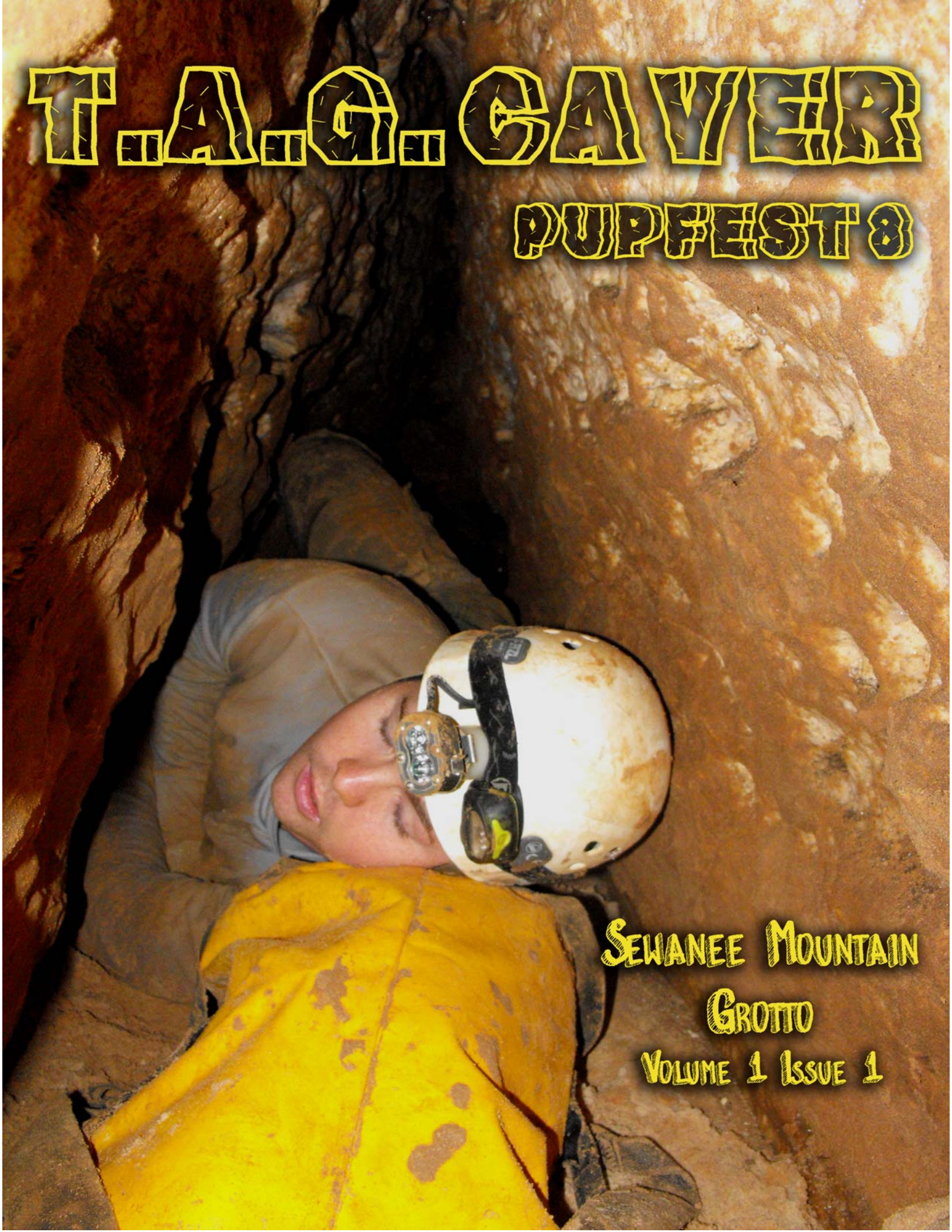


T.A.G. CAVER

PUPFEST 8

SEWANEE MOUNTAIN
GROTTO
VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1





Welcome to Pupfest 8

By Maureen Handler

2010 Pupfest Chair

Welcome to PUPFEST 8!!! It is hard to believe that the first Pupfest was 7 years ago!! And what a long, strange trip it has been!! I was recently looking at photos of Pupfest from 2005. There were about 50 people in the crowd. We are now nearly 3 times as large!! The Sewanee Mountain Grotto and Labor Day event have grown significantly since our inception. The grotto holds this party to give the cavers of TAG a place to cave and party for the holiday weekend. We appreciate everyone who comes to Pupfest to enjoy the food, beer and friendship of their caving friends.

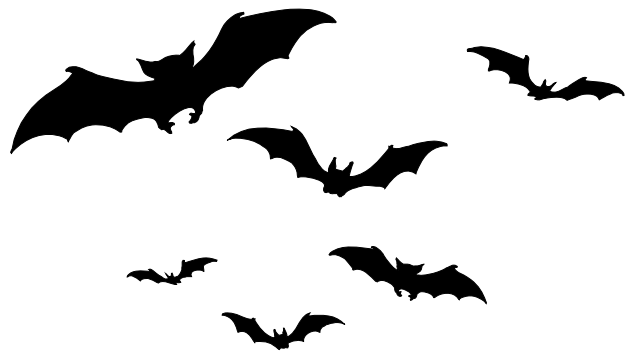
Of course, the auction is a big draw as well. Our grotto members have been soliciting great donations from business far and wide. We have a great selection of items this year. All of the money raised goes to our conservation efforts. The Russell Cave Watershed Restoration Project is going into its 5th year. Over 100,000 pounds of debris has been removed to date. See the article about this project later in this guidebook.

In addition to the Russell Cave Watershed, the grotto has cleaned up the Horseshoe Bend Cave watershed. We also have plans for clean ups in the Big Room Cave watershed in Grundy County and the Wet Cave Watershed in Franklin County. We use the money raised to fund these clean up efforts. We also financially support the Southeastern Cave Conservancy and the SERA Karst Task Force to help them achieve their cave conservation goals. So, enjoy the weekend! CAVE, PADDLE, EAT, DRINK and Spend Money at the Auction.

Maureen Handler
Pupfest Chair
SMG Conservation Chair

Things to remember this weekend:

- 10 MPH speed limit on the property at all times!
- Keep Campsites free of TRASH
- Recycle all glass, plastic (no caps) and aluminum in bins provided
- Keep your pets and children under control
- Watch for snakes and spiders around wood piles and rock outcroppings
- Showers available at the bath house (donations accepted for water/power usage)



Chairperson.....	Maureen Handler
Guidebook Editors.....	Kelly Smallwood & Jason Hardy
Cover Photos.....	Kelly Smallwood
Trip Coordinator.....	Jason Hardy
Sunday Dinner.....	Steve Holt
Fire Master.....	Boweevil
Brewmeister.....	Blaine Grindle
Auction / Yard Sale.....	Kelly Smallwood



Schedule of Events



Friday

All Day – Caving!!
Dark 30 – Campfire & Beer

Saturday

All Day – Caving!!
Including Led Kids Trip
6:00 PM – Canoe Trip to Nickajack
Cave Bat Flight
Dark 30 – Campfire & Beer
8:30 PM – Ever Vega Band

Sunday

All Day – Caving!!
5:00 PM – BBQ Pig and Beer
7:00 PM – Pupfest Auction!

Monday

Even More Caving





Conservation & the Sewanee Mountain Grotto

The Little Cleanup that was... By Anne Grindle
Photos by Kelly Smallwood



On May 15, an army of 6 cavers made their way back to Monteagle Saltpeter Cave to do a clean-up. The cave has been closed for years, but determined spelunkers have parked illegally along I-24 and hiked down to the cave. We took just one vehicle (at the owner's request) to within 80 feet of the cave, by driving down the Cave Cove driveway and on through a dry stream bed. For the Jeep passengers, it was quite a jostling ride to get to the parking spot!

The Sewanee Mountain Grotto volunteers, Kelly Smallwood, Dakota Rowland, Jason Hardy, Leslie Lytle, Blaine and Anne Grindle, moved throughout the main passages and many side passages to collect litter. We gathered about 50 batteries, a full bag of aluminum, lots of broken glass, many plastic bottles, 3 full cans of spray paint, a sleeping pad, some

sheet plastic and one large cooler. Jason and I finally came to a passage that had zero litter and no graffiti! Such a pleasant change from the rest of the graffiti-covered cave. We did see two historical signatures, one from 1861, which was thankfully not sprayed over with paint. The bottoms of saltpeter vats are still visible, too.

The cave has so many mazy side passages and is a fun cave, if the graffiti is not too unpleasant for folks. (Too bad there is not a way to clean that). I never got back to the passage I toured many years ago, that requires a chimney down to an area with a ladder....not enough time, plus I just got worn out.

These volunteers spent just 2.5 hours in the cave, but certainly made a huge difference in Monteagle Saltpeter Cave. Plus our efforts convinced the owner to allow caver visitation during SERA 2010!





Russell Cave Watershed Restoration Project By Maureen Handler

When the Sewanee Mountain Grotto reformed in end of 2003, we decided as a grotto, that we wanted to focus some of our efforts on cave conservation. By 2005, the grotto had grown and we had friends coming to cave from all over the region. A number of cavers went to White Cricket Cave or Water Works Cave in the Russell Cave Watershed. We all knew about the gigantic road side dump down Orme Mountain Road, however, the sheer vastness of it was daunting.

In the end of 2005, the Grotto decided to 'adopt' the watershed and clean it up. I knew at the time it would be at least a 5 year project. Due to the size of the first dump, the SERA Karst Task Force resources were enlisted to assist with this overwhelming project. From February 2006 through March of 2007, 20 tons of debris was removed from the first dump using the SKTF Highline Haul System. The debris included over 400 tires, 29 automotive gas tanks (some with gas still in them), 6 mostly empty Freon tanks, 3 gallons of concrete stain, and a large number of batteries. This is in addition to the typical trash, appliances, furniture and mattresses.

The following winter, we 'attacked' the second smaller dump down the road heading toward the town of Orme. The town found out what we were doing and twice fed us dinner after our clean ups. Approximately 10 tons of debris was removed from this dump.

One of the local landowners found out what we were doing and donated enough funds to pay for the three dumpsters we needed. In addition, these funds were used to make and post 'Russell Cave Watershed' signs and 'Protected Drinking Water Watershed' signs. Marion County also offered help. They have waived all tipping fees at the landfill and have provided both community service and trustee workers to assist in the clean up. We no longer have to rent dumpsters. We leave the debris bagged and piled on the roadside and the County comes and removes it for us.

Over the past 4 years we have removed over 100,000 pounds of debris from the watershed. We still have about 1/4 mile of roadside to clean up to make it to the town of Orme. We are also looking at cleaning up Gross Hole. This vertical cave entrance has been the site of historic dumping and is also in the Russell Cave Watershed. Come join us for this important project and help protect the caves and watersheds we care about.

Maureen Handler
SMG
Conservation
Chair.





The Minnie Pit Survey By Jason Hardy

Photos By
Kelly
Smallwood

This small multi drop cave saved the day for an eager team of TAG surveyors that were snowed in on the mountain at Peter "Mudpuppy" Michaud's house in Sewanee, TN. On January 30th, 2010 this small team of cavers included Paul Lundberg, Kelly Smallwood, Mudpuppy, and myself. We were planning on heading down the mountain to finish up the survey of Martin Springs High Hole Cave. Due to snow-covered roads and even more snow still in the forecast Paul mentioned a small multi drop cave right off the road at the contact. Paul had found this pit on an earlier ridge walk and he thought it would be perfect for us to check out and survey. The team agreed it would be a wise decision to stay on the mountain and the plans were changed to survey this small cave known as Minnie Pit.

We all loaded up in the truck and made our treacherous drive to the cave and just as we arrived more snow began to fall in the sinkhole. We rigged a nearby tree and pulled tape down a very drippy 44' pit into a sloping room. Our team continued on pulling tape to a down climb of 8' to the lip of another 21' pit. This pit

was a little difficult to rig. The team did manage to rig this pit through a window from the upper level of the cave to a natural rig point. The rigging was very creative to say the least. This pit dropped us into a fifteen by twenty foot diameter pit. Once on the bottom of this pit the cave continued on in too tight cobblestone slot. With all leads checked we called end of survey and began to make our way out of the cave. Once at the surface and soaked by the drippy entrance we began to pull our rope and one of the funniest quotes of the day came from Kelly and Pup. Everyone was complaining about the cold wind and being wet so Kelly said, "Think of it as the breeze off the ocean to keep you warm". Pup quickly replied, "Yea, the only ocean I am feeling right now out here is the arctic ocean".

Altogether our team set 10 stations. This small cave ended up having a total vertical extent of 101' and a total horizontal extent of 91'. I want to thank my team for braving the cold weather and completing this nice roadside cave. The entire trip only took 4 hours, which was great due to the weather and the fact that everyone was wet.



Minnie Pit

TMN 279

Sewanee Mountain Grotto, NSS

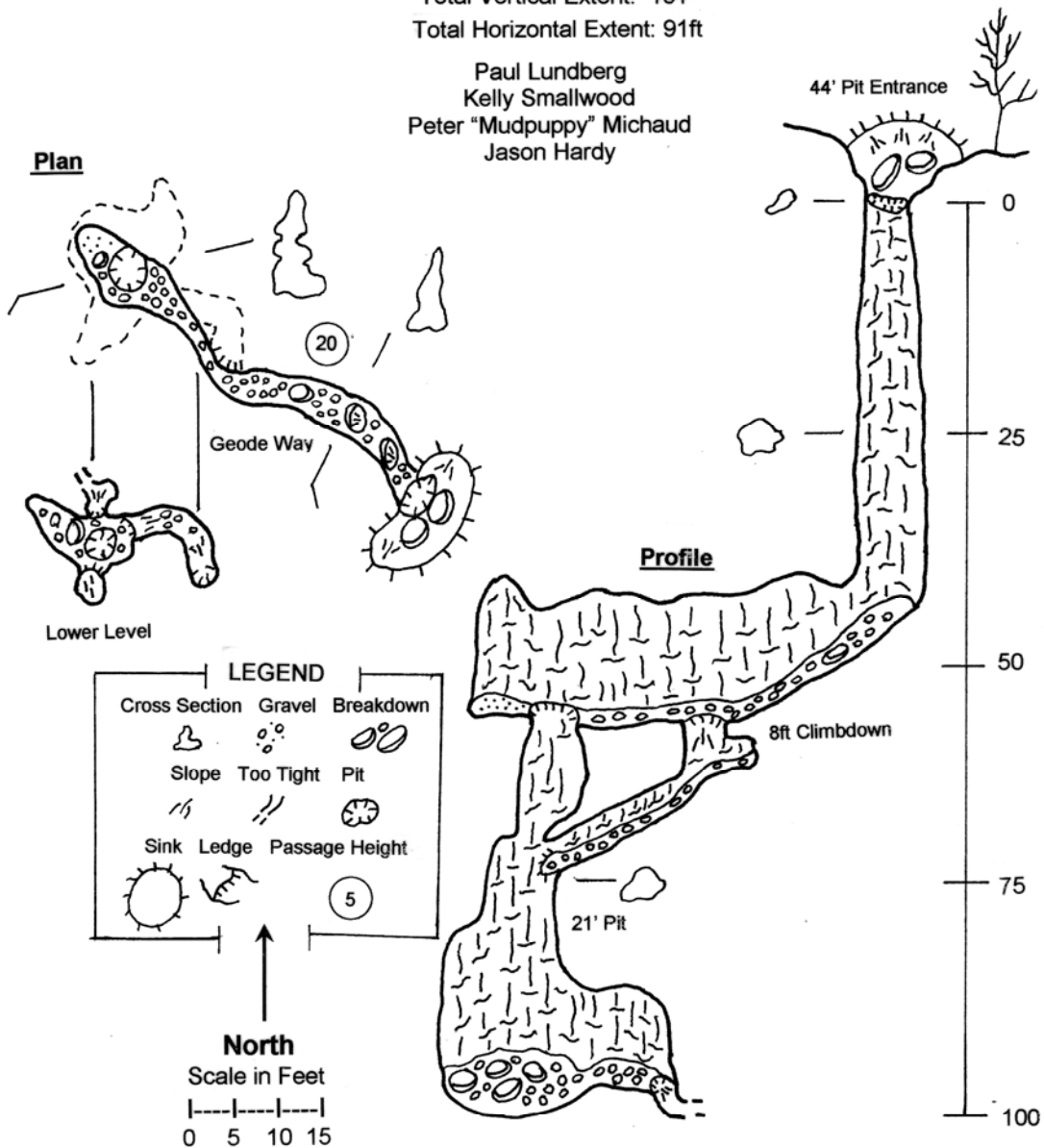
Grade 5 Survey

January 30th, 2010

Total Vertical Extent: 101

Total Horizontal Extent: 91ft

Paul Lundberg
Kelly Smallwood
Peter "Mudpuppy" Michaud
Jason Hardy



Jason Hardy, 2010



Glory Hole Cave By Kelly Smallwood

In April of this year I had the wonderful opportunity to visit Glory Hole Cave in South Georgia... The land there is so flat it's hard to believe there is a cave but there is and it really is a gorgeous one... One of the conditions of visiting Glory Hole is giving back. The Cave has previously been vandalized and is suffering from sand erosion. Due to erosion the original dug entrance collapsed and a new one had to be constructed some years back. So there is lots of work to do in the cave.

Friday morning Jason Hardy and myself left Atlanta and headed South stopping at Providence Canyon State Park along the way. What a beautiful site that was too. It is often referred to



as the Grand Canyon of Georgia. The canyons were formed due to poor farming practices in the 1800's.

Friday night, once in Albany we met up with Kevin & Shannon Glenn and Matt Blake for dinner. Kevin & Shannon had been to Glory Hole 3 years earlier so they were going over with us what to expect on our trip. Since it was still light out after dinner, Jason and I went over to hang out with

Matt B. (who chose to camp instead of getting a hotel room). A few beers were consumed and of course there was a lot more caving talk... After a few hours we retreated to our hotel and left Matt alone in the wilderness of South Georgia with the alligators and armadillos...

Saturday morning we woke up to lots of rain outside... We grabbed some breakfast at the hotel and began our 45-minute journey towards Camilla to meet the rest of our group and our trip leader. Passing nothing but flat land and tons of pecan trees we seriously were wondering how a cave was way down here in the middle of nowhere...

Once at the cave we met up with some members of the Flint River Grotto and Montgomery Grotto. There were 8 of us total on the trip. After some initial buffoonery with the key the gate was finally open. Thank goodness Stan brought his "old" key because it was the one that opened the lock. One by one we headed down the steel ladder going into a corkscrew breakdown passage that ends into a canyon. We then had to down climb about 8 feet and finally were in a small walking passage called the Hall of High Hopes. It was here just before the sand room where we were going to do some of the work to try and slow the erosion of the sand in the cave. We had brought in with us bright orange sand bags. Our goal



was to fill about 30 of them to put in select places to stop sand from going further into passage ways. We split into two teams of 4 and filled sand bags for about half an hour with some small shovels that Matt K. brought into the cave.

We then headed into the Sand Room where we got our first glimpse of some pretties. White formations everywhere... However, sadly some morons at some point had come into the cave and spray painted on some of the formations. It was here that Stan suggested firing off a slave flash with all our lights off so we could see the crystals glow. So we all turned off our lights, closed our eyes and fired off a flash. Upon opening my eyes the crystals were glowing with a green color. It was quite amazing. We then headed thru the Regal Wriggle watching our heads carefully because we were crawling in sand and only had about 2 feet of space above us and lots of pretties were hanging everywhere...



After the Regal Wriggle we made our way thru the Fallen Angels area, saw the Loch Ness Passage and back to the F.S.S Bypass. After admiring all the pretties in the Back End instead of going thru the bypass the decision was made we would go back the way we came. We then began our journey

thru the crawlways leading up to the birth canal. What interesting and appropriately named passage. Crawling and scooting on your belly in a sand crawl in passage that is only about a foot and half

wide at most. Once at the Z bend, Matt K. went thru first and Ted tried to follow without

success. Ted realized he wasn't going to make it so

he began to dig and push sand out of the way. Matt K. went and grabbed one of the small shovels we used earlier with the sand bags and tossed it back down to Ted to assist in his digging. After about 30 minutes of Ted moving sand around he finally was able to fit thru. Once around the corner at the Z bend we had to go thru about 3 feet of slimy muddy water and then try and make our way up the birth canal. What a hoot... Being the funny guy that he is Matt K. kept pushing me by my helmet back into the birth canal... Finally he gave me a hand and helped pull me out..! We all came out like we had been birthed...

We then made our way back up the canyon, thru the breakdown and out the entrance. What a great trip.



Cave Descriptions

(Photos by Kelly Smallwood)



When you visit any TAG cave, please remember that most of them are privately owned. We are fortunate to have some of the best landowners in the country, but please be respectful of their rights as a land/cave owner. Please make an effort to stop by and let the landowner know your plans and respect their wishes. Most would welcome the opportunity to meet cavers who have traveled just to visit their cave.

The Southeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. (SCCi) owns a few of the caves listed in this *Guidebook*. This organization has made a tremendous effort to acquire or arrange access to some of TAG's finest caves. Many of the SCCi caves are extremely popular. If you arrive at an SCCi cave or any cave during the Pupfest 2010 weekend and see a "cast of thousands," please go to another cave. Please check with the SCCi ahead of time to obtain current information on access and any visitation issues.

HORIZONTAL CAVES

Bible Springs Cave (TMN91)

Gear:	Horizontal, Wet Suit	Length:	4,000 Feet
Map:	No	Vertical Extent:	40 Feet

A short climb-down at the entrance leads to a pool of water about two feet deep. An easy climb-up at the 7- foot waterfall leads to a canyon passage with many cascades. After negotiating a chest deep pool, you enter walking passage. This passage continues as walking/stooping for about 1,000 feet. There is a large parallel passage on the left with many formations, but it is blocked in many places by breakdown. Follow the water upstream to a 100-foot water crawl (hands and knees). Just after this crawl, the passage becomes large again. After passing a large break down block on the left, look up to the left for a five foot climb-up to the upper passage. This passage opens out into a large room with the stream meandering across the floor. The cave continues beyond, as a very complicated route.



WARNING: The cave may flood during heavy rains.

Big Mouth Cave (TGD 2)

Gear:	Horizontal	Length:	10,000 Feet
Map:	No	Vertical Extent:	50 Feet

The entrance to Big Mouth Cave is 140 feet wide and 20 feet high. Trending to the east, the 40 foot wide by 12 foot high passage goes 375 feet before ending in breakdown. Heading west, an alternating stooping and standing route, leads through dry passage towards the stream. This cave, as well as Big Room Cave, is drained by a large underground stream believed to emerge at Sartain Spring in Burrow Cove.

Hermit Cave (TMN 408)

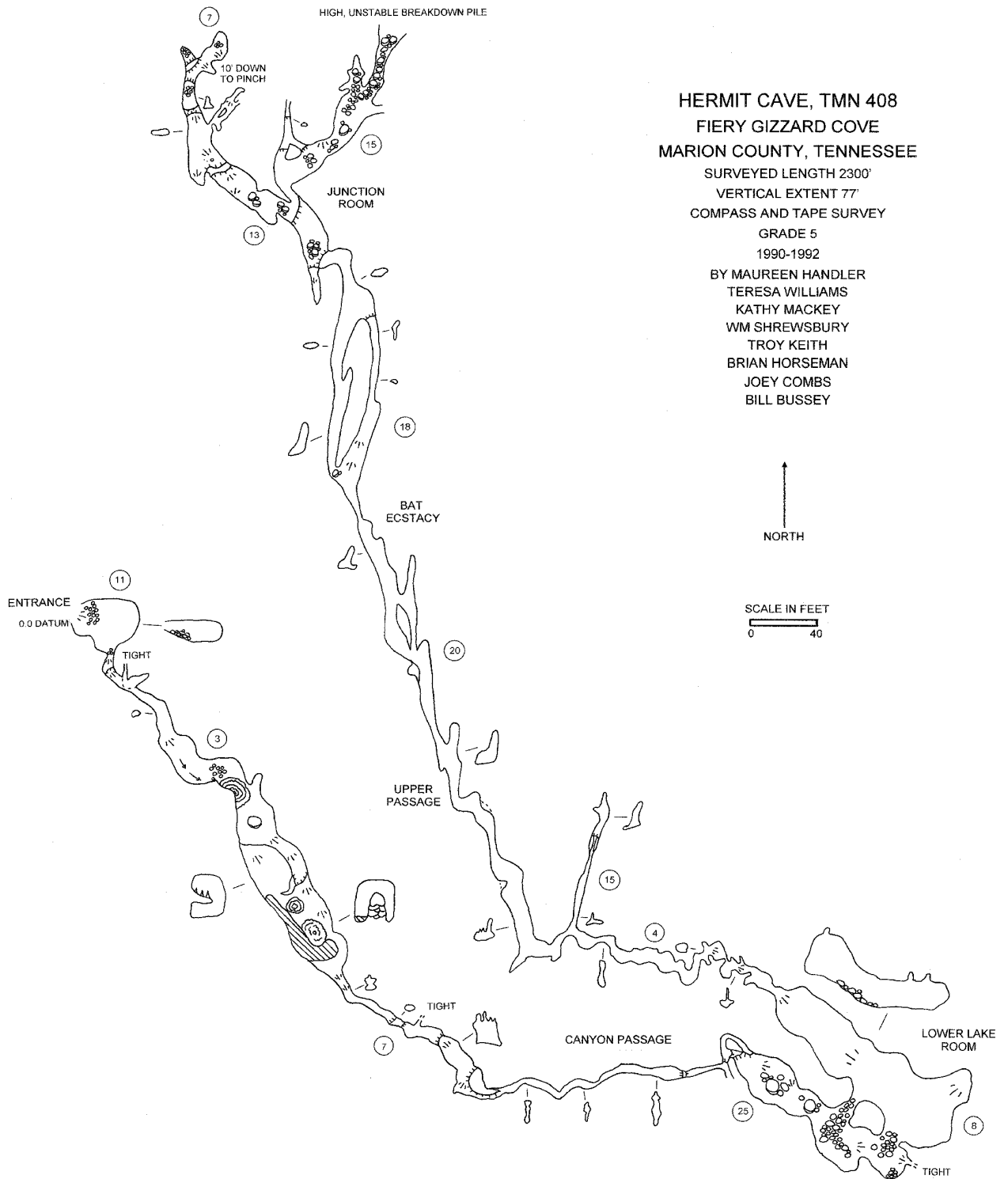
Gear:	Horizontal	Length:	2,300 Feet
Map:	Yes	Vertical Extent:	77 Feet

The entrance is 12 feet wide by 4.5 feet high and slopes into a large room where a hermit once lived. 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 occasionally 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 climb down 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 a QAS may be required. The rope to the left is a difficult climb-up 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, while the right fork leads to 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.

Skylight Cave (TMN 154)

Gear:	Horizontal	Length:	242 Feet
Map:	Yes	Vertical Extent:	29 Feet

The main entrance to Skylight Cave is a climb-down to a 15-foot-high dome chamber. This entrance is 20 feet long by 6 feet wide. A crawl to the left leads to 30 feet of passage. To the right is the bottom of the 15-foot pit entrance. Past the bottom of the pit, the cave continues as a spacious room/passage for 70 feet, past several nice formations. The back of the cave has several smaller side passages that extend 20 feet and interconnect to form a series of loops through flowstone. One date from 1904 was noticed on the wall halfway through the cave.



HERMIT CAVE, TMN 408
FIERY GIZZARD COVE
MARION COUNTY, TENNESSEE

SURVEYED LENGTH 2300'
VERTICAL EXTENT 77'
COMPASS AND TAPE SURVEY
GRADE 5
1990-1992

BY MAUREEN HANDLER
TERESA WILLIAMS
KATHY MACKEY
WM SHREWSBURY
TROY KEITH
BRIAN HORSEMAN
JOEY COMBS
BILL BUSSEY



SCALE IN FEET
0 40

Speegle Cove Cave (TMN 45)

Gear:	Horizontal, Vertical	Length:	503	Feet
Map:	No	Vertical Extent:	48	Feet

The entrance is 5 feet long and 2 feet wide and slopes downward for 10 feet. The mouth of the cave is in breakdown, and there are two holes through which it is possible to enter. Average dimensions are 20 feet wide and 10 feet high. An interesting conical stalagmite 10 feet in diameter and 5 feet high may be seen at the bend in the cave, with rimstone pools developed in the sides. There are two side passages on the west side of the main passage. The first goes back 120 feet to an end. However, 80 feet down the passage you cross over a 15-foot climb-down leading to a 28-foot pit. No passages lead from the bottom of the pit. The second side passage goes 80 feet as a crawl.

VERTICAL CAVES

Big Room Cave (TGD 3)

Gear:	Vertical	Length:	8,160 Feet
Map:	No	Vertical Extent:	75 Feet

The entrance of Big Room Cave is a pit 5 feet in diameter and 15-feet deep, which drops into a gallery that is 15-feet high and 8-feet wide. A 50-foot rope is ample for rigging the short pit, plus enough for a hand line to get over the next ledge, to the floor below. On the floor, the passage extends west for 200 feet to a dead end, and also northeast for 400 feet to the mouth of a crawlway. 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.

The Big Room is 8-feet high, 60 to 80 feet wide, and 900-feet long. At the east end is extensive breakdown. By following the left wall for 150 feet through a series of tight squeezes and crawlways (Tombstone Pass), the passage opens up to a large room above the main stream. Skirting around the stream, cavers can reach dry passages leading to more cave and some nice formation galleries.

Across the stream a silt-floored dry avenue continues at the same level as the floor of the Big Room. It trends eastward, and it's

many branches total at least 1500 feet in length. Small dripstone formations are well developed in this area. An extension of the cave leads downstream through muddy pools and inlets for several hundred yards.

Gourdneck Cave (TMN 14)

Gear:	Vertical, Wetsuit	Length:	8000 Feet
Map:	No	Vertical Extent:	400 Feet

Gourdneck Cave was artificially opened, and water is piped from the cave for a private supply. The small mouth, 3 feet wide by 5 feet long, opens into a 35-foot vertical fissure, requiring a 60-foot rope. A powerful blast of air sweeps out of this hole in the summer. At the bottom of the pit a passage 6-feet high and 2-feet wide twists and turns for 230 feet, then intersects a stream passage.



Follow the water upstream, through a 60-foot tall, but sinuous passage. At the first good sized waterfall an exposed climb is required, followed by a 50-foot belly crawl to return to the stream. The passage opens up to a large room with Hans Falls. Above Hans Falls is a 20-foot long, low stream crawl that normally requires a wetsuit, but leads to another 2000+ feet of large walking canyon passage; the fixed rope at the falls has been removed. This passage, which blows air, ends in a large "terminal" dome that was taped at 105 feet across. The dome has been climbed and taped at 186 feet, but extends upward about 20 more feet. This last 20 feet was in rotten rock and could not be climbed. A small hole was seen at the top.

Lynch Pit (TMN 92)

Gear:	Vertical	Length:	710 Feet
Map:	No	Vertical Extent:	90 Feet



The pit entrance is an irregular opening that is 3 feet by 8 feet. Rigging on the west (downhill) side provides a 79-foot free drop. A 125 foot rope is needed for rigging. The scenic pit ends in a 60-foot tall room, with a pool off to the side. Cross the knee-deep pool and climb-up, to find most of the cave passage. If you want to explore the lower passage, don't cross the pool, but climb down in a canyon slot in the floor near your rope.

Martin Springs High Hole (TMN 22)

Gear:	Vertical	Length:	2869 Feet
Map:	Yes	Vertical Extent:	201 Feet

The pit is located in a 30-foot sink. Rig the low side (a bluff) which gives a 117-foot drop. An old iron piton that was installed by Harvey Templeton in June 1942 is present just below the first ledge. A major ledge is encountered 80-feet down the drop and a Fixe re-belay bolt helps make the drop safer. Climb-down 50 feet into a large room and to a stoop passage on the right. This leads to a big room with steep mud banks that have several passages leading out of it.

From this big room, heading south for almost 800 feet, the passage continues as nice strolling borehole. At the terminus of this passage there is a highly unstable breakdown choke with strong air flow. A parallel passage follows the stream out of the big room. This stream passage terminates in a sump that drains Cave Cove and finally comes out at Martin Springs.

Heading north from the big room, a high level lead is encountered on the left wall. A 15-foot climb-down leads to a 10-inch squeeze through a breakdown maze. Follow the passage northwest to where it gradually opens to large borehole averaging 30-feet wide by 40-feet high. The breakdown in this area appears very unstable and the passage eventually terminates in both directions as a choked area.

Upstream the passage goes to a breakdown area after several hundred feet. Beyond the breakdown pile, during low water levels a 30-foot long low airspace can be negotiated. Past the low air space, a 30-foot wide, 20-foot high passage goes upstream as walking passage for 500 feet to an upstream sump. A right passage (10-feet wide, 4-feet above water, 2-feet below) goes 120 feet to a room. An in-feeder went into a 100-foot by 80-foot by 30-foot room with a giant sand dune in the middle. In very dry times, a 30-foot-long low airspace down at stream level can be followed into a continuation of the big borehole passage. This leads for several hundred feet and finally stops at a massive sump that remains unexplored. This underground stream drains a very large cove on the surface and likely continues for several miles more.

WARNING: Much of the stream passage floods to the ceiling in high water.

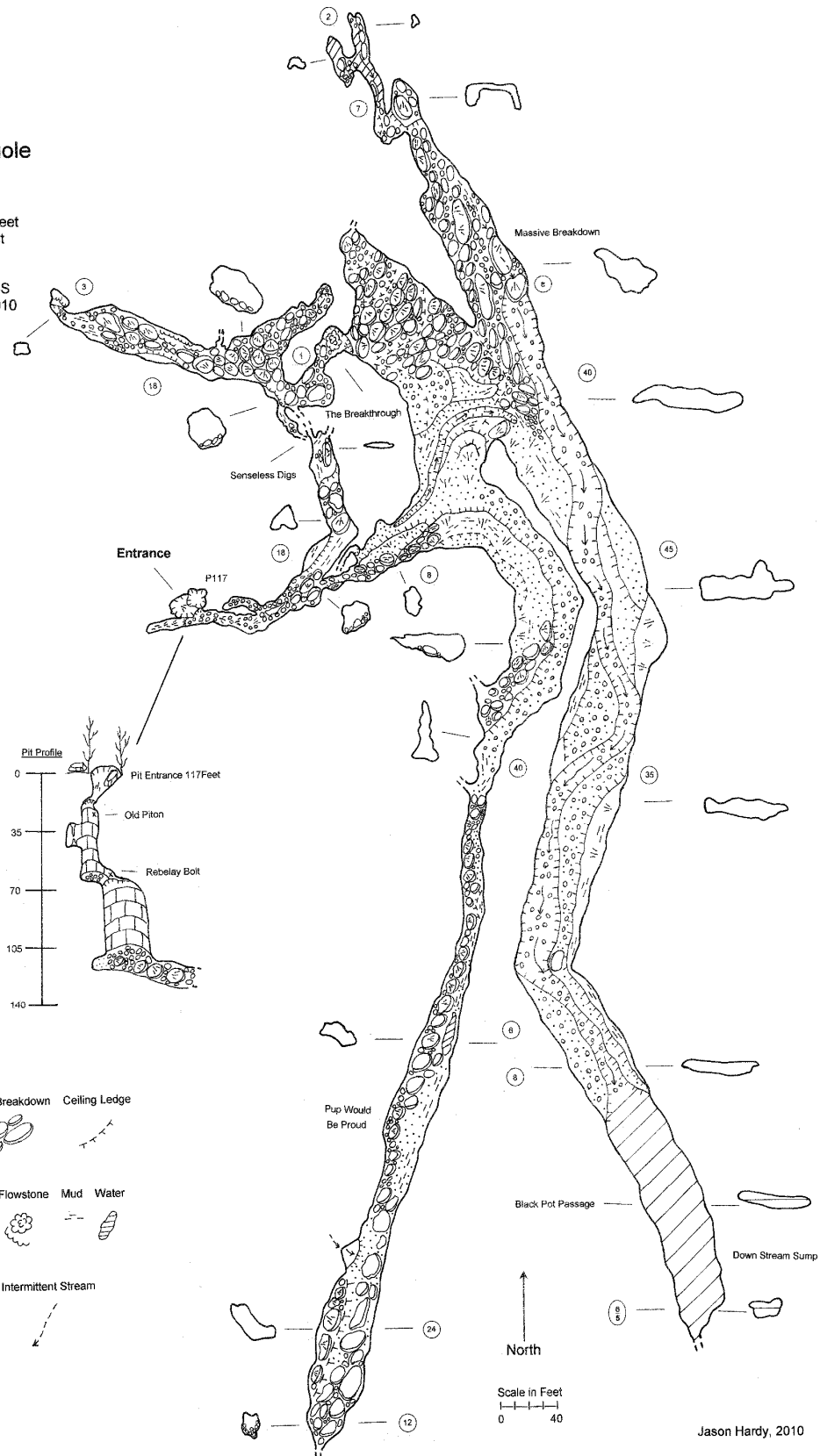
Martin Springs High Hole

Marion County, TN
TMN 22

Total Horizontal Extent: 2,869 Feet
Total Vertical Extent: 201 Feet

Grade 5 Survey
Sewanee Mountain Grotto, NSS
February 21, 2009- March 6, 2010

Julie Schenck Brown
Jason Hardy
Peter "Mudpuppy" Michaud
Anne Grindle
Blaine Grindle
Julie Usselton
C.D. "Hazard" Bryant
Teri Stephens
Jon Minich



Jason Hardy, 2010

Minnie Pit (TMN 279)

Gear:	Vertical	Length:	101 Feet
Map:	Yes	Vertical Extent:	91 Feet

The tight pit entrance is 5 feet long by 2.5 feet wide. The entrance pit is 44-feet deep and leads to 25 feet of walking passage to an 8-foot climb-down. Then 20 more feet of 3-foot wide walking passage to a 21-foot pit. At the bottom is an 8-foot climb-down to a 5-foot diameter room. Water goes down a too tight crack. All of the high leads were checked, none went.

Raulston Pit (TGD 89)

Gear:	Vertical	Length:	776 Feet
Map:	No	Vertical Extent:	188 Feet

The entrance pit may be drippy and drops 79 feet to a major ledge, followed by a 62-foot pit for a total of 141 feet. Both drops are clean washed, and scalloped. One 250 foot long rope will rig both drops. At the bottom, passage leads two directions. One direction leads to a low crawl in a stream. From here, the cave makes a 300-foot loop and ends in a large and very unstable room. The opposite route is 25-feet tall, but ends in a blind pit that can be accessed with a hand line.

Sawmill Well (TMN 38)

Gear:	Vertical	Length:	430 Feet
Map:	No	Vertical Extent:	175 Feet

Sawmill Well is a classic, open air pit. From the lip, it's a beautiful 155-foot drop to the floor. The pit can be drippy in the rainy season. At the bottom, a tight crawl leads to a few hundred feet of passage and some tall domes. A 200-foot rope is needed for rigging.

Sewanee Plunge (TFR 230)

Gear:	Vertical	Length:	4341 Feet
Map:	No	Vertical Extent:	490 Feet

Sewanee Plunge is a difficult 400-foot-deep multi-drop cave. The main entrance is a 15-foot-diameter pit that is 59-feet deep , 100-foot rope needed. A lot of water pours into the pit at times. At the bottom, a tight squeeze descends 10 feet through breakdown to another 10-foot climb down to a 43-foot pit, requiring a 60-foot

rope. Then a 7-foot climb down leads to the beginning of a long, long crawl. The next 1500 feet of passage never gets more than 3-4 feet high and has sections with names like The Nozzle, Salamander Alley, and Knee Hell.

Finally a breakdown area where you can stand up is reached, where tree roots and outside critters are seen. This is where the second entrance comes in via a tight chimney climb-down. Continuing further into the cave, work your way through a complicated set of climb-downs and squeezes through sandstone boulders for about 30 vertical feet. Finally leave the water and go through a dry 30-foot long crawlway to the top of a 34-foot pit, 60-foot rope needed. Then in fairly rapid succession comes an 11-foot pit (40-foot rope), a 10-foot climb down, a very wet 25-foot pit, (50-foot rope), an even wetter 58-foot pit (80-foot rope), and finally a 28-foot pit (60-foot rope). The cave continues for a few thousand feet before finally reaching a sump.

The original entrance pit was discovered in 1983 by Gerald Moni and friends, though the majority of the cave was later dug and pushed by Bob Coney and Kathy Minter around 1993. Finally, the second (middle) entrance was located and enlarged by Ryan Moran and Doug Strait using radiolocation in 2003. *WARNING: There are many spots in the cave that would be dangerous after a heavy rain.*

Tres Well (TMN 313)

Gear:	Vertical	Length:	106 Feet
Map:	Yes	Vertical Extent:	151 Feet

The pit entrance is 10 feet in diameter and starts as a long steep slope for 10 feet. There is a re-belay bolt just below the lip to assist with accessing the parallel pits. From the lip of the pit, the first pit is 103 feet. At the bottom, you go sideways in a canyon for 11 feet to a second pit of 45 feet. There is a second re-belay bolt 10 feet down this second drop that keeps your rope out of the fissure. The cave is definitely not all one pit as it had been previously listed in the TCS.

About 37 feet down the main pit, there is a ledge with two parallel pits. To access the parallel pits, a swing over is required. Remember to tie off your rope, so you can climb back out of the cave. Once on the ledge, there is a 61-foot pit to your left that was blasted open by Jason Hardy and Julie Schenck Brown after being discovered during the survey by Sewanee Mountain Grotto. The 61-foot pit is blind at the bottom, but there is a small crack that blows a lot of air. You can use the rope rigged in the main pit to descend this pit. To the right of the ledge, there will hopefully be a fixed rope going 20 feet up through a narrow crack. It's pretty tight! At the top, go 8 feet horizontally to the top of a 98-foot pit, that is blind at the bottom. This 98-foot pit needs a 130-foot rope to reach the bottom.

Tres Well

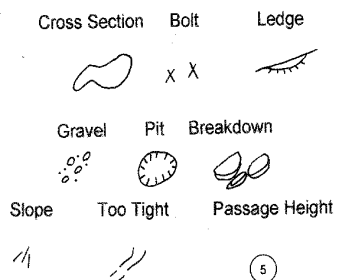
Marion County, Tn
TMN 313

Total Vertical Extent: 151 Feet
Total Horizontal Extent: 106 Feet

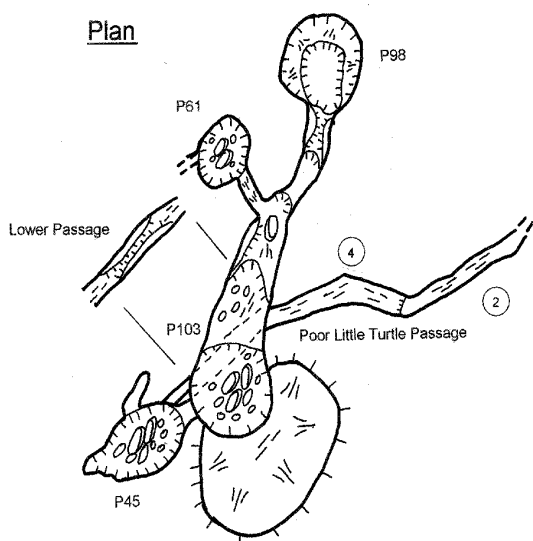
Grade 5 Survey
Sewanee Mountain Grotto, NSS
Feb 20, 2010 and March 7, 2010

Jason Hardy
Julie Schenck Brown
Teresa Williams Benamy
Nancy Holler Aulenbach
Peter "Mudpuppy" Michaud
Teri Stephens

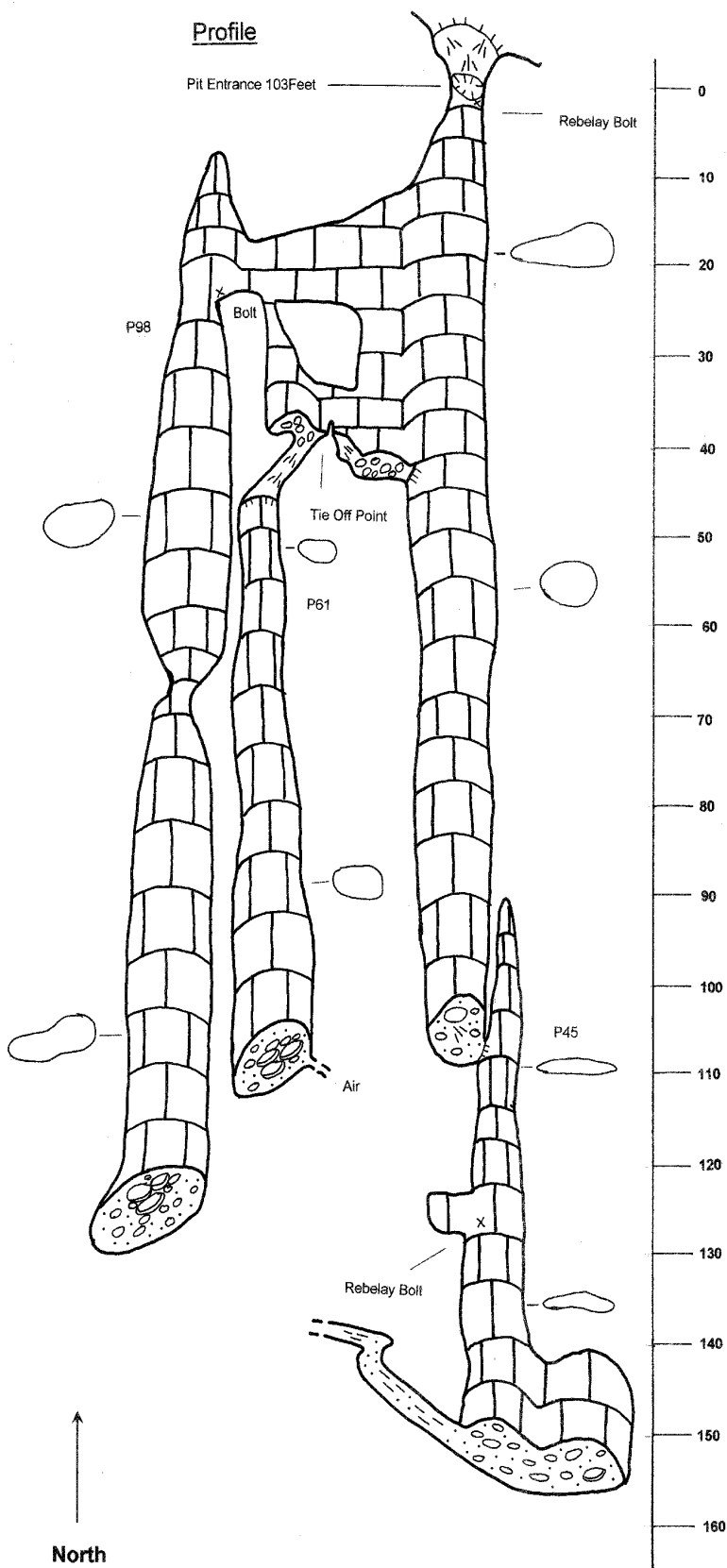
LEGEND



Plan



Profile



North

Scale in Feet
0 5 10

Jason Hardy, 2010



Special Thanks to the following businesses who donated to our Auction this year...!

Advance Auto Parts
Auto Zone
Barnes Tire
Best Western (Monteagle)
Blue Chair (The)
Browns Hollar Creations
Builders Supply
Crust Pizza
Dutch Maid Bakery
Hammers
Hester Mallonne
Highline Rope
Joe's Pizza
Julia's
Keson
Lemon Tree (The)
Mountain Breeze Ice Cream
Mountain Outfitters

NSS
O'Reilly Auto Parts
Otterbox
Papa John's Pizza
Petzl
PMI
Restop
Shan Chinese Buffet
Shenanigans
Smoke 'n B's BBQ
Sonic
Stephen Alvarez Photography
Taylor's Mercantile
University Book Store @ Sewanee
Village Wine & Spirits
Walter A. Wood Supply
Woody's Bicycles



Critters You Might Encounter In A Cave By Mudpuppy

AN OLD GOAT: Frequently spotted around TAG, this creature has seen many a cave. It walks steadily on two feet and on any given weekend can be spotted in its natural environment.

THE HODAG: The elusive Hodag has never been actually seen, but many claim to have caught a glimpse of it. A few cavers have even heard what is reported to be its strange call.

BAT BOY: A photo exists, but no reported sightings of this small creature have been made underground. A look-a-like was spotted at the TAG Fall Cave In many years ago, but it left in a puff of smoke!

RAT BOY: Reported to travel far and wide, this creature makes its home on Jump Off Mt. It has done many a cave trip but usually rests in a cave pack till called upon for a photo op.

GIANT BEAVER: Last seen brushing against Martha's leg in a stream cave in Alabama. I don't know who was more surprised.

GIANT RACCOON: Last seen jumping out of a side passage in front of Jason while he was scooping booty somewhere here on the Mt. Hard to tell by the yell if someone had not fallen down a shaft.

A MUDPUPPY: Very rare these days! Not reported to be migrating to TAG till some time next year.

I hope you have at fun Pupfest. Sorry I could not be there this year, but my thoughts are with you all. I am caving, climbing and canyoneering in Utah, Arizona, Nevada and California for the next few months.



(The author resting on a climb in Utah. Photo by Kent Tuttle)

