in the completion of the survey of the group of small caves collectively mapped as the Low Arch Caves. There are five cave remnants here, known in the cave database as Cozy Cave, Crevice Cave, Low Arch Cave, Low Arch Cave #2 and the Low Arch for which the latter two are named. The map includes all five features as well as the joint-determined cutters and pinnacles between them. **December 11th**—Jon Beard hosted Olivia Graves and Josh Harmon of Missouri State University and Kevin Hedgpeth and Rhonda Rimer of the Missouri Dept. of Conservation in a biological trip to Dream Cave (Ozark County). While Olivia and Josh hunted for and captured salamanders (and frogs) for study, Rhonda swabbed them to have the swabs tested for the chytrid fungus. While that was going on, Jon and others were counting bats along the way (4,000 feet of the 6,023-foot cave). On the way out, Olivia measured and marked the captured salamanders while Josh recorded the data before Olivia set the salamanders free in the areas in which they were captured. 966 pips and 6 northern bats were counted as well as two species of amphipods, one cave, seven dark-sided, nine grotto and three larval salamanders and four pickerel frogs were documented. **Dec 12th**—A spur of the moment trip to Baldknobbers Cave (Christian Co) was taken by Eric Hertzler and Jon Beard. This cave, previously partially mapped in 1972, and occupying the first accession number of the county's caves, needed a more complete and detailed map, so with Eric sketching and Jon acting as lead tape, the first 374 feet were surveyed before it got late. The entrance is 124 feet wide, 27 feet tall—very misleading as the rest of the cave, except at the very end, is a crawlway on cobble and gravel. With some 150 feet or so remaining, there will be a return trip. Despite its share of raccoon droppings, the cave's biology seen was few and far between, consisting of a small terrestrial white bug (a small dipluran?) and camel crickets. **Dec 13th**—Brandon Van Dalsem, Bill Luke and Jon Beard gathered at the entrance of Shoal Creek Cave (Newton Co) to extend the survey of this 2,000-foot cave gated last winter. Normally it is a dry cave. Today, the entrance was gushing a torrent of water, and the hillside to the south was gushing the cave's water in three more torrents. Bill looked at the cave gate some 17 feet into the cave, and it was half-immersed in rushing water. A good reminder of Scottish poet Robert Burns' "To A Mouse" in which he states "The best laid schemes o' Mice an' Men Gang aft agley." We took a few photos of the cascades, shrugged our shoulders and went our ways. **Also** —Matt Bumgardner and Bethany Bruman spent the day in Arkansas photographing cave features. **Dec 16th**—Jon Beard counted 20 pips, 5 small brown moths and two cave webworms in Pearson Creek Cave (Greene Co) as part of his monthly winter check of bats in this cave. Generally the bat population steadily has increased from November through March. **Dec 18th**—Eric Hertzler and Jon Beard returned to Bald Knobbers Cave (Christian Co), but before resuming the survey, the landowner had mentioned a couple of caves nearby. Eric and Jon found three small caves without much difficulty, naming them Creekside, Cora and Parallel Caves. Parallel was the longest with about 70 feet of passage, all caves in the Pierson Limestone. Eric and Jon then went to Bald Knobbers Cave, where they extended the survey past the wall-to-wall pool. One more trip is needed to finish the ~500-foot survey. **Dec 19th**—Eric Hertzler did some ridgewalking in Christian County, documenting, photographing and mapping Rank Cave, the 323rd known cave in the county (there are only four Missouri counties with more caves documented). The cave is 68 feet in length with three distinct passages. **Dec 19-21**—Brandon Van Dalsem, Matt Bumgardner, Bethany Bruman and Jon Beard were among several CRF cavers spending the week and/or weekend monitoring, GPSing, photo documenting and surveying several caves within the Buffalo National River park in Arkansas. The weekend began with a cave biology training session headed by the Nature Conservancy's Mike Slay. Caves monitored and/or surveyed included Cob Cave, Great Disappointment Cave, Little Canyon Cave, Pit Stop Cave, Tumbling Rock Cave, Tunnel Sink Cave and Winding Staircase Caves #1 and #2. **Dec 23rd**—Jon Beard cleaned several dozen broken speleothem pieces in Fitzpatrick Cave (Christian Co) to prepare them for future reattachments. While there, Jon counted 2 fishing spiders, 22 pips, 35 herald moths, 81 pickerel frogs and an estimated 500 juvenile camel crickets. **Dec 26th**—Eric Hertzler assisted Jon Beard in the mapping of Miners Cave (Christian Co), a 300-foot cave formed in the Compton Limestone, but due to breakdown has migrated slightly upward into the Northview Shale with room ceilings in the Pierson Limestone. Biota noted: 39 pips, 1 cave salamander, and aquatic isopods. **Dec 28th**—Jon Beard visited the flooded entrance areas of Garrison Cave #2 and Fitzpatrick Cave (Christian Co) to take photos. Fitzpatrick was submerged.—Max White

Middle Mississippi Valley Grotto. Late August - Brett and Lisa Meisel, Dane Driskill and Laura Belarbi visited Brazeau Creek Caves in southeastern Missouri. They toured the Lucky Farm and Brazeau Creek and located some small caves. They also obtained several leads to other caves from the local farmer. **Aug. 31st** - Brett Meisel and two other guys visited Tom Moore Cave via the Pit Passage entrance with the intent of locating Grotto Sculpin. As they headed up toward Berome Moore they smelled fumes and turned around. Later some MDC people showed up and they all entered Berome Moore Cave. Halfway down the entrance passage a paint fume smell was detected. A follow-up trip is needed to further investigate. See below for two follow-up trips. **Sept. 3rd** - Jo Schaper and Nonna Featherston visited Talking Rocks Cavern in Branson, MO. The purpose of the trip was to gather information for a writing project on lesser known show caves. The cave is leased by Bruce Herschend. The trip was reported to be 26 steps down but 150 steps back up. **Sept. 9th** - Don Dunham and Brett Meisel visited Berome Moore Cave to investigate a gasoline/paint odor. The odor seemed to be coming from Coon Passage. A follow up trip was planned to get more specific readings. Don Dunham and some DNR employees out of the Poplar Bluff office visited Berome Moore Cave to get sniffer readings of the cave odor to determine the VOC (Volatile Organic Compound) level. They found a reading of 4.5 PPM in Coon Passage. This level was not considered to pose any danger. **Sept.??** - Dane Driskill and Laura Belarbi visited Bear Cave in Buchanan, Michigan. This cave is part of Bear Cave RV Resort & Campground in Southwestern Michigan. **Oct.** - Jim Sherrell and Chris Goodson from SEMO visited the Historic Rimstone River Cave. The Shalpert Pit entrance had been filled by a renting farmer, apparently without the landowner's permission. The landowner has stated that we can re-open the entrance if we want to. **Also** - Jim and James Sherrell, Brian McCalister, Dane Driskill and Jimmy Powel attended a talk about Urigs Cave in St. Louis by Earl Hancock. There were old newspaper clippings and topo maps available for viewing. Earl had been in the cave when the Colosseum Building was torn down. **Oct. 18th** - Lois Walsh organized a field trip to Goodwin Sink with Susan Flader, Meredith Donaldson, Carol & Wes Boschart, Eleanor Hoefel and Ed Zamenski. These six MPA (Missouri Parks Association) members were met by Klaus Leidenfrost and Ken Long, both of whom gave an explanation of the Goodwin Sink MCKC project and how it connects to HaHaTonka Spring. This was during the MPA Annual Members Event at Bennett Spring State Park. **Oct. 30th - Nov. 5th** - Don Dunham and several other CRF members completed mapping of 15 caves in the North Fork River area in Southern Missouri. Along with the surveying, a bio inventory was taken in the caves. Of the surveyed caves, five were previously unknown to the cave files. This was the second expedition to this area.— Doug Leer

Lake Ozarks Grotto. Nov. - Officers re-elected: Ken Long, Chairman; Christen Easter, Vice-Chairman; Alberta Zumwalt, Secretary-Treasurer; Gary Zumwalt, MSS Director. Permanent positions: Dwight Weaver, historian, and Rosie Weaver, Librarian. Project contacts: Goodwin Sink and Kiesewetter Cave - Ken Long; Morgan Co. - Cliff Gill. **Oct.** - Krista Bartel purchased LOG's haunted cave props to use in the "spooky cave" event at Onondaga Cave with 46 volunteers. She reported no bats were seen during a Cathedral door-to-door trip. **Oct. 2nd - 4th** - Kerry & Kira Rowland visited Jason Isgrig Cave near Sullivan during MVOR. **Oct. 25th** - Ken Long led a grotto trip to Kiesewetter Cave to check on the condition of the cave. Attending: David & Nate Bassett, Gary Braman & Cammie Graves, Christen & Peyton Easter, Kyle & Kaitlyn Miller, Cliff Gill, Gary & Alberta Zumwalt, and Ken. Christen reported 16 bats with on visible signs of WNS. **Nov. 7th** - Goodwin Sink. Ken Long, along with Klaus Leidenfrost, 4 MST students and 2 Naturalists, cleaned up on top where the fence will be replaced and dug in the sink. **Nov. 8th** - Goodwin. Klaus, Maria Thompson, Susan (?), and Gary & Alberta Zumwalt put up a new orange plastic fence and signs along the road. Gary used his weed eater (brush cutter) along the fence and the road into the sink. Winter wheat seed and straw were spread. The silt barrier was reinforced and a new vinyl was put on the sediment trap. Rolls of flex duct were put back in the boxes and covered with vinyl. **Nov. 10th** - At our regular meeting: Dwight Weaver gave the presentation, "Searching for the Spelean History of Missouri," that he had given at the NSS Convention in Waynesville. Cliff Gill showed video pictures of the Kiesewetter trip. **Dec. 2nd** - Gary & Alberta Zumwalt met the Dunhams & the Leers at Montelle Winery, Augusta, to deliver issues of *Missouri Speleology* to Don. **Dec. 3rd** - Gary & Alberta Zumwalt met Klaus Leidenfrost at Goodwin to pump the water from the lower sediment trap. **Dec. 13th** - LOG's annual Xmas party.—Alberta Zumwalt

Kansas City Area Grotto. Nov. 5th- 8th - A CRF project team led by Jim Cooley and consisting of Scott House, Ken Grush, Richard Young, Mark Jones, Joe Williams (MSM), Dennis Novicky, Brenda Goodnight, George Bilbrey, Jay Bridgewater, Kirstin Alvey-Mudd (Chouteau), Susan Wilkinson, Alex Roberts (MSM), Alexander Litsch (MSM),



Wallace Cave gating-Ken Grush

Micca Nevins (MSM) and Jacob Belke (MSM) built a BCI-standard, bat-friendly cave gate on Wallace Cave (SHN-032), which is located near Devil's Well on the Ozark National Scenic Riverways. **Nov. 8th**- A CRF team led by Cooley and consisting of Scott House, Ken Grush,, Dennis Novicky, Brenda Goodnight, Jay Bridgewater, Kirstin Alvey-Mudd (Chouteau), Susan Wilkinson, Alex Roberts (MSM), Alexander Litsch (MSM), Micca Nevins (MSM) and Jacob Belke (MSM) used canoes to move generators and other gear and a fair bit of steel across the Current River to make numerous repairs and enhancements on Medlock Cave (SHN-006), which is owned by the LAD Foundation (Pioneer Forest) but under easement by The National Park Service as part of the Riverways.



Medlock Cave gate repairs – Ken Grush

Nov. 22nd- Jim Cooley, Kay Foglesong, and landowners Tara Wright and Bill Neer searched a 40-acre property for a lost cave entrance near Appleton City, Missouri, in St. Clair County. **Dec. 3rd**- A CRF team consisting of Jim Cooley, Ken Grush and Rita Worden monitored Pinnacle Bluff Cave (SHN-322), Sunset Cave (SHN-314), Blue Breakdown Cave (SHN-247), Blue Spring Tunnel (SHN-248), Flue Cave (SHN-138), and Hospital Cave (SHN-063) for the Ozark National Scenic Riverways. **Dec 4th**- A CRF team consisting of Jim Cooley, Ken Grush, Rita Worden, Greg Herin and George Bilbrey monitored Skylight Spring Cave (TEX-088), and then performed lock maintenance and monitoring at Jacks Fork Bat Cave (TEX-069) for the Ozark National Scenic Riverways. The team then monitored Little Crystal Cave (SHN-393) and the gray bat maternity site at the back of Nill Cave (SHN-285), at the latter site measuring guano piles, for the Ozark National Scenic Riverways. **Dec. 5th**- A CRF team consisting of Jim Cooley, Rita Worden and Alex Roberts monitored two vertical caves near Round Spring on the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, Flowstone Drop Cave (SHN-136) and Shaft Cave (SHN-074). Shaft Cave proved to host a wealth of biota, including



Flowstone Drop Cave -Jim Cooley

two live but sluggish copperheads (*Agkistrodon contortrix*), as well as other smaller, less interesting snakes. Hiking out to Flowstone Drop, the team also discovered an obscure small new cave, Little Hidey Hole Cave (SHN-659), which name says it all. Meanwhile, a second CRF team lead by Ken Grush and including Greg Herin monitored several caves in the Black Bluff area and up nearby Bear Hollow on the Jacks Fork River, south of Bacher Landing on the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, including Black Bluff Shelter (SHN-031), Black Bluff Cave (SHN-093), Bear Hollow Mud Cave (SHN-348), Bear Hollow Crawl Cave (SHN-350), Bear Hollow Cave #1 (SHN-351), Little Black Bluff Cave (SHN-354), Bear Track Cave (SHN--385), and Chimney Hideout



Little Hidey Hole Cave -Jim Cooley

Shelter (SHN-626). While hiking down from Bacher Landing to monitor these caves, Grush and Herin discovered two new caves, two-entrance Binocular Cave (SHN-179) and High Cave (SHN-658), which latter cave was named because of where the entrance sits on the hillside, NOT because of any intoxicant consumption by either discoverer. **Dec. 6th** - A CRF team led by Jim Cooley and consisting of Ken Grush and Rita



Binocular Cave & High Cave-Ken Grush

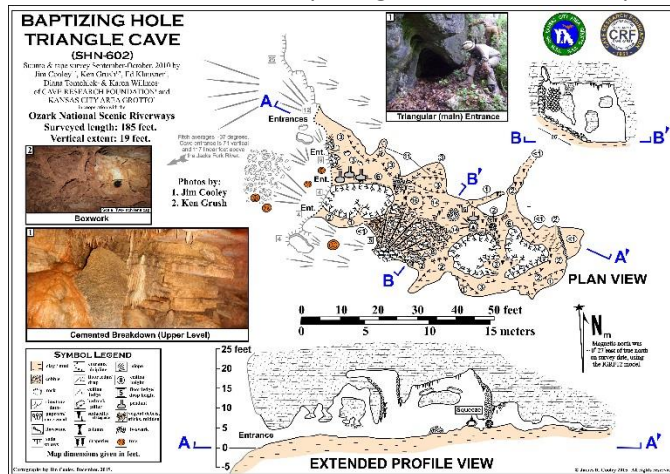
Worden met with Randy Long, our good friend and retired Acting Cave and Karst Manager for the Mark Twain National Forest, who lives off HH Highway in Shannon County. Long let us into gated Bankers Cave (SHN-009), where we did a biological inventory. Long then conducted



Troll in the Hole, Five Sisters Cave – Jim Cooley

us to a cave on his neighbor's property, the very picturesque Five Sisters Cave (SHN-656), and then to a second cave on Long's property, Conduit Cave (SHN-530), both of which we assessed for survey and inventoried for biota and human usage.

At Long's request, a CRF team led by Jim Cooley will be restarting the field work on the Bankers Cave survey, which has been stalled since 2001. **Dec. 8th**- A CRF team consisting of Jim Cooley and Ken Grush canoed across the Jacks Fork River at Baptizing Hole to monitor Baptizing Hole Spring Cave (SHN-379) and Baptizing Hole Cave (SHN-286).



We then climbed the steep slope to Baptizing Hole Triangle Cave (SHN-602) and completed the short but complex and challenging survey there. This map has now been completed and submitted to the MSS cave map database, and the Ozark National Scenic Riverways. **Dec. 9th**- Enroute back to Kansas City, Cooley joined a KCAG/Carroll Cave Conservancy team led by Rick Hines and including Tom Grant, to search for possible major water inputs (and – dare we hope – a human passable back door?) to Carroll Cave, walking the Barnett Hollow drainages down Kevin Jones and his siblings. Jones's father Archie used to own the land on which is located Archie Jones Cave. Unfortunately, on this trip, no caves were found, but we did meet an adjacent landowner who said he had caves and sinkholes on his

property, who agreed to show them to us in the near future. **Dec. 21st**- A CRF crew led by Jim Cooley and consisting of Mark Phillips, Joseph Goedecke (MSM), Shelly Colatskie (MDC), Ashley Madison (MDC) and Lisa Kleinschmidt (MDC) returned to Walnut Hollow Cave (SCL-005), located on upper Truman Lake and owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Because the trip had to be cut short for personal reasons particular to one member of the team, we were only able to net 50.8 feet of survey, at the bottom of a shaft that required a short rappel. **Dec. 23rd**- A KCAG/Carroll Cave Conservancy team led by Rick Hines and including Tom Grant and Jim Cooley returned to Camden County to continue the search for a connection to Carroll Cave. We met with the previously mentioned landowner, who showed us a new (to the MSS) cave we dubbed Old Toronto Road Spring Cave, which was assigned MSS accession number CAM-105. We then met with a second landowner and located on his property Wounded Knee Cave (CAM-029), which we got a good GPS location for, and then were shown by the same landowner to Archie Jones Cave (CAM-047). We got a good GPS location for Archie Jones, correcting the previous location by 602 meters. Cooley was provided survey notes and data for this cave by Eric Hertzler, and will continue the survey in this cave in conjunction with ongoing CRF survey projects at nearby Lake of the Ozarks State Park. This project will resume again in March, when we will be camping at the park and using boats and rappel to reach some of our target caves.-Jim Cooley

MSS OFFICERS.

President – Dan Lamping, 4946, St. Louis, MO 63123 314-775-8584 daniellamping@att.net

Vice-President – Scott House, 1606 Luce St., Cape Girardeau, MO 63701 573-651-3782
scott_house@hotmail.com

Treasurer - Don Dunham, 147 Ron de Lee, Arnold, MO 63010. 402-203-3191 don_g_dunham@yahoo.com

Secretary - Alberta Zumwalt, 1681 State Route D, Lohman, MO 65053. 573-782-3560 Gzumw@aol.com

MSS DIRECTORS.

CAIRN – Craig Williams, 5454 Mardel, St. Louis, MO 63109. 314-695-1012 cwilliams@cairstl.org
Chouteau – Rita Worden, P.O. Box 204, Jamestown, MO 65046. 573-673-3388 wordenr12323@yahoo.com
CCC – Krista Bartel, 625 Armour Blvd 3E, Kansas City, MO 64109. 816-812-5206. kbartel1088@gmail.com
KCAG – Jim Cooley, 819 W. 39th Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64111. 816-753-8111 coolstoi@kc.rr.com
LOG – Gary Zumwalt, 1681 State Route D, Lohman, MO 65053. 573-782-3560 Gzumw@aol.com
LEG – Al Quamen, P.O. Box 292, Carbondale, IL 62903. 618-549-2550 carbide@globaleyes.net
MCKC – Jon Beard, 923 E. Guinevere Ct., Springfield, MO 65807-3720. 417-887-7231 Mokanman@att.net
MMV – Doug Leer, 730 Lakeshore Meadow Dr., Wildwood, MO 63038. 636-207-8468 dogleer@gmail.com
MSM – Michael Bradford, 10830 Dennie Ct., Rolla, MO 65401. 573-201-1039 mcbg3c@mail.mst.edu
MVG – Tony Schmitt, 1227 Perdiz Ln., Fenton, MO 63026. 314-482-0516 Tonymarn2601@yahool.com
OHG – Bill Heim, 2025 W. FR 178, Springfield, MO 65810. 417-889-0640(H), 417-861-6716© build_it1@juno.com
PEG – Lorin O’Daniell, 4515 Faraon-Apt. F, St. Joseph, MO 64506. 816-646-3240 lodaniell@yahoo.com
SEMO – Chad McCain, 6676 Ike Dr., Barnhart, MO 63012. 573-513-5785 chads93GT@hotmail.com
SPG – Max White, 2748 W. Maplewood, Springfield, MO 65807. 417-880-8475 bildmwc@aol.com

ADDRESSES.

Affiliate Organizations – Jon Beard 923 E. Guinevere Ct., Springfield, MO 65807-3720. 417-887-7231 Mokanman@att.net
Missouri Speleology Circulation Manager- Bill Pfantz – Wmpfantz@aol.com
MSS Liaison editor - Gary Zumwalt 1681 State Route D, Lohman, MO 65053. 573-782-3560 Gzumw@aol.com
MSS store - Don Dunham, 147 Ron de Lee, Arnold, MO 63010. 402-203-3191 don_g_dunham@yahoo.com
Research committee - Jerry Vineyard 1113 N. 19th Ave., Barrington Springs, Ozark, MO 65721. 417-582-0063 JelenVnyrd@aol.com Other members – Oz Hawksley, Dwight Weaver, and David Ashley.
Historian-Dwight Weaver – 38 Village Marina Rd., Eldon, MO 65026. 573-365-1171 dwightweaver@charter.net
Cave Files - Scott House, 1606 Luce St., Cape Girardeau, MO 63701. 573-651-3782 scott_house@hotmail.com
MSS web site –www.mospeleo.org
Ozark Caving web site– www.ozarkcaving.com
Carroll Cave Conservancy website http://www.carrollcave.org
MCKC website – http://www.mocavesandkarst.org
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Free membership!
(Well, OK, the publication is extra.)

The Missouri Speleological Survey (MSS) is a not-for-profit corporation whose members are individuals and organizations engaged in study and research in speleology in the state of Missouri. The MSS actively promotes cave research within the state and cave conservation as a means of ensuring the continued availability of caves and their contents in the natural state. To implement these purposes, the MSS publishes a journal, a bi-monthly newsletter and cave maps.

The MSS was incorporated as a not-for-profit organization under the laws of Missouri in 1956. It is administered by a Board of Directors selected by affiliate organizations and an executive committee.

The MSS actually has no paid memberships. By original definition, folks who cooperate with the aims and goals of the MSS are considered "Cooperators."

The MSS publishes *Missouri Speleology*, a scientific journal, on a volume basis. Recent issue topics include: Aquatic Life in Caves along the Lower Current River MO, The Battle of the Sinkhole, Caves and Springs of St. Louis County MO, Garrison Cave #2 in Christian County MO, Biological Survey of Public Use Cave in Ozark National Scenic Riverways. See the reverse of this page for subscription information. The MSS also publishes a bi-monthly newsletter, *The Liaison*, which is distributed free through our website at www.moseleo.org. Those requiring a printed and mailed copy may subscribe through the editors. <http://www.mospeleo.org/>



MSS Liaison. Paper copies of the newsletter will be available for \$10.00 per year. Send check or money order to: MSS Liaison, c/o Gary Zumwalt, 1681 State Route D, Lohman, MO 65053.

MSS annual reports are due at the January meeting. The reports should be given to or sent to: Jon Beard, 923 E. Guinevere Ct., Springfield, MO 65807-3720. 417-887-7231 Mokanman@att.net

MSS affiliate fees are due at the January meeting. They should be given to or sent to: Don Dunham, 147 Ron de Lee, Arnold, MO 63010. 402-203-3191 don_g_dunham@yahoo.com

CCC owes for 2015 & 2016; everyone else owes for 2016 except MMV, KCAG & SEMO which have already paid.

Calendar:

January 23rd – MSS meeting – DGLS Annex, 111 Fairgrounds Rd., Rolla, MO. Building opens at 8 am – informal time to socialize, view maps, etc. Meeting starts at 1 pm. Everyone welcome!

January 23rd – MCKC meeting – DGLS Annex – 9 am.

April 29th-May 1st – Spring MVOR, sponsored by the MCKC, near Brumley, MO.

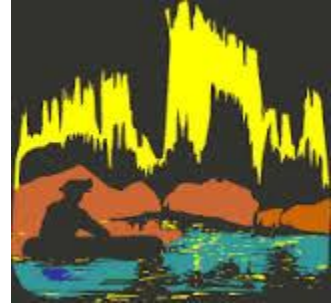
Missouri Speleological Survey

Winter Board Meeting Agenda

January 23, 2016

Division of Geology and Land Survey Annex Conference Room

111 Fairgrounds Road, Rolla, MO



Morning Session

- Building opens at 8:00 – informal time to socialize, view maps, etc.
- Cave Files Help Desk/Database tutorials, etc.

Administrative Business

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

Old Business

New Business

Projects and Announcements

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

Next meeting & Adjournment

