



**TAG Caver Volume 9 Issue 3**  
**Sewanee Mountain Grotto**

**TAG Caver** is the official newsletter of the Sewanee Mountain Grotto & is published on a quarterly basis. Sewanee Mountain Grotto is a non-profit internal organization of the National Speleological Society dedicated to the exploration, mapping and conservation of caves. If you are interested in joining the Sewanee Mountain Grotto we invite you to attend one of our monthly grotto meetings. Meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at various locations in the heart of TAG. A typical meeting starts with a potluck dinner at 6pm CST, followed by the meeting at 7pm. On occasion we also have special presentations following our meetings. Annual dues are \$10 per person and are due in January. Please email [sewaneemountaingrotto@caves.org](mailto:sewaneemountaingrotto@caves.org) or one of our officers for more information. You may also visit our website at: [www.caves.org/grotto/sewaneemountaingrotto](http://www.caves.org/grotto/sewaneemountaingrotto).

#### **2017 Sewanee Mtn Grotto Officers:**

Chairperson:	Kristine Ebrey
VC & Programs	Kyle Lassiter
Treasurer:	Blaine Grindle
Secretary:	Kimberley McNutt-Hodes
Member at Large:	Shari Lydy
Conservation Chair:	Maureen Handler
Survey Chair:	Kyle Lassiter
Webmaster:	Tina O'Hailey

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Email articles and photos for submission to the editors (formats: docx, pdf, tiff, jpeg). Content may include articles and/or photos from non-members as well as other caving regions.

Statements and opinions expressed in the TAG Caver do not necessarily reflect the policies or beliefs of the Sewanee Mountain Grotto or the NSS.

Contributors: Kyle Lassiter, Maureen Handler; Josh Schultz

Photo credits: Front cover: Tina O'Hailey; Back cover: Vendor logos; photo credits in articles as listed.

Cave narratives and maps: TN Cave Survey



## *Cave Fest 2018 Guidebook Vol 9 issue 3 TAG Caver*

### *Connect with the Grotto*

If you are new to the Grotto, here are a few ways you can get to know other members:

- Join us on a Grotto Trip, Survey Trip or a cleanup.
- Sewanee Mountain Remailer. After you have joined the grotto, join our mailing list to keep up to date with cave trips and meetings.

### *Address:*

Sewanee Mountain Grotto  
669 old Sewanee Rd  
Sewanee, TN 37375

### *Important links:*

Email: [sewaneemountaingrotto@googlegroups.com](mailto:sewaneemountaingrotto@googlegroups.com).  
[sewaneemountaingrotto@caves.org](mailto:sewaneemountaingrotto@caves.org).

Webpage:

[www.facebook.com/groupsSewaneeMountainGrotto/](http://www.facebook.com/groupsSewaneeMountainGrotto/)  
[www.facebook.com/groups/SMGCaveFest/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/SMGCaveFest/)

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Nickajack	Waterworks	South Pittsburgh
Hermit	Catacomb	
Solution Rift	Buggytop	
Signal Light Pit	Big Room Cave	
Pryor Spring Cave	Cagles Chasm	
Animal Farm	For a Few Miles More	

Welcome to Cave Fest 2018. This event has become the place to be on Labor Day Weekend in TAG! Sewanee Mountain Grotto hosts this event to raise money for the caving community. We donate our proceeds to the NSS, the SCCi, Chattanooga-Hamilton County Rescue Squad and the SKTF. In addition, we have provided funding for the equipment to re-bolt vertical, pulldown caves such as Solution Rift and Pryor Springs. We have donated money to Tenn-Green to help purchase land in the Sequatchie Valley for conservation. Our auction has been supported by many vendors and grotto members who donate items to sell. The auction Saturday is great entertainment. Bring your wallets, bid high and bid often. All of this supports the caves we love.

We thank everyone for their support of Sewanee Mountain Grotto and Cave Fest!

Kyle Lassiter      Cave Fest 2018 Chair

#### Cave Fest 2018 Staff

Chair:	Kyle Lassiter
Registration:	Sue Milburn
Auctioneers:	Maureen Handler & Philip Rykwaldner
Auction organizers:	Kristine Ebrey & Bambi Dunlap
Auction recorder:	Kyle Lassiter & Sue Milburn
T-shirt:	Tina O'Hailey
Banquet:	Cindy Ingram & Martha Bryant
Breakfast Biscuits:	Kimberley McNutt-Hode
GrillMasters:	Cindy Ingram, Martha Bryant, Myrna Attaway, & Shari Lydy
BrewMeisters:	Blaine Grindle & Leslie Lytle
Band:	Sullivan Band
DJ's:	Alan Camp
Guidebook editor:	Shari Lydy
Led Trip Coordinators:	Myrna Attaway & Lee White
Facilities:	Maureen Handler
Lake Nickajack Bat Flight float:	Maureen Handler
Recycling:	Maureen Handler/SMG/SKTF



# 16th. Annual Cave Fest - Schedule of Events

*\*All times are Central\**

## **Friday 8/31/18**

*Registration opens at 9:00 am*

*Breakfast Biscuits: until 10: am*

*All day—Caving and led trips. See registration for sign-up sheets.*

*6:00 pm—leave campground for Nickajack Cave bat flight paddle*

*7:00 pm—Homebrew*

## **Saturday 09/1/18**

*6:30-10:00 am—Breakfast Biscuits*

*All day—Caving and Led cave trips! See registration for sign-up sheets.*

*5:00 pm—Potluck dinner*

*7:00 pm—Auction and Homebrew!*

## **Sunday 9/2/18**

*6:30-9:00 am—Breakfast Biscuits*

*All day—More caving*

*6:00 pm—Leave campground for Nickajack Cave bat flight paddle*

*8pm-11pm—Sullivan Band—git up and shake your booty!*

## **Monday 9/3/18**

*6:30-10:00 am—Coffee*

*Noon—CaveFest is officially over—See you next year!*

## **Important Things to Remember**

- Sign up and meet for Cave trips and Float trips at Registration (only sign up for float trips if you need a boat).
- Beer is only served to those who purchase a CUP and are over 21. You MUST have a beer wristband.
- Do Not SPEED! Please be careful when you are driving around the campground and watch for children and dogs at play.
- Please pickup after your furry kids and ensure their good behavior and know their whereabouts.
- Keep your campsite free of trash and make sure all food is secure from animals.
- Recycle all glass, plastic (no caps), and aluminum in the bins provided.
- Watch for snakes and spiders around woodpiles.
- Have a great time!

## *Local Day Hikes*

### **Foster Falls**

Foster Falls is a spectacular 60-foot waterfall plunging into a deep pool. Mountain laurel, azaleas, and hemlocks growing above the falls, along the sandstone overlook, and in the gorge below add to the beauty of this area. An easy hike will take you to the top of the falls. From there a trail will take you down a short but steep route into the gorge, over the creek on a suspension bridge and to the base of the falls for a delightful view and experience. The Fiery Gizzard Trail continues downstream from here for 13 miles, with many more delightful falls and natural features along the way. This is a good hike if you have a few hours to spare, or want to go swimming.

Directions: From Cavers' Paradise, drive to Monteagle and follow US-41 south out of town. Pass through Tracy City, making a right turn at a stoplight to stay on US-41. From this turn, it is 7.8 miles to Foster Falls Rd. on the right. It is well signed.

### **Stone Door**

One of Savage Gulf State Natural Area's primary geologic attractions, the Great Stone Door is a 10-foot-wide, over 100-foot-deep crack in the sandstone bluff that rims Big Creek Gulf. Along with Savage Gulf and Collins Gulf, Big Creek Gulf helps form a crow's foot-shaped maze of canyons, or "gulfs" as they're known in this part of the country, which drains into the Collins River. The Great Stone Door has been used for centuries as a means for people and animals to get up and down over the bluff. Native Americans used it before the arrival of European settlers. It's also rumored that bison used it when they inhabited the Cumberland Plateau before the mid-18th century. Stone Door Trail is a 1.6 mile moderately trafficked out and back trail that features a waterfall, access to the Great Stone Door, and is good for all skill levels. There are numerous other trails to explore from here as well.

Directions: From Cavers' Paradise, drive to Monteagle and follow US-41 south out of town and into Tracy City. Turn left on TN-56 north in Tracy City, and follow it for 20 miles to the town of Beersheba Springs. Turn right on to Stone Door Rd (look for signs for Savage Gulf and/or Stone Door), and follow it for 1.5 miles to the parking area.

### **Buggytop Trail and Cave**

A 4 mile roundtrip hike to one of the largest cave openings in Tennessee. A through trip hike through the cave can be done by entering one of the entrances, hiking through the cave to exit a different entrance, and then returning to the main trail. You can travel through the borehole and keep your feet dry with just a little effort, unless you push the breakdown-filled upstream section of the cave. The hiking trail closes at dark. The cave narrative from TCS is provided below: The main entrance of Buggytop Cave (Lost Cove Cave) is one of the most impressive cave mouths in the State. It is 100 feet wide and 80 feet high and opens at the base of an overhanging bluff 150 feet high. The cave stream cascades down from the mouth and drops 40 feet in less than 100 yds. A cold draft of air blows from the cave in summer and can be felt in the creek valley nearly half a mile from the entrance. From the main entrance the cave extends northeast for 375 feet through a breakdown-strewn passage 60 feet wide and 40 feet high. A second, higher entrance is developed on the east side of the passage here. A rimstone-filled side passage extends northwest for 175 feet opposite this second entrance and has a narrow

branch which extends much farther. The cave continues for another 600 feet northward along the stream to a large breakdown, over which the explorer must climb. From the top of this climb one views the largest single chamber in the cave, a huge, sand-floored room 200 feet wide and 300 feet long, with the stream flowing through the middle. An opening at the east side of this room leads out via the Peter Cave entrance. Thus, the cave has three entrances. From this large room to the point where the cave ends in breakdown 2200 feet from the mouth, it is necessary to climb up and down over large rocks and wade through the stream in order to traverse the remainder of the cave. At this point the cave crosses under the saddle between Crow Creek Valley and Lost Cove, and breakdown is extensive. The stream has cut down along its left side and has left a steeply sloping pile of breakdown on its right. The cave stream is undoubtedly the same one that sinks in the floor of Lost Cove at the Big Sinks. (Barr, 1961)

Directions: From Cavers' Paradise, travel north on TN-156 to the intersection of US-41A near Sewanee. Turn left on US-41A north and travel for about 2 miles, passing through the small town of Sewanee (not the university). Turn left on TN-56 south, then travel for 6.5 miles to the pull-off and parking area on the left.

## Fiery Gizzard Trail

The Fiery Gizzard Trail is a 12.5 mile long one-way trail that connects the Grundy Forest and Foster Falls. Hikers may observe nature, swim in Fiery Gizzard Creek, see spectacular rock formations, cascading streams, waterfalls, rocky gorges, panoramic overlooks and lush woodlands. This trail has been rated by *Backpacker* magazine as one of the Top 25 in the country and should not be missed! The northern end of the trail is accessed via Tracy City at the Grundy Day Loop trail, and the southern end is accessed via Foster Falls.

Here are some day hike options from the state park website:

- **Grundy Day Loop** - This moderate 2 mile roundtrip hike will take you past multiple waterfalls, ancient trees, and plenty of enjoyable swimming holes.
- **Sycamore Falls Loop** - A moderate, 3 mile hike that drops off the top of the plateau and brings you to some interesting geologic formations and waterfalls. Don't forget your bathing suit to take a dip in the refreshing Sycamore Falls swimming hole!
- **Climber's Loop** - This 2 mile roundtrip hike takes you along beautiful cliff line and along the base of towering bluff walls. Oh, and the picturesque Foster Falls is located on this hike!

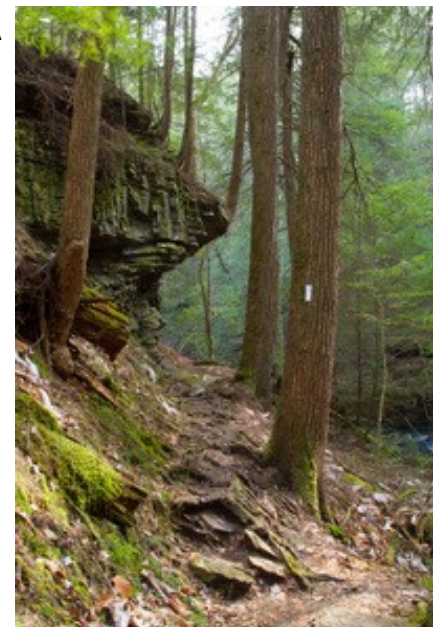


- **Raven's Point Loop** - A difficult 10 mile trek into some of the more remote areas of the Fiery Gizzard. Please allow adequate time to make this hike

**Right: Fiery Gizzard Trail**

**Left: Foster Falls**

**Photos by  
John Harbison**



**Distance:** 11.1 miles one way (Tom Pack Falls Loop 1.5 miles; Sweden Cove Trail 1.3 miles one way; North Rim Trail to Collins Falls 2.9 miles one way; West Rim Trail 5.4 miles one way)

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Elevation Change:** 150 ft

**Cautions:** Creek crossings, boulder hopping

**Connections:** None

**Attractions:** Franklin State Forest was established in 1936 from 6,941 acres purchased from the Cross Creek Coal Company, which operated in the

South Cumberland region. Soon after, the CCC entered the area to construct buildings and trails.

Located near the SCRA and the University of the South, the state forest offers more hiking opportunities on the South Cumberland. A loop trail passes by Tom Pack Falls, and trails along the rim of Sweden Cove at the edge of the plateau lead to waterfalls and overlooks. Camping is permitted anywhere. Be aware of the hunting seasons.

**Trailhead:** At 3.2 miles southwest of I-24 on US 64/41A, just before the entrance to the University of the South and across from Saint Andrews School, turn south on TN 156. Stay with TN 156 through a couple of turns 7.7 miles to enter Franklin State Forest, where you'll see the headquarters on the right. Turn in the gravel road and head back 0.1 mile to the end of the gravel and park. If you're hiking the entire trail system, you'll probably want to run a shuttle at the other end of the West Rim Trail at the forest lookout tower that's on TN 156 another 3.8 miles south of the forest headquarters.

**Description:** Head straight into the woods past the trailhead sign. Walk through a logged area, crossing a creek in the middle, and then bear left down to a junction at 0.4 mile at CCC Lake.

At the junction, turn right to walk the loop to Tom Pack Falls. Circle the lake and cross the end of Lake Road at a picnic and camping area; the only water available is from the stream feeding the lake. (Lake Road turns west off TN 156 just south of the forest headquarters.)

As the trail continues, it passes through thick stands of laurel that bloom in April and May. Cross a stream on a bridge at 0.7 mile and later cross a jeep track and then descend to Tom Pack Falls at 1.1 miles. A path leads down and across the creek for a better view of the 20-foot curtain of water.

Continue straight along a rock wall and watch for a turn down left that leads to a bridge crossing of the creek below the falls at 1.2 miles. Then hike up and left to emerge onto Lake Road once again at 1.7 miles. Walk around the lake to reach a junction with the Sweden Cove Trail to the right at 1.9 miles. Straight ahead, you can cross the bridge over the creek to close the loop and hike back to the trailhead if you're only out to see Tom Pack Falls.

The Sweden Cove Trail leads up through the woods to cross Lake Road

at 2.2 miles and then descends to cross TN 156 at 2.4 miles. Back into the woods, cross a couple of old road depressions, pass through a couple of low areas, and walk up to a junction at the head of Sweden Cove at 2.8 miles. (The cove in the eastern edge of the Cumberland Plateau is actually misnamed; it should be *Sweeton*, for a family of early settlers.)

The West Rim Trail turns right. But you can first turn left on a 2.9-mile trail branch following the north rim of the cove. Along this North Rim Trail, cross a small stream and pass through more laurel thickets and descend to a path right at 0.3 mile that leads to a scenic overlook. Along this path, cross a small stream and walk out to a rock promontory view of Sweden Cove with a cascading stream down to the left, a tributary of Sweden Creek that drains the cove. Back on the main trail, continue to descend into a low area and then walk up to a right turn in the trail at 0.4 mile. Pass along a bluff and then head up the cascading stream that forms the waterfall you saw from the overlook. The trail leads to a footbridge crossing at 0.6 mile. Turning back downstream and then through the woods, emerge onto the end of an old road at 1.0 mile, where you can walk right to another overlook. The trail crosses the road and descends through the woods to a stream rockhop at 1.3 miles.

Paralleling the edge of the cove, cross more wet-weather streams and reach a grand view at 2.0 miles; here you'll see Collins Cove to the left where it joins Sweden Cove, and you can see down Sweden Cove to where it opens into the valley of Battle Creek that flows southeast to join the Tennessee River. At 2.1 miles, you'll have another panoramic view of the merging coves. The trail descends to cross a stream on a bridge at 2.2 miles. After another view, pass through a wet area to hop over a stream at 2.8 miles. On the other side, the trail stays with the white blazes to the right, not up the more obvious path to the left that leads toward red markings on trees at the boundary of the state forest. The trail drops below the rim of Collins Cove and winds down the rugged slope to end at Collins Falls just outside the forest boundary at 2.9 miles. The stream that drains Collins Cove cascades steeply down the slope to then run through the cove before joining Sweden Creek in Sweden Cove.

Back at the main trail junction with the North Rim Trail left at the head of Sweden Cove, turn south along the west rim of the cove. On this West Rim Trail, drop to rockhop a small stream and then drop into a low area at 2.9 miles from the trailhead, where a path left leads to a precipitous view of a waterfall where the creek spills into the cove. Each of the streams at the head of the cove is a branch of Sweden Creek.

At 3.3 miles, a side path leads straight out to an overlook as the main trail turns down right. This overlook offers the best view down Sweden Cove. Another path left to an overlook at 3.6 miles gives a grudging view of a waterfall to the right. Continuing on the main trail, curve left to cross the creek that feeds the waterfall.

The trail skirts a bluff dropoff and passes through a large cut tree to

cross a creek at 4.1 miles. Drop off the bluff to pass by a small overhang with a dripping spring. Cross Pole Bridge Creek at 4.2 miles between the upper and middle falls of a triple-step waterfall. The trail passes through and over boulders and skirts a large overhang before ascending back to the rim. At 4.6 miles, cross a stream and again descend below the bluff and later ascend back to the blufftop to cross an old road and continue left. For a third time, step over a small creek and descend below the bluff at 5.3 miles. The trail crosses a cascading stream on stepping stones and climbs back to the blufftop. Now stay on top for the rest of the hike. At 5.8 miles the trail crosses a stream with a small waterfall to the left at the head of Panther Cove. The trail then curves left to a rock overlook of the falls. At 5.9 miles is a junction; left leads to an old overlook, overgrown unless it has been cleared by the time you get there, and right is an old route where you might see a blaze on a tree, but stay straight.

At 6.4 miles, the trail crosses an old road at a small creek and curves left to parallel Panther Hollow Road. The trail joins the road at 6.6 miles. Walk down the road to where it curves right away from the bluff at 6.9 miles; a path left leads to a nice overlook. Staying with the road as it heads west away from the bluff, ascend the ridge until the trail turns left off the road at 7.7 miles.

The trail then passes through a hollow. At 8.1 miles is Cave Spring, where a rock overhang protects a dripping spring. The trail passes above the cave to connect with an old road. Left is an old homesite. Turn right and walk up the road to the parking area near the forest lookout tower on TN 156 at 8.2 miles from the trailhead. The North Rim Trail to Collins Falls and back adds 5.8 miles to the hike.

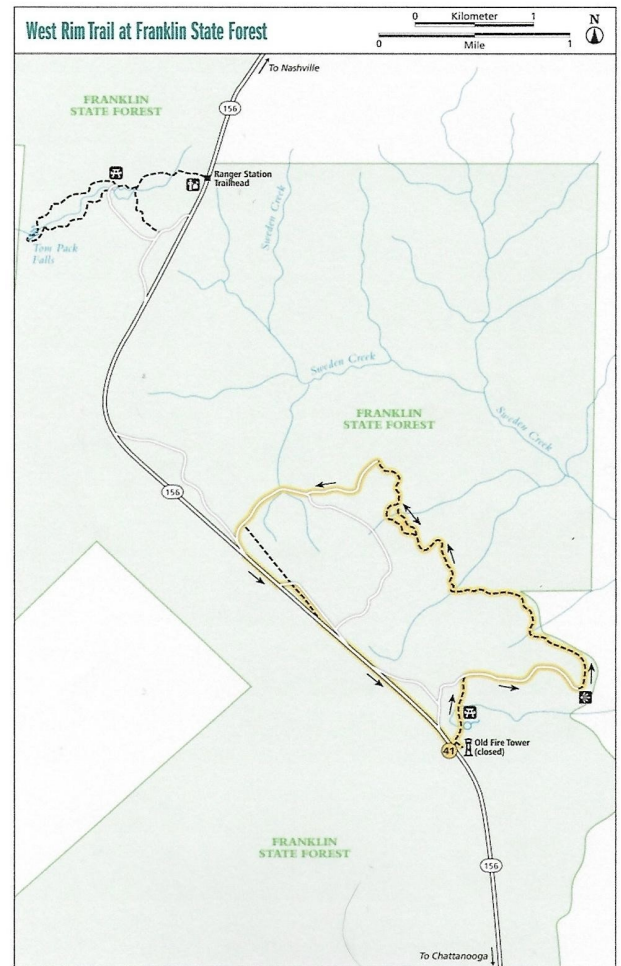
Tom Pack Falls—Shari Lydy



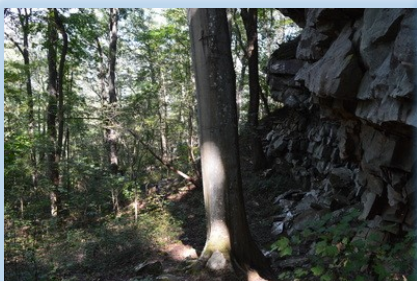
Junction of North Rim Trail and Sweden Cove Trail—Pointing the way to the West Rim Trail—  
From Hiking the Appalachians and Beyond.

## Miles and Directions

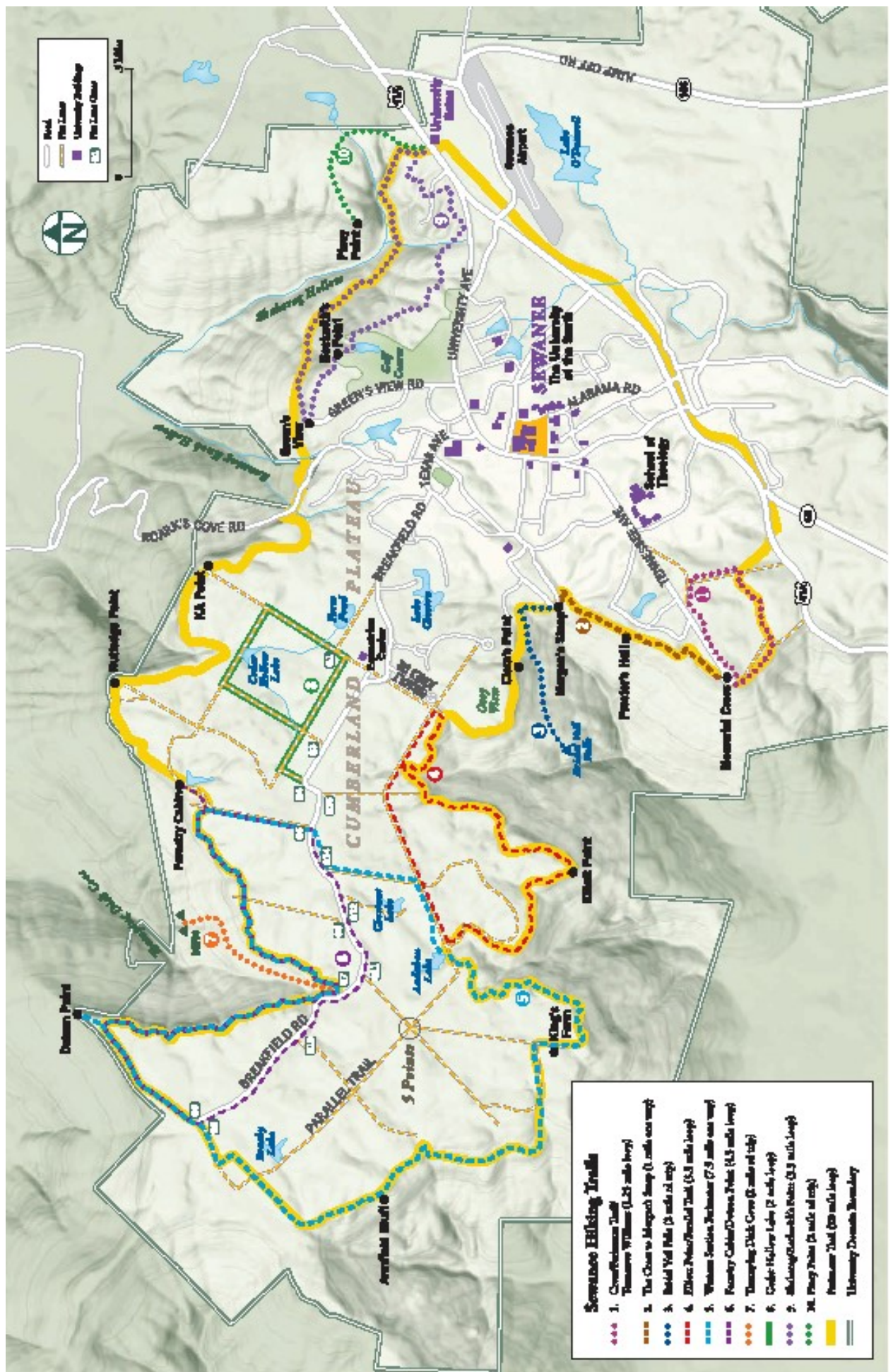
- 0.0 From the parking area at the fire tower, take the old road to the north for about 320 feet, and turn right into the woods. The trail seems to diverge, and there is a trail sign with mileage for the "West Rim Trail." However, just before this sign is an old road to the left, which leads to an underused picnic area and Cave Spring, which is a small rock overhang, or "cave," that has a spring coming out of it and has been walled in. There is extensive rock work there, probably more CCC handiwork. The trail continues to the north and soon comes out at a gravel road.
- 0.5 Junction with dirt road. Bear to the right (east) to return to the West Rim Trail.
- 1.2 There is a great overlook of Sweden's Cove. The trail continues off to the north of that overlook.
- 1.7 Walk over a small wooden footbridge and cross a road.
- 2.2 You find nice rock steps across a wet area, followed by a beautiful cascade overlook at 2.3 miles and a new wooden bridge with some nice trail work.
- 2.7 There is a split in the trail: Horses are directed to the left (west), and hikers to the right (east). We took the horse trail, which stays on the rim; the hiker trail goes down a ravine to a creek. These two trails come back together farther north.
- 3.3 Arrive at a junction with "F" marking the trail. At this point start navigating the old dirt roads to get back over to TN 156. (If you continue straight, the Rim Trail will return you to TN 156 in a slightly larger arc.)
- 3.4 Meet a junction with another old road, and bear left.
- 3.8 Arrive at a big junction, with several dirt lanes, and bear right (west).
- 4.1 Meet another junction and continue straight ahead.
- 4.4 At TN 156 you can parallel the highway on dirt lanes for much of the remaining distance, walking for awhile under a power line right-of-way.
- 4.6 Leave the power line ROW, and walk the highway.
- 4.7 Bear left on another dirt road toward the fire tower.
- 6.0 Back at the fire tower and the end of the hike. This would be a great hike to run a shuttle on, so that you can walk the whole rim in peace, and have a ride waiting at the other end. But because a dirt road essentially parallels TN 156 for most of the way, the walk back is not onerous either.



From "100 Hikes in Tennessee's South Cumberland, 3rd. Edition, ed Russ Manning. Franklin Forest State Trails. Photos from [hikingtheappalachians.com/trails-West Rim](http://hikingtheappalachians.com/trails-West%20Rim)



# Sewanee Hiking Trails





## History of Cavers Paradise

Story and photos by  
Maureen Handler



I purchased my Sewanee property in 2002 and finished building the house in 2004. Behind my 30 acres was the 120 acre Wild Heart Ranch, which was a shut down commercial operation in 2004. In 2008, they put some of their property up for sale including their private campground, which was 10 acres. The campground was literally in my back yard. I didn't want someone else to own a campground in my backyard! So I bought it! The day of closing, I went to the camp-ground to take a good close look at it and I wondered 'what am I going to do with this?' I'll open it to CAVERS! Then all my friends could have a place to camp, but what to charge?? We all know cavers are cheap. We want pay the least we could pay for ANYTHING! Well, I figured \$5 was worth a hot shower, flush toilet and a place when no one would mess with our stuff while we were out caving. So, Cavers Paradise was born. It took a while to repair stuff that wasn't working, since it hadn't been used as a



campground for 5 years, some of it was in disrepair. In 2010, we moved what had been the Sewanee Mountain Grotto Pup Fest to Cavers Paradise and renamed it Cave Fest! In 2011, the SERA Summer Cave Carnival needed a place to hold the event. There were about 250 people camped on the property and it was a fantastic event. Since then, it has become a regular hang out for TAG cavers looking for a place to camp. In addition, out of town grottos have been camping there on their TAG trips. Boston Grotto, Bald Eagle Grotto, Nitany Grotto, Philly Grotto, West Virginia University Student Grotto, VPI Grotto, Dallas-Ft. Worth Grotto, Greater Houston

Grotto have all been there at various times for their TAG trips. Others come solo, or in groups of 2 or 3. Cavers raised money to help replace the worn out, wood fired hot tub. The new, larger hot tub was fired up for the 2016 Cave Fest. In 2017, the wood fired sauna burned down. The new, better sauna was just completed in August 2018 and will be ready for sweating at Cave Fest this year. The best thing about owning a caver campground, is - it's like camping every weekend, but I get to sleep in my own bed. Cavers Paradise is open to cavers year round. Still only \$5 per night to camp. Check us out on Facebook or [www.caversparadise.com](http://www.caversparadise.com). Come on up and visit anytime!



## Gourdneck Cave part 2 — update by Kyle Lassiter

In June 2017, Sewanee Mountain Grotto began the significant undertaking of resurveying Gourdneck Cave. A classic among the caves of Sweetens Cove, Gourdneck is a well visited SCCi cave preserve due to its sporty water canyon passage and nice decorations in upper sections. However, the surveying done by members of the Chattanooga Grotto in the late 1970s resulted in a complete map of only the lower and most well-traveled portion of the cave system, ending in a waterfall feature called Hans Falls. This waterfall was first aid climbed at that time and much additional cave passage was found beyond, ultimately culminating in a tall dome of unknown origin. Approximately half of the total cave's passages lies beyond Hans Falls, however the rope up Hans Falls was removed decades ago, so most cavers today have never been up there.

Out of a personal desire to see what lies beyond Hans Falls, and to create a complete map of the Gourdneck Cave system, Kyle Lassiter kicked off the resurvey project with Sewanee Mountain Grotto on June 6, 2017, with a resurvey of the entrance passage. Since then, there have been 11 total survey trips netting just over one mile of passage...and we're still only about half way to the end of the cave! Lee White re-climbed Hans Falls in the fall of 2017, re-establishing access to the upper half of the cave. Since then there have been two survey trips beyond Hans Falls, and the passage ahead appears to be easy walking canyon passage! The original explorers allege that most of the cave still to survey is like that, so hopefully we're looking at several more awesome survey trips ahead before we finish up! If you are interested in participating on a future survey trip, contact Kyle Lassiter at [kyle.lassiter@gmail.com](mailto:kyle.lassiter@gmail.com). All are welcome, but please note that vertical caving skills are required in this cave.

### For a Few Miles More—update by Kyle Lassiter and Josh Schultz

This cave, in the Franklin State Forest in Marion County and just below Cavers' Paradise, is a wet multi-drop cave not too far from the well known Hang Em High Cave. It was originally turned in as an insignificant 50 foot long cave at the bottom of a beautiful sinkhole, but in 1987 cavers Bob Coney and Kathy Minter dug open a stream crawl at the "end" of the cave and found 700 more feet of cave, including two pits and a big room at the new "end" of the cave, at 224 feet deep.

Sewanee Mountain Grotto has undertaken a resurvey project for this new combined cave system. The easiest route to the bottom now is via the Not Worth It Pit entrance, as it bypasses the stream crawl in the original route which often needs to be dug out. Several short ropes are needed; pit depths are 16, 10 (can rig first two with 100ft rope), 50, 40. New rigging was installed in this route in 2016; bolts on the original route are from 1987 and thus should be considered suspect. You can expect to get at least somewhat wet regardless of the route.

In March 2015, a brand new grotto member (Kyle Lassiter) and his friend Josh Schultz went to go explore Hang Em High, but accidentally ended up in another short cave nearby called Not Worth It Pit. Unwittingly, they pushed it farther than anyone had before, and ended up descending two new pits and connected into For A Few Miles More near the bottom of the cave. This added a new second entrance to FAFMM Cave via Not Worth It Pit. Sewanee Mountain Grotto undertook the new entrance route as a survey project in 2016, and the project will hopefully be completed this year weather permitting. This makes a challenging through trip possible, but it has yet to be attempted as far as we know.

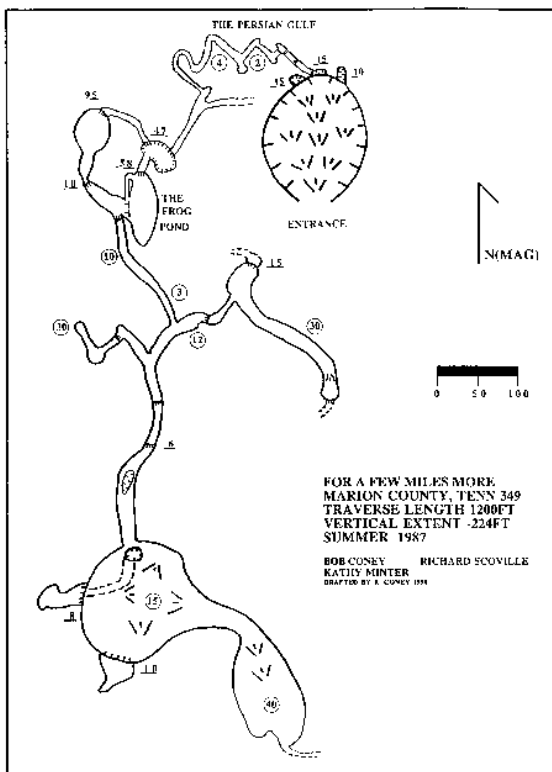
The following account is the original journal entry from Josh Schultz in 2015 documenting the serendipitous discovery connection of Not Worth It Pit to For a Few Miles More Cave (TMN 349). In true spelunker fashion, both parties were completely unaware any discovery had been made until after the trip. Oddly enough, the rope lengths we brought for the intended cave were almost perfect for the virgin pits discovered.

03/15/2015

Kyle Lassiter and I met in South Pittsburgh at the Waffle House that morning before heading to Caver's Paradise to find Hang 'Em High Cave. Randy, ultimately bailed on the trip, gave two sets of coordinates, one for HEH and one for Few Miles More cave. After losing a few hundred feet of elevation, the HEH coordinates brought us to a large sink with a raging waterfall that spewed out of the contact point. Kyle isn't crazy about getting soaked and, at my suggestion, did not bring a wetsuit. I also forgot extra batteries for my Zebra Light in the car and didn't want to enter an extremely wet multi drop cave without my necessities. Thus, we opted to examine another assumed entrance about 200' from the sink. It was taking a trickle of water and seemed like the safer alternative. A drop of about 15' led to a chimney climb into what appeared to be a dead end. I was about to climb out until Kyle noticed a small opening about 7-8' off the floor. This short belly crawl opened into a large canyon with a 40' drop. Several waterfalls were flowing from the ceiling and down below, so we followed the prominent stream through some breakdown. The rocky passage led to another free drop of a similar depth. Kyle rigged to a massive boulder about 30' from the drop. Luckily we had two 100' rope lengths with us. It should be noted that at this point the direction we were going, in terms of both depth and survey documentation, seemed plausibly similar to HEH. A downward sloping passage at the bottom of the drop led to a lot of wind and flowing water. Downstream, we found some webbing left behind at a 6-7' climb down into a bathtub. Thinking we made the connection with the main entrance of HEH, we followed the source of the strong current. After meandering through some breakdown, we climbed up to a ledge and gazed at the water source. A pit of roughly 60' was spewing a near-lethal (or "biblical" as Kyle put it) torrent from above. It was a magnificent sight from where we were standing.

To be honest, I want to go back and rappel it right now. It was easily at par with the Fowler 2 trip last month. Since the second pit after bypassing the 30' drop in HEH is reported to be of this depth, we assumed we found the main route in HEH. We backtracked and continued to explore the canyon before calling it a day. We began routing, and after almost getting killed by a rock avalanche in the entrance chimney. He put his foot on the rocks while climbing up. I do it for one second and they all come down. What's with that? I digress. We reached the

surface. Confused by image of HEH's entrance and the TCS narrative, we hiked back to Caver's Paradise. After some discussion with others, it seems Kyle and I found ourselves in Few Miles More cave, which has a reputation of being "notoriously wet" in this kind of weather. Apparently the main sink leads all that water to the waterfall we witnessed from inside. Mnich seems to think that is the case. It just begs the question how we missed HEH, which is supposed to be a bit closer to Caver's Paradise. I think Randy mixed up the coordinates by mistake but we won't know anything until one of us joins the TCS. Kyle and I are still curious but are accepting this as an acceptable hypothesis. Here's to a solid day of exploration.





## *Other Favorite Caves near Paradise*

### **Hermit Cave.**

The entrance is 12 feet wide by 4.5 feet high. It slopes into a large room where a hermit once lived. The room is 20 feet wide and 15 feet deep. A canyon passage on the right becomes a small belly crawl into a small room that leads to some walking passage. At this point there is a step-over, which is rigged, but the rope position is not especially helpful on the way in. The passage continues past some beautiful totem poles to a large haystack formation. You then have to cross a pool, usually about knee deep, and climb up a rigged sandy slope to the top of the passage. A stretch of exposed canyon passage leads to a climbdown that looks scary, but which has decent holds upon careful examination. At the bottom of this climb you will be in walking passage that goes into a large room with a ceiling covered with some spectacular anastomosis. There are ropes in both directions in the room and ascenders may be required. The rope to the left is a difficult climbup into a series of crawling tubes. The rope to the right leads to the upper levels. Approximately 40 feet beyond the rope is a free climbable crack to the upper levels. The upper levels contain 900 feet of dry phreatic passage with many fossil specimens. The upper level forks near the end of the cave. The left fork leads to some low muddy crawls. The right fork leads to a breakdown blocked passage. This cave is a real "caver's" cave, with many different types of passage, from canyons and free climbs to impressive formations and fossils. Cave length 2300'.

### **Solution Rift**

Vertical wet multi-drop cave in Fiery Gizzard Cove. An extremely challenging pull-down through trip from the upper entrance to the lower spring entrance can be done, but checking the lower entrance for beaver activity is imperative before attempting it. A series of wet pits and water crawls in the upper section of cave leads to the "Brrrr" Tubes, a belly crawl half-filled with water at the Hartselle contact. This in turn leads to Confederate Well, a beautiful 171 foot pit with a massive flowstone in the bottom of it. Beyond are two more short pits and a 2000 foot water crawl to the spring exit. In all, the pit depths are 18, 28, 26, 27, 171, 26, and 36 feet, but for a pull-down trip two 190 foot ropes would suffice. This cave must not be visited in wet weather, and a guide is highly recommended. Sewanee Mountain Grotto resurveyed this cave as well in 2009-2010.

### **Signal Light Pit**

Vertical pit entrance to over 2.5 miles of complex cave. Located near train tracks (hence the name) near Ladds, TN. The open air pit entrance is 57 feet deep. Civil War era visitors managed to descend this shaft and leave signatures in a side passage just off the bottom of the pit. A great cave to practice vertical work in the entrance pit, and a great cave to explore endlessly until you get tired and turn back. It takes quite a bit of crawling and even one swim to explore the majority of the cave, but there is some good passage not too far from the entrance.

### **Pryor Spring Cave**

Vertical wet multi-drop cave near Jasper. A very fun pull-down cave trip in the summer; please note the landowner only allows trips on Sunday. Starting at the upper entrance, there are three pits of 36, 23, and 55 feet, with a few downclimbs, water crawls, and walking passage mixed in between. The bottom of the cave past the last pit is a well decorated stream passage for over 1000 feet which exits into the pond in front of the landowner's house. You can expect to get wet in this one, which is part of the fun!

### **Animal Farm**

Horizontal cave in the Battle Creek area; great for beginners and nicely decorated! The entrance is a climbdown through breakdown to a short tight spot which leads into a large room. Continue climbing down to a crawl on the left which leads into the remainder of the cave. The cave is quite large and very well decorated. Flowstone

mounds, soda straws and totem poles are everywhere. Many of these features can look like animals to the creative eye. This is a very nice cave!

## Bible Springs

Horizontal stream cave located on the side of Fiery Gizzard Cove Road. A great cave to get wet and cool off in the summer heat. Immediately inside the entrance you wade through water to a short waterfall climb up. Thereafter you walk and crawl in the water in joint-controlled passage as the cold wind whips by you! Eventually a walking passage is reached, which goes for a few hundred feet to a belly crawl back in the stream. Pushing ahead through the crawl, the cave then breaks into an upper level above the stream which is dry with breakdown, or you can continue ahead through the stream in mostly crawling passage. At the end of the cave the two routes come together into the largest room in the cave, but it unfortunately ends in breakdown there. **Do not visit this cave if rain chances are high, as the entrance will sump shut in heavy rains.** No map is available yet.

## Nickajack

With a gaping entrance opening onto Nickajack Lake of the Tennessee River, this horizontal cave has immense history dating back to Native American times that is too lengthy to list here (see the 2017 CaveFest TAG Caver). These days, this cave is primarily known for its summer bat flights, which are easily observed from Maple View Recreation Area immediately adjacent to the cave entrance. Many people paddle out onto the water to enjoy the experience, but there is a boardwalk out to the cave entrance as well. CaveFest will be offering two led paddle trips (Friday and Sunday evenings, boats available for use) for those who want to hang out with the bats on the water! See the led trip table for more details. The TVA map of the cave before it was flooded by Nickajack Lake is included for your interest.

## Catacomb Cave

Entrance 1 of Catacomb Cave is 20 feet above Fiery Gizzard Creek in a 20-foot bluff on the south side of Fiery Gizzard Cove, directly across from Pine Set Baptist Church. E2 is a 1800 feet farther up (east) the cove from the Pine Set Baptist Church at the base of an 18-foot bluff in the valley floor. When the creek is flowing, the creek flows into its 20-foot wide, 2-foot high entrance. E3 is in the valley floor at the base of 15-foot bluff. The main entrance (E1) is 25 feet wide by 15 feet high. It opens into a series of maze passages. This maze leads to a 30-foot pit. Two hundred feet of downstream passage was followed at the bottom of the pit before it sumped. At the top of the pit, the stream passage can be followed upstream for 2000 feet to the Inflowing Stream Entrance (E2). Halfway to E2, a hole on the left side of the ceiling leads to E3 (Crows Nest Entrance). The climbdown entrance (E3) is 6 feet by 5 feet. **During wet weather the whole cave floods.** Stygobitic blind crayfish (*Cambarus hamulatus*) were seen below the pit. This cave has been a mapping project of Marty Abercrombie for the past several years and a finished map will be coming soon to the TCS.

## Buggytop Cave

Located 2.9 miles north-northeast of Sherwood, at the head of Crow Creek. On the steep mountain road between Sewanee and Sherwood look for a parking area that says "Carter Cave Natural Area". Follow a well-marked trail for 2 miles to the massive cave entrance. The cave is located in Carter Cave Natural Area in South Cumberland State Park. The main entrance of Buggytop Cave (Lost Cove Cave) is one of the most impressive cave mouths in the State. It is 100 feet wide and 80 feet high and opens at the base of an overhanging bluff 150 feet high. The cave stream cascades down from the mouth and drops 40 feet in less than 100 yds. A cold draft of air blows from the cave in summer and can be felt in the creek valley nearly half a mile from the entrance.

From the main entrance the cave extends northeast for 375 feet through a breakdown-strewn passage 60 feet

wide and 40 feet high. A second, higher entrance is developed on the east side of the passage here. A rimstone-filled side passage extends northwest for 175 feet opposite this second entrance and has a narrow branch which extends much farther. The cave continues for another 600 feet northward along the stream to a large breakdown, over which the explorer must climb. From the top of this climb one views the largest single chamber in the cave, a huge, sand-floored room 200 feet wide and 300 feet long, with the stream flowing through the middle. An opening at the east side of this room leads out via the Peter Cave entrance. Thus, the cave has three entrances. From this large room to the point where the cave ends in breakdown 2200 feet from the mouth, it is necessary to climb up and down over large rocks and wade through the stream in order to traverse the remainder of the cave. At this point the cave crosses under the saddle between Crow Creek Valley and Lost Cove, and breakdown is extensive. The stream has cut down along its left side and has left a steeply sloping pile of breakdown on its right. The cave stream is undoubtedly the same one that sinks in the floor of Lost Cove at the Big Sinks. (Barr, 1961). Tennessee cave salamanders (*Gyrinophilus palleucus*), southern cavefish (*Typhlichthys subterraneus*), and stygobitic blind crayfish (*Cambarus hamulatus*) have been observed in the cave stream.

### **BuggyTop Grotto FR86**

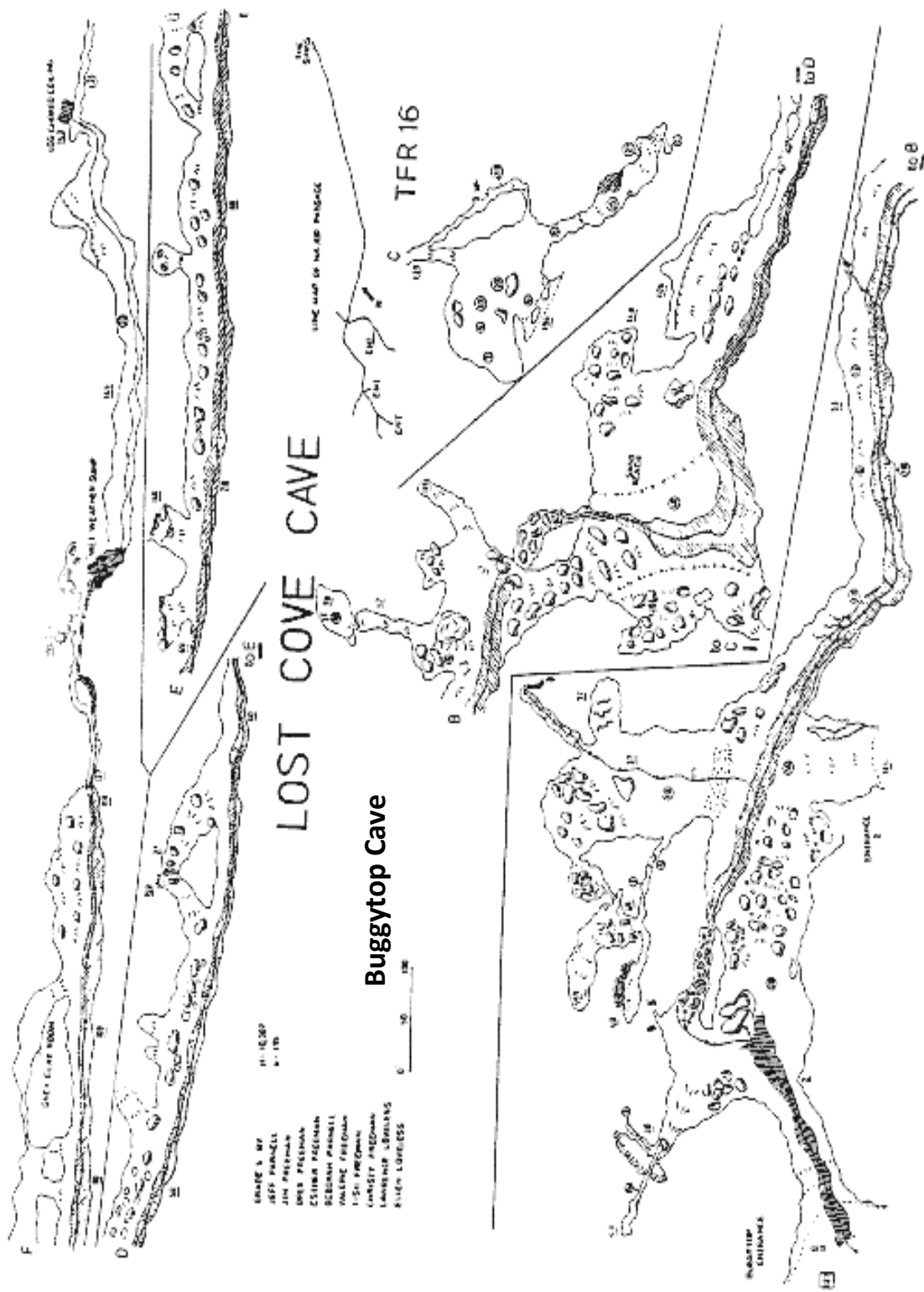
In a bluff about 80 feet above the main entrance to Buggytop Cave (FR16). The entrance is at the base of the bluff near the hiking trail. The cave is located in Carter Cave Natural Area in South Cumberland State Park. The entrance is 25 feet wide by 3.5 feet high. A dry cave passage about 30 feet wide and 12 feet high extends 50 feet to a breakdown. This cave appears closely related to the first left-hand upper level of nearby Buggytop Cave, which ends as a traverse beside a breakdown. The floor of Buggytop Grotto has been extensively excavated and sifted, presumably for Indian artifacts. (John Smyre, 1976).

### **Big Room Cave GD3 (closed to visitation by The Caverns)**

Big Room Cave is located on the north side of Payne Cove, at the foot of the mountain, near the mouth of Spring Hollow. The entrance was originally 10 feet east of a Roberts Rd, but The Caverns rerouted the road to within 5 feet of the pit entrance. The cave is now closed off by the owner of The Caverns with a massive barred gate. There is a stout metal ladder extending into the pit on the inside of the gate.

The mouth of Big Room Cave is a pit 5 feet in diameter and 15 feet deep, which drops into a gallery 15 feet high and 8 feet wide. Fifteen horizontal feet from the bottom of the pit, is a difficult 12-foot climbdown that leads to the bottom of the gallery. A 60-foot rope is required to do both drops. This gallery extends south for 200 feet to a dead end, and also northeast for 200 feet to a 5-foot climbup into a crawl. The crawlway is 3 feet high, 4 feet wide, and 100 feet long and leads into the "Big Room," a low, very wide, silt floored avenue which has given the cave its name. The Big Room is 8 feet high, 60 to 80 feet wide, and 900 feet long. At the east end is an extensive breakdown, which coincides with a surface gully above the cave. By following the left wall for 150 feet through a series of tight squeezes and crawlways (Tombstone Pass), it is possible to enter a low, wide passage full of rimstone pools and mud. The cave continues south for 300 feet to a breakdown chamber 75 feet wide, 50 feet high, and 100 feet long, across which a large subterranean stream flows. This stream is believed to be the same which is attained in the depths of Big Mouth Cave, and which emerges at Sartain Spring.

It is a tragedy that Big Room cave is now closed to cavers but it may be possible to negotiate access to Big Room Cave with the owner of The Caverns at sometime in the future.

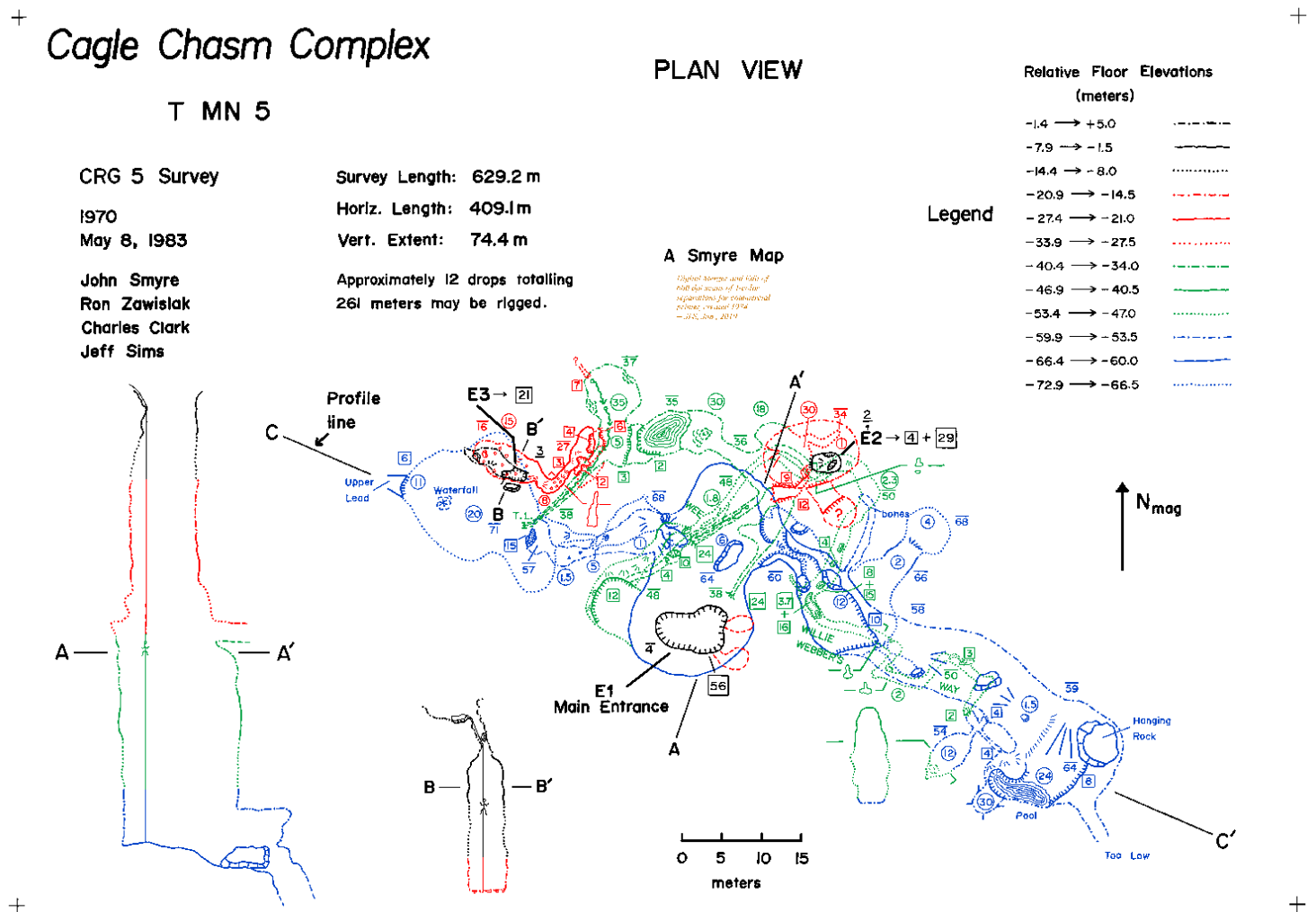




## Cagles Chasm TMN5

From the main entrance (E1) contour around the mountain to the right for 200 feet to the smaller entrance of Jeepside Pit (E3). To find Shallow Pit (E2), start at the main entrance (E1), and go 150 feet straight uphill. The entrance to Cagle Chasm is 15 feet wide and 20 feet long. The shortest pit which can be rigged is 184 feet. The pit is 50 feet in diameter at the bottom. A talus slope leads into a large room from which a 20-foot pit into a passage leads for 50 feet into a second large chamber. It is also possible to climb along a ledge at the bottom of the entrance shaft and come out near the top of this second large chamber. A crawl to the west at the base of the entrance shaft leads into a huge chamber 100 feet in diameter and 150 feet high. A waterfall in the center of the room falls into calcite pools. The chamber can also be entered by a window 60 feet above the floor which connects to the entrance crawl.

Two pits near the main shaft also connect to this complex. One, (Jeepside Pit) 200 feet northeast of the main shaft, consists of a 15-foot pit followed by a 95-foot pit through a 40-foot-wide shaft. The total pit depth is 110 feet. A passage leads several hundred feet to a 30-foot climb to a short passage which ends at the bottom of an 80-foot shaft opening to the surface (Shallow Pit). A crawl from the passages connecting the two shorter pits opens into the side of the main pit approximately 100 feet above the floor.



# Cagle Chasm Complex

T MN 5

VERTICAL PROFILE  
Projection onto PLAN VIEW line C—C'

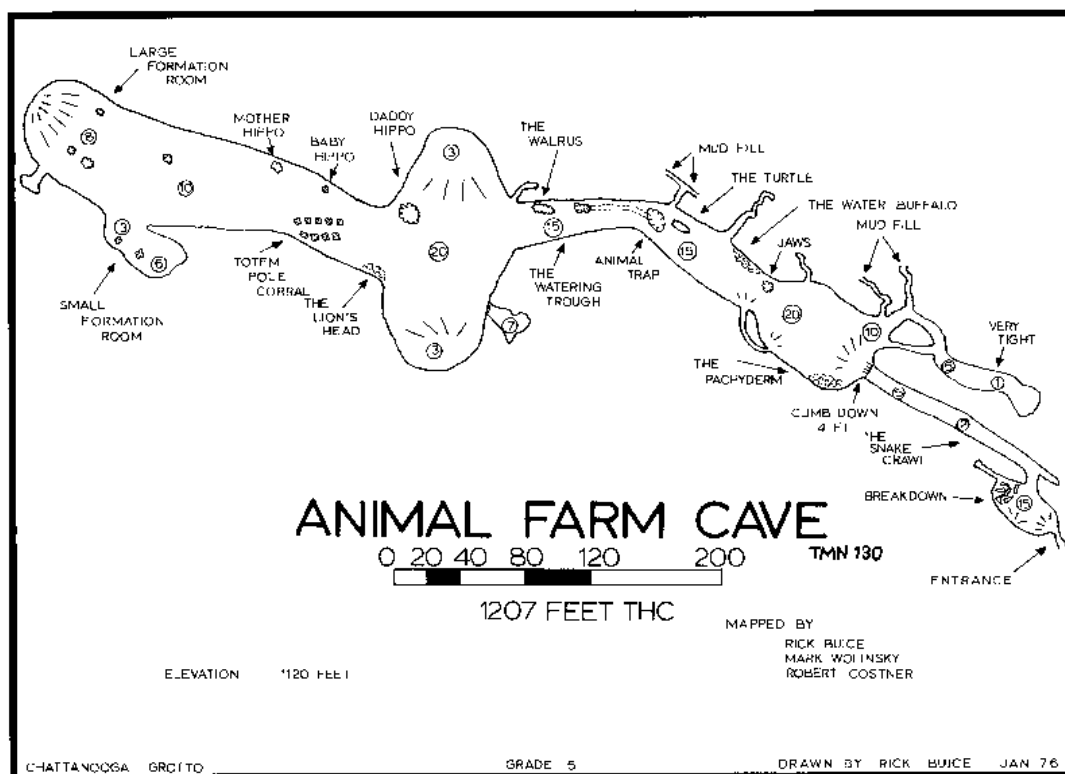
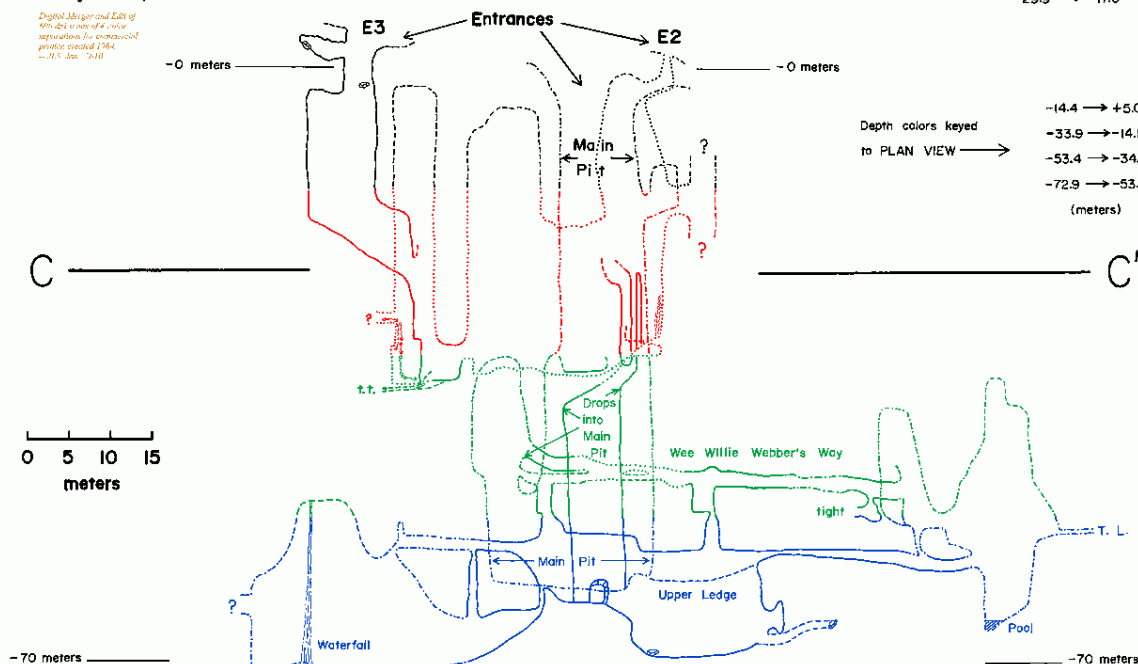
## Legend

Horiz. distance (meters)  
from projection line C—C'

-3.9 → +9.0  
-16.9 → -4.0  
-29.9 → -17.0

## A Smyre Map

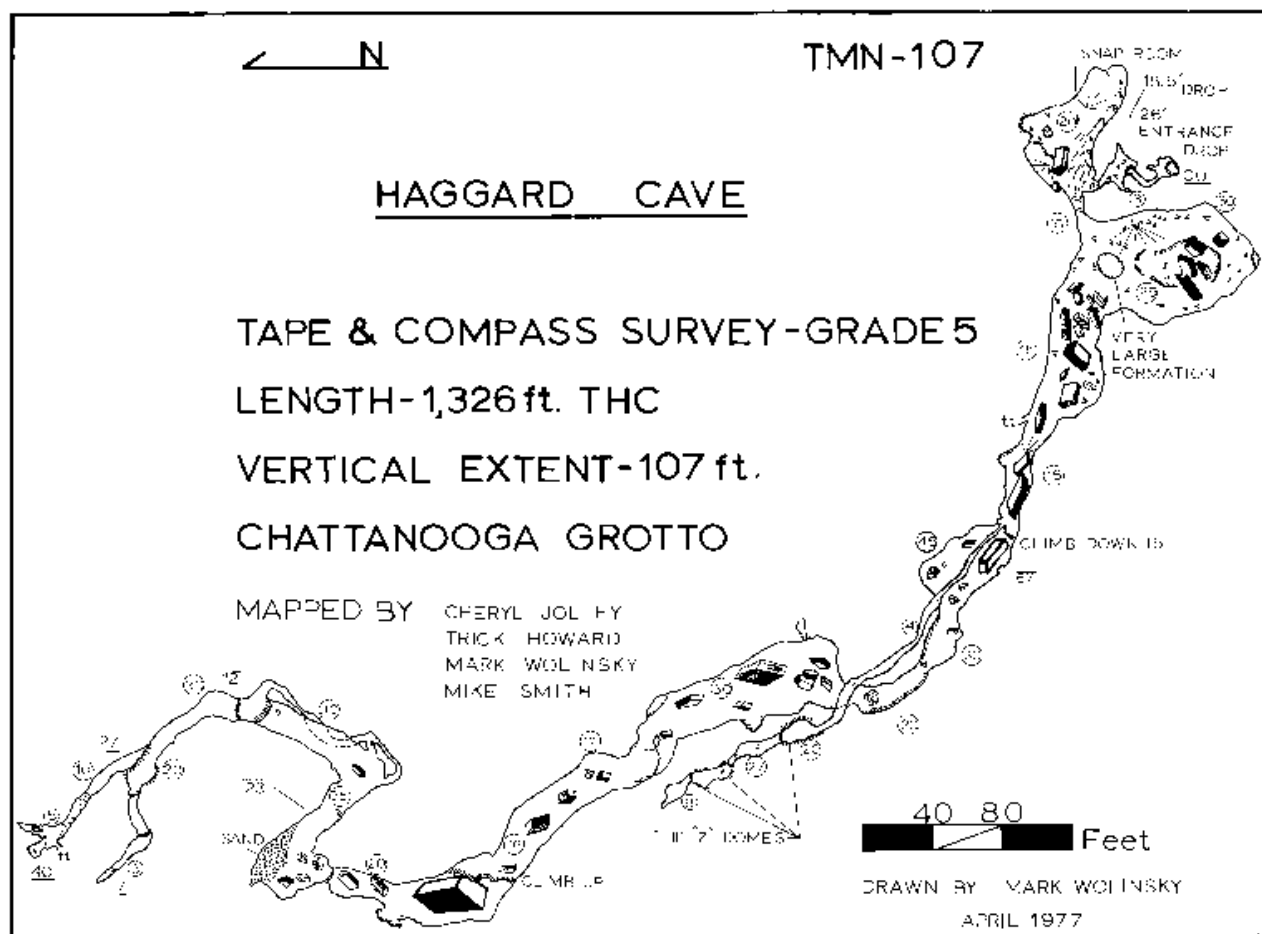
Digital Mapping and Edit of  
4th ed. version of color  
reproduction by constructed  
project created 1984  
—N.S. Jan. 1989



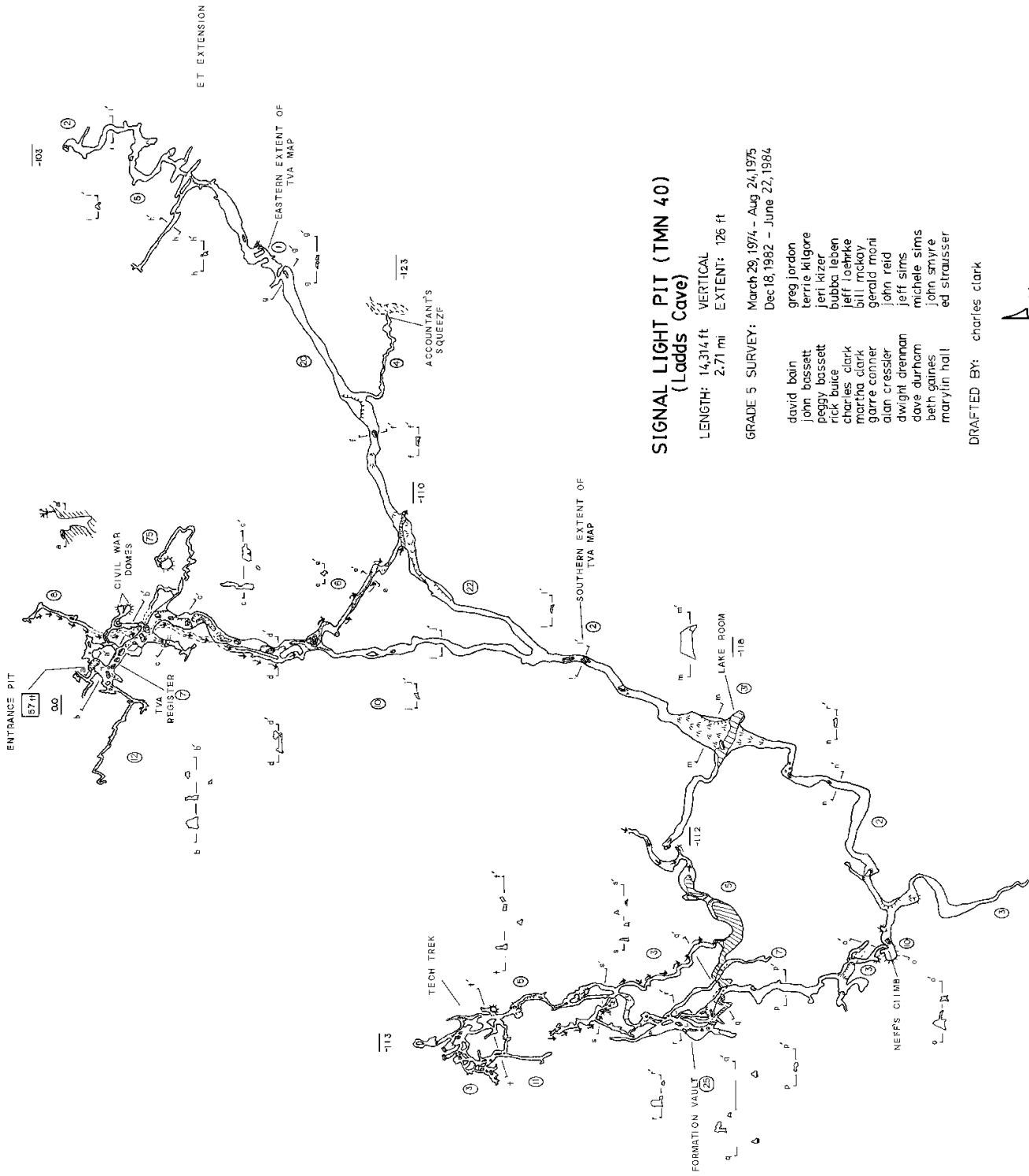


## Haggard Cave

Vertical entrance, located near Kimball. It was acquired as an NSS preserve in 2017; permits are now needed for entry. The entrance is a 26 foot pit, followed by a short crawl to a 16 foot pit. From here the cave is mostly large breakdown passage, with a myriad of free climbs and breakdown scrambles to enjoy along the way. The cave was originally mapped at about 1000 feet long, but this number is suspect and the cave is currently being resurveyed. The cave ends in collapse and fill in a small dome complex. A member of Dogwood City Grotto is currently spearheading a re-mapping project of the cave.







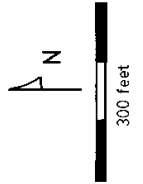
# **SIGNAL LIGHT PIT (TMN 40)** **(Ladd's Cave)**

LENGTH: 14,314 ft VERTICAL  
2.71 mi EXTENT: 126 ft

GRADE 5 SURVEY: March 29, 1974 - Aug 24, 1975  
Dec 18, 1982 - June 22, 1984

david bain	greg jordan
john bassett	terrie kilgore
peggy bassett	jeri kizer
rick bulice	bubba leben
charles clark	jeff loehke
martha clark	bill mckoy
garre conner	gerald mori
dian cressler	john reid
dwight drennan	jeff sims
dave durham	michele sims
beth gaines	john smyre
marylin hall	ed strausser

DRAFTED BY: charles clark



# Legend

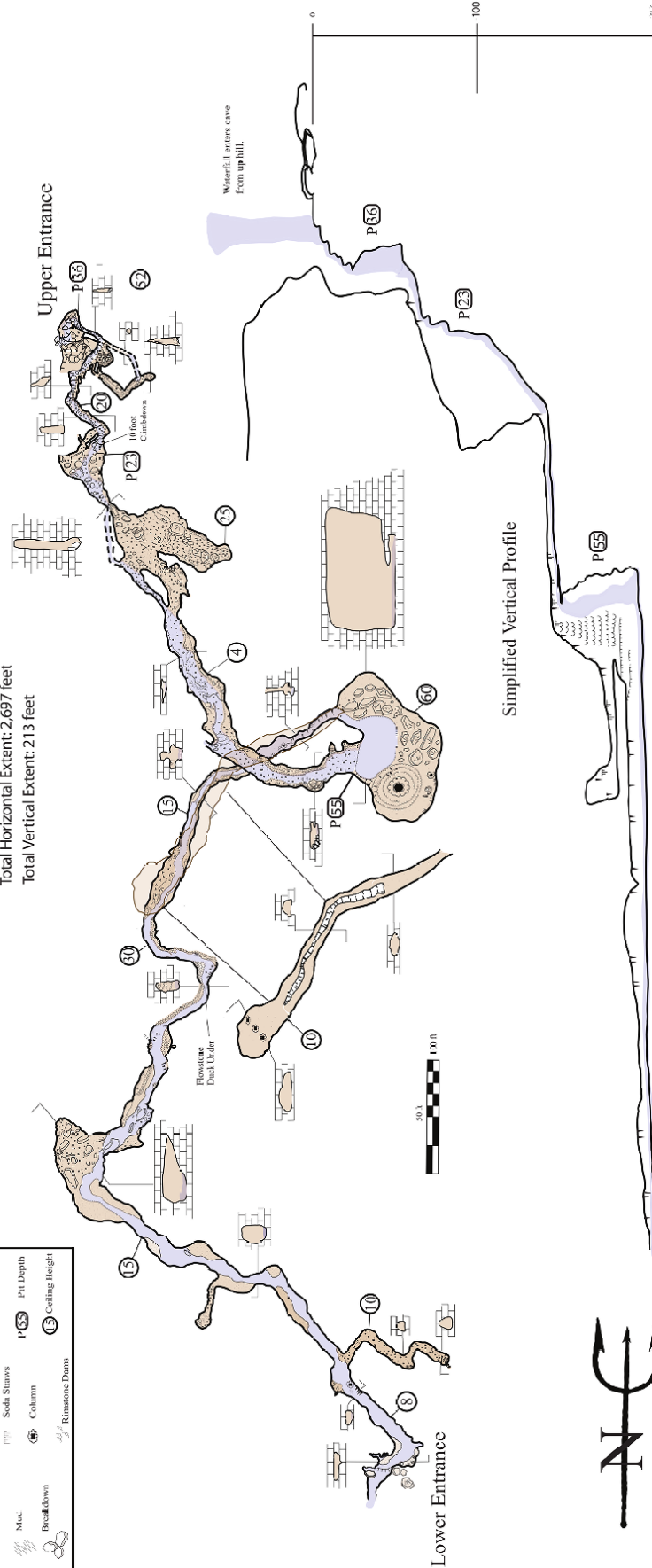
Statelife	Organic Debris	Flowstone
Stalagmite	Gravel	Floor Slope
Column	Soil Shallow	Bones
Mud	Column	Pit Depth
Breakdown	Rimstone Dams	Ceiling Height

## Pryor Cave Spring

MN 129

Total Horizontal Extent: 2,697 feet  
Total Vertical Extent: 213 feet

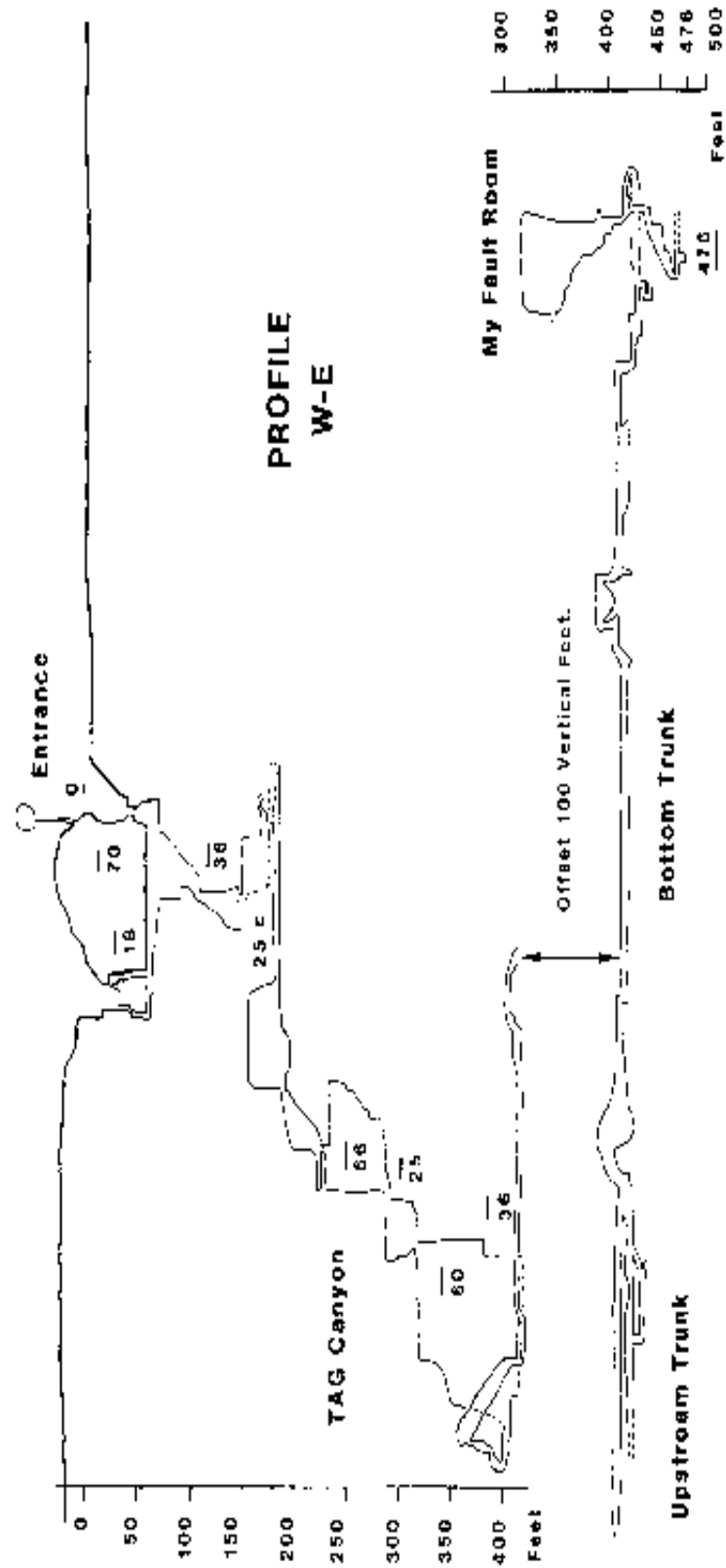
Tape and Compass Survey  
Brian K. Hughes  
Markus J. Jans  
Brendan Schuler  
Kelly Smithwood  
Walt Urbanski  
Wade Whitman  
Jeff Butler  
Lea Butler  
Andy Bush  
Bob Caudery  
Joan Hixy



## Hang'em High

This multi-drop cave is located on the east side of Collins Cove, within the Franklin-Marion State Forest, 6,200 feet south-southwest of Red Hill. E1 is in the middle gully of three gullies shown on the topo map, and E2 is northwest of E1 in the next major gully. The main entrance (E1) is a 28-foot pit within a major gully. However, the best rig is the high side of the pit, which is 70 feet deep. A 40-foot deep slope leads to a 36-foot pit, which can be bypassed by climbing down a slot to the right of the pit. The second entrance has two 10-foot climbdowns, two 5-foot climbdowns, then 200 feet of passage to an 18-foot pit which comes in at the breakdown slope below the entrance pit at E1. At the bottom of the 36-foot drop, a crawlway to the right and a climbdown bypasses a 36-foot climbdown in the main stream passage. A 100-foot-long crawl leads to a 25-foot-wide, 20-foot-high breakdown meandering passage. Then there is a 25-foot vertical slope to a 66-foot pit through a "Valhalla Rock Jam". Within 300 feet are 3 more pits (25, 60, 36 feet deep). The 25-foot pit can be free climbed. At the top of the second to last pit (60 feet), there is a squeeze throughbreakdown along the right wall that goes to a short crawl (10 feet) over chert that is suspended above the canyon. The floor is punctuated with holes to the canyon below. A squeeze down to the right leads to another 10 feet of hands and knees crawl to walking-sized passage. Fifteen feet led to an offset pit of unknown depth. An extremely scary mud and shale traverse along the right wall over the pit for 10 feet led to another 15 feet of walking passage to a 97-foot pit (taped). A natural rig on the left wall to a boulder pinch was used. A rebelay bolt was set 15' below the lip. Nice drop and mostly free. The bottom connects into the passage below the last pit (36 feet) near an incoming waterfall dome and breakdown pile. From the bottom of the 36-foot pit the passage goes 300 feet as a multilevel canyon passage. The stream sinks into a too-tight crawl. The best route is to climb up, then go through 100 feet of breakdown to the first fault room. From this room a sloping breakdown leads to a 400-foot crawl which ends at the main trunk passage, 3500 feet long. Upstream, the passage goes 1500 feet through some large rooms. A major stream was noted in one section. The passage ends in a complex area of passages, rooms and domes. Some airflow. Downstream from the junction, the walking passage goes 2000 feet, through some large rooms. The first room, 400 feet from the junction, has a dry overflow crawlway entering from the left side. This passage probably carries water from the entrance in wet weather. At the end of the main passage, a lower level leads to the drain for the system. Several hundred feet of crawl has been pushed in this section. Near the end of the main passage, an upper tight climbup leads to the second fault room. About 2000 feet of side passages lead off from this area. The lower levels of the cave have since been pushed extensively by Robert Conney and friends, bringing the cave to over 19,000 feet in length and 528 feet in depth. Beyond the second fault chamber, the Free Form Horror Crawl leads to several thousand feet more cave, including a 20-foot upclimb (on MN-61 rope). The completed map shows average passage dimensions in the far reaches of the cave to be 3 to 18 feet high and 1 to 10 feet wide. The cave ends in a sump. Stygobitic blind crayfish (*Cambarus hamulatus*) and the Tennessee cave salamanders (*Gyrinophilus palleucus palleucus*) live in the cave stream. The pit depths are 70, (slot & climbdown bypassing 36-foot pit), 66, 25, 60, and 36 feet. The ropes needed are 90, 85, 50, 95, and 40 feet. There are 5 bolts.

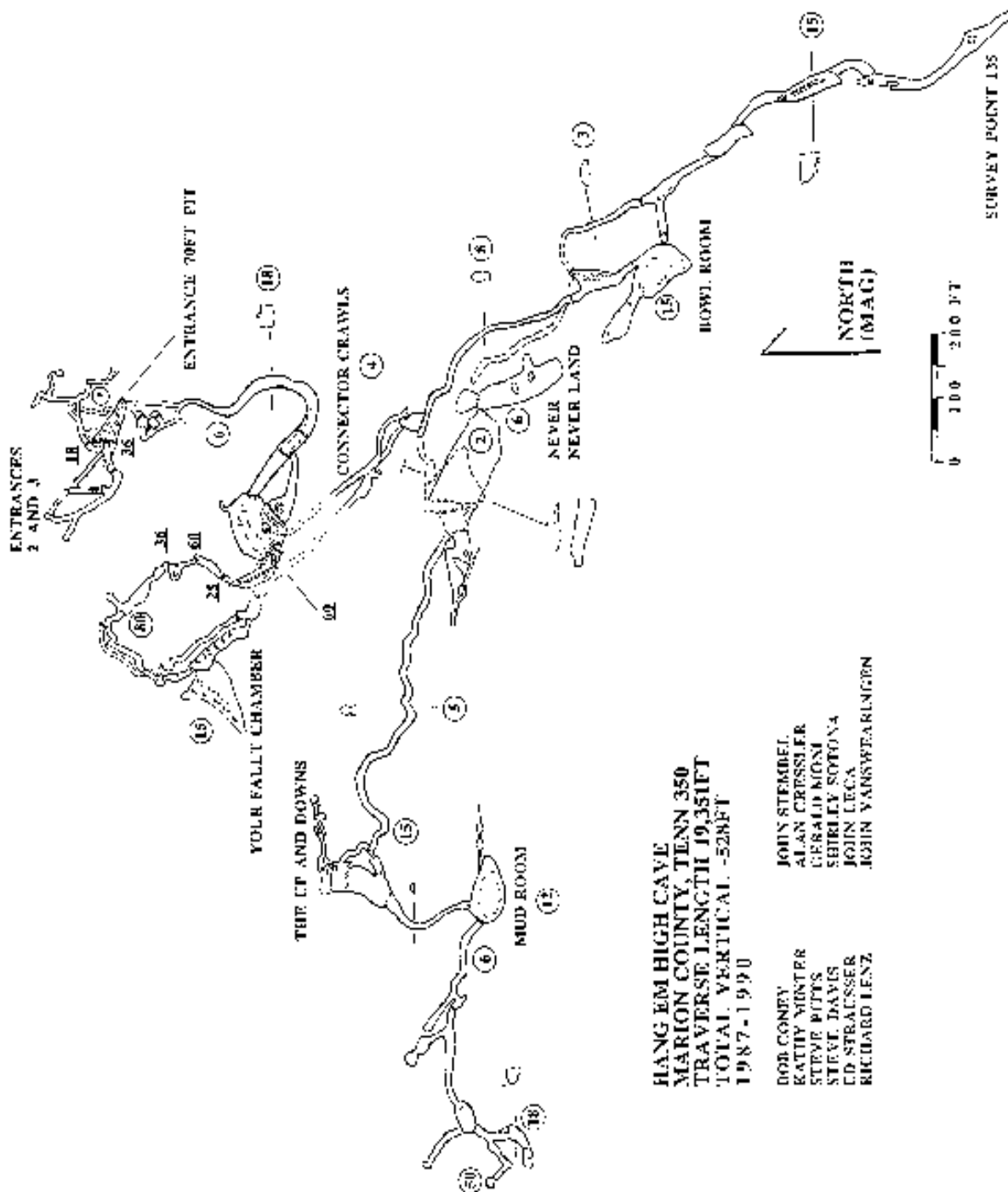
# HANG'EM HIGH CAVE TMN 350



All pit depths in feet.

Drafted by R. Coney, © 1988 NSS 20939

Lettering Jim Smith, 1988



## Waterworks Cave MN-180

Waterworks Cave is located 1800 feet north of Orme; it is shown on the Orme quadrangle topographic map as a spring which emerges for a short distance and then disappears into a large sink. The town of Orme still gets some water from the spring above the cave. Take I-24 west from Chattanooga to Exit 152 (South Pittsburg). At the bottom of the curving exit ramp, turn right onto U.S. 72 going south. Drive another 15 miles or so, following very obvious signs to Russell Cave National Monument (and making lots of turns). Drive past the Monument entrance, and continue another 2 miles to the tiny town of Orme, TN. Bear right at the fork and start up a hill. About 100 yards up the hill, bear left at another fork, up a steeper hill. Follow this road about 200 yards to a water tower. Drive past the water tower on a dirt road into the trees, ending at a large sinkhole.

The cave entrance is in the bottom of the sink. Water drains into the entrance in wet weather. Ten feet inside the entrance MN-180 is a climbable 12-foot pit and a second pit to the right into which the wet weather drainage flows. Beyond the climbable pit is 50 feet of dry stream passage averaging 6 feet wide and 10 feet high, leading to a 45-foot dome pit. The pit bells out to 40 feet in width. On bottom is 300 feet of passage, heading directly under the entrance sink. A possible second entrance to the same cave has been located, although no physical connection has been made. Facing the waterfall, this entrance is to the right and has continuous dripping water due to a leak in the water pipe just above it. Inside the entrance a steep slope enters what was once an apparently large room. The only lead was an unpleasant-looking stream crawl; not checked. A portion of the room extends under the sink toward the passage at the bottom of the 55-foot dome pit, but is blocked with breakdown. At the top of the slope straight ahead were three pits, two of which were climbable, but didn't look very promising. The third pit is a 35-foot drop into a huge breakdown room. Evidence of passage is present, but no route could be found through the breakdown.

Waterworks Cave appears to have been at one time a huge underground room which collapsed on one side, forming a sinkhole. The description and location of Waterworks Cave appeared in the *Nashville Speleoneers* (December 1970), pp. 79-80. (Mark Wolinsky, 1970). The entrance is a walk-in to a 12-foot pit within 40 feet (parallel to this is a 21-foot pit which drops into the same passage the 12-foot pit leads to). Then there is 150 feet of mostly nice walking passage to an offset 45-foot pit into a sizable chamber. At one end one can climb up and go 100 feet. At the floor level a hands/knees crawl leads to stoop/walking passage down 20 feet of climbdowns to the breakdown and rubble end (above this are 100 feet of rooms and pockets). (Marion O. Smith, 1993). At the bottom of the 45-foot pit, a climb up and over a large breakdown block leads to a 3-foot-tall crawlway. After 20 feet this T's into another fossil stream passage, with right going upstream as a crawl for 50 feet to a too-tight area, and left getting larger and larger until a walking-size passage is reached. There is one 5-foot climbdown, and one tricky traverse over a pool of water. Beyond that, the cave continues another 50 feet to a heavily decorated grotto and a flowstone end. Back at the pool in the floor, one can slide down a flowstone slope, around the edge of the pool, and into a decorated belly crawl. Thirty feet farther the cave opens back up into a large borehole, 20 feet tall and 20 feet wide. After another 200 feet the cave appears to end in hillside retreat and breakdown.

# WATERWORKS CAVE

MARION COUNTY, TENNESSEE ~ TCS # MN-52

Grade 5 survey, April 2013 - December 2013 by:

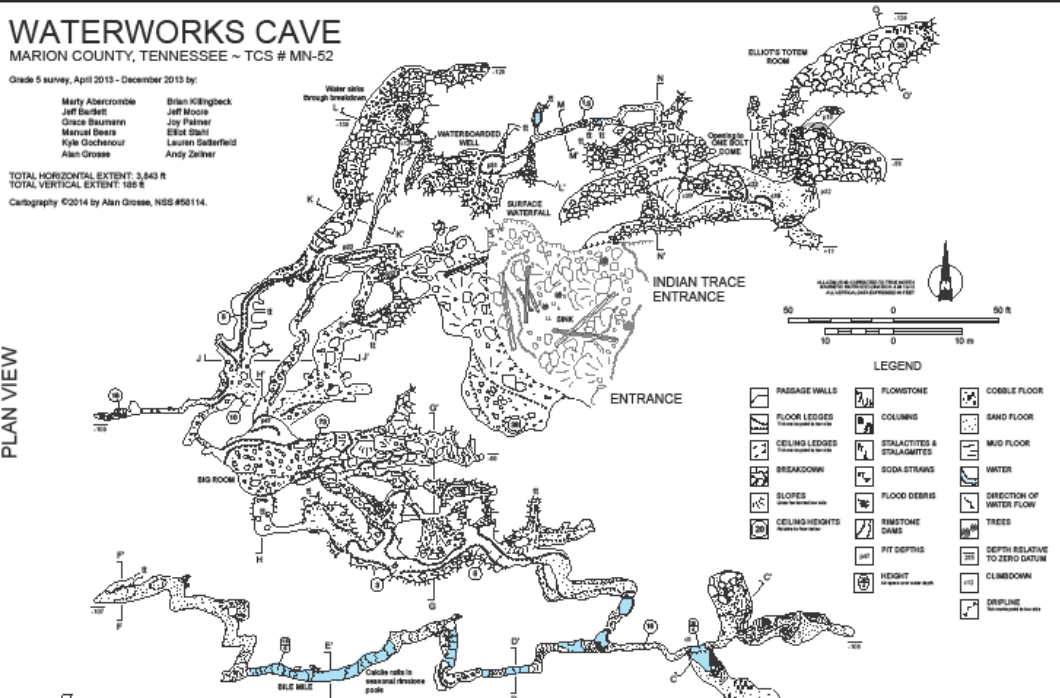
Marty Abercrombie  
Jeff Barrett  
Grace Baumann  
Manuel Beers  
Kyle Cochran  
Alan Grosse

Brian Klingbeck  
Jeff Moore  
Joy Palmer  
Ellis Shaw  
Lauren Satterfield  
Andy Zeiler

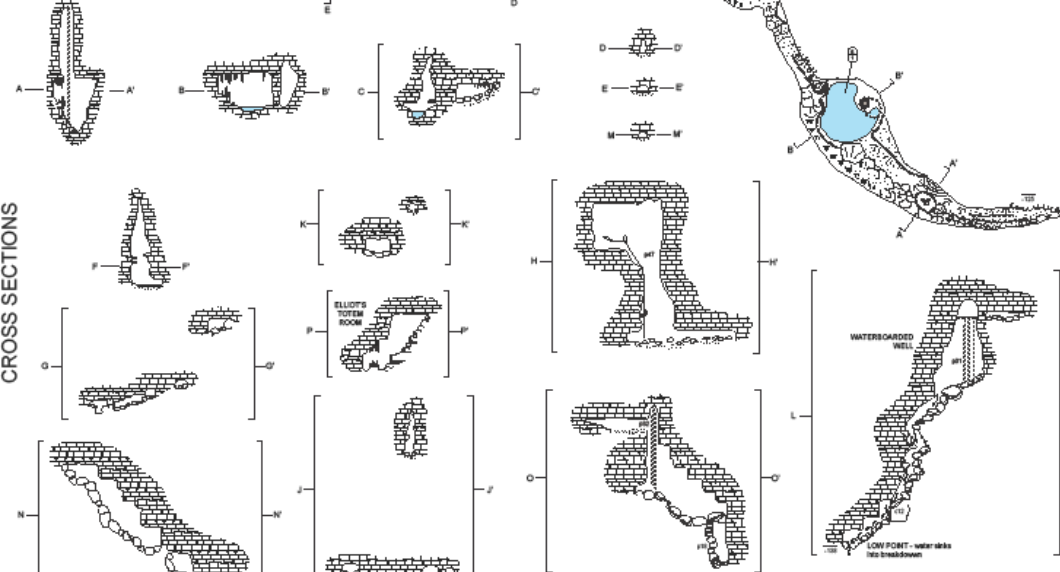
TOTAL HORIZONTAL EXTENT: 3,843 ft  
TOTAL VERTICAL EXTENT: 186 ft

Cartography ©2014 by Alan Grosse, NSS #58114.

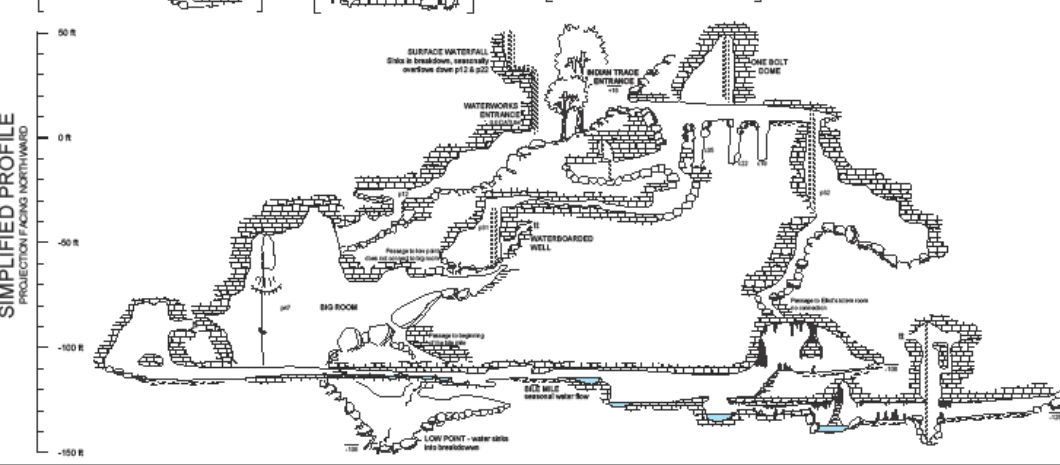
PLAN VIEW



CROSS SECTIONS

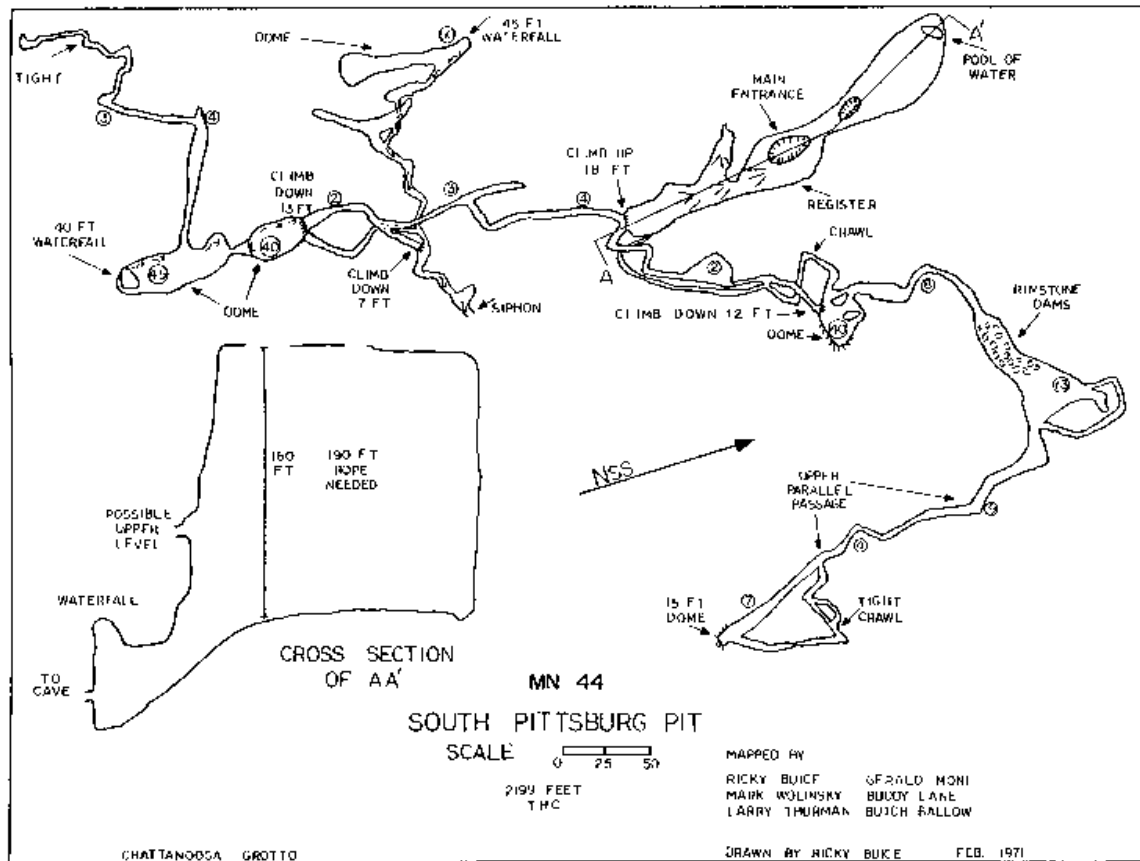


SIMPLIFIED PROFILE  
PROJECTION FACING NORTHWARD



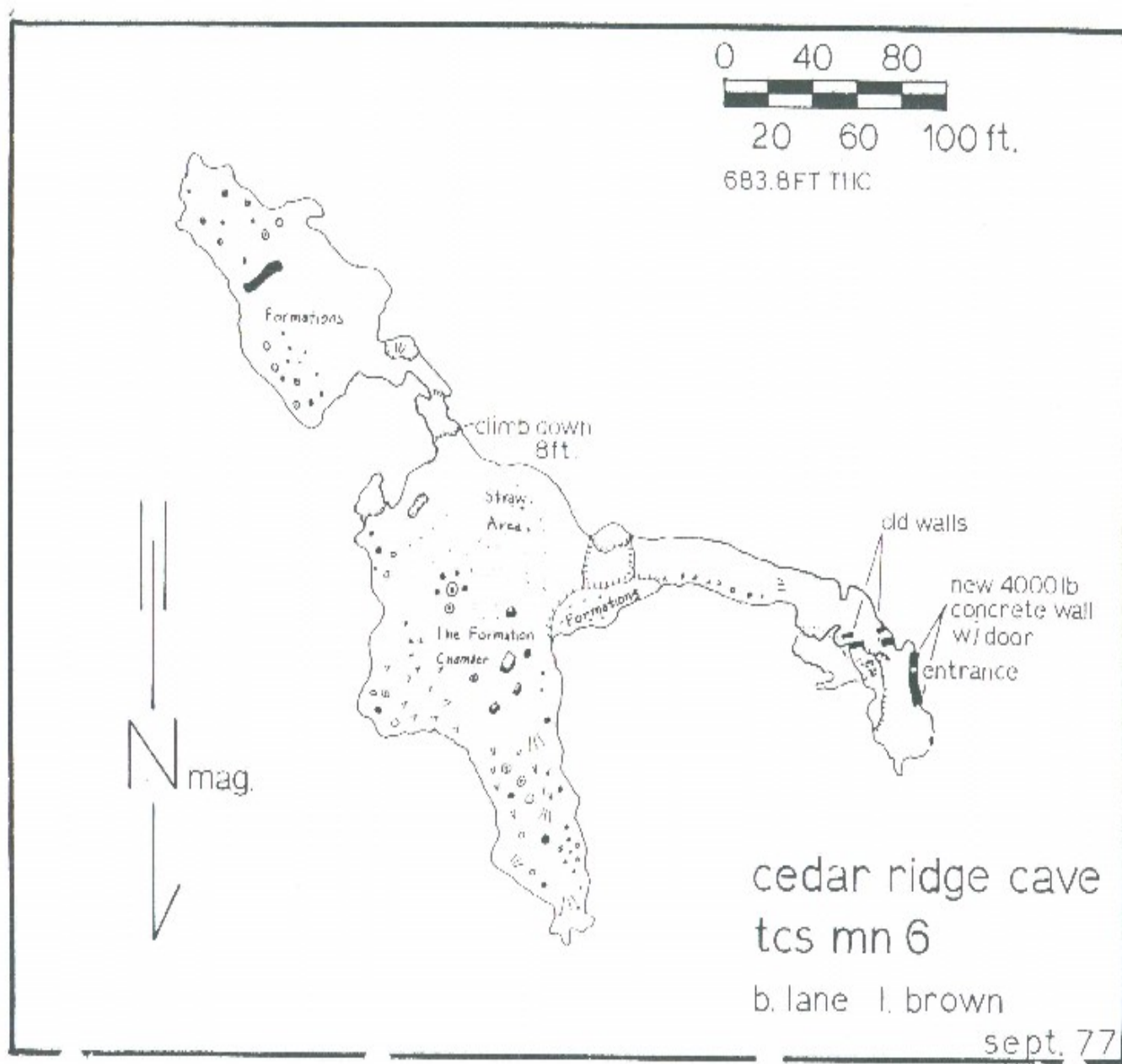
## South Pittsburgh Pit

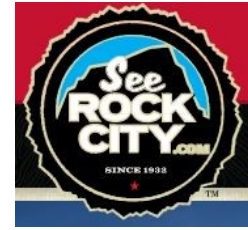
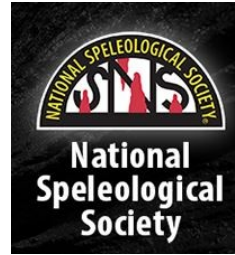
A well visited open-air pit owned by SCCi in the city limits of South Pittsburgh. It is 160 feet deep and has about a half mile of cave at the bottom. Most people are satisfied with bouncing the photogenic entrance pit.



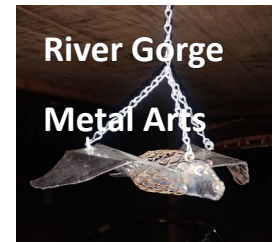
## Cedar Ridge Crystal Cave MN26

Located in the roadcut where U.S. Highway 41 (now Tennessee Highway 2) crosses over I-24, immediately north of Big Fiery Gizzard Creek. The cave is developed in the southern extremity of Cedar Ridge. The cave is gated. The entrance to this cave is 5 feet high and 7 feet wide, but the gate opening is 2 feet square. It opens into a room 30 feet in diameter and 10 feet high. A crawlway leads east into a passage which heads northeast for 150 feet and averages 10 feet wide and 5 feet high. Numerous formations decorate this passage. This passage leads into a room 75 feet long, 150 feet wide, and 25 feet high. The cave continues northeast, but another passage extends from this room to the northwest. Northeast the cave continues for 30 feet as a crawl, then opens into a room 75 feet in diameter and 15 feet high in the center. The cave may continue northeast past the point, but this section of the cave is very unstable and dangerous because of the nearby blasting to build I-24. Northwest from the largest room, the cave continues for 75 feet through a maze of flowstone columns and stalagmites. It then narrows to a small dripstone grotto, beyond which a crawlway continues for an undetermined distance.





Main Line  
Link



The Lemon Fair

