

Sewance Mountain Grotto Volume 2 Issue 4

TAG Caver ~ Volume 2 Issue 3 Winter 2011

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 or one of our editors for more information on the location of our next meeting. You may also visit our website at

http://www.caves.org/grotto/sewaneemountaingrotto/

2011 Sewanee Mtn Grotto Officers:

Chairperson: Jason Hardy

Vice Chair & Programs: Peter Michaud

Treasurer: Blaine Grindle Secretary: Bambi Dunlap

Member at Large: Maureen Handler Conservation Chair: Maureen Handler Webmaster: Will Urbanski / Tina O'Hailey

Trip Coordinator:

TAG Caver Editors:

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Email articles and photos for submissions to one of our editors. Content may include articles/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.



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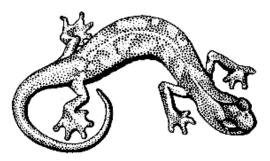
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A TAG Caver's back yard. Photo by Kelly Smallwood <u>Back Cover:</u>

Paul Lundberg getting ready to rappel into Minnie Pit during the 2010 survey. Photo by Kelly Smallwood

Calendar of Upcoming Events



January 14th – SMG/SKTF cleanup at Roarks Cove / Wet Cave followed by SMG Meeting. Potluck dinner 6pm, followed by meeting at 7pm.

January 15th - SKTF Board Meeting.

February 11th - SERA Winter Business Meeting hosted by the Huntsville Grotto at Lake Gunthersville State Park, Alabama. Think of cavers/landowners that you can nominate for the SERA Awards.

*February 18th – SMG Meeting at Jason & Kelly's place in Jasper, TN. Potluck dinner 6pm, followed by meeting at 7pm. *Note change of meeting date due to SERA Winter Business Meeting*

March 10th - SMG Meeting. Potluck dinner 6pm, followed by meeting at 7pm.

May 3rd – 6th – SERA Summer Cave Carnival 2012. Hosted by the Birmingham Grotto at the Paint Rock Valley Lodge in Alabama. Look for more information soon! For registration form go to http://www.bhamgrotto.org/sera2012/SERA.pdf.

May 25th – 28th – 41st Kentucky Speleofest hosted by the Louisville Grotto at the Lonestar Preserve, Bonnieville, Kentucky. More info at www.Louisville.caves.org.

June $19^{th} - 22^{nd}$ – NSS Convention in the Greenbrier Valley of West Virginia. Visit http://www.nss2012.com/ for registration and more information.

Connect with the Grotto

If you're 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.

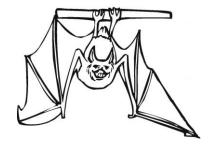


Sewanee Mountain Remailer

After you have joined the grotto, join our mailing list to keep up to date with cave trips and meetings. Go to: HUhttp://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/sewannee_mountain_grotto/UH and click join. Please provide your real name so we'll know who you are.



Facebook – Join our official unofficial Facebook Page to meet other area cavers and plan trips. Search for Sewanee Mountain Grotto under groups.



Support the Grotto ~ Grotto Merchandise

We now have hats with our logo embroidered on them. They are \$15 each. We also have new 14oz mugs with our logo & they are \$10 each. Still remaining are SERA 2010 Guidebooks for \$10 and & Stickers with our logo for \$1. Please contact Kelly Smallwood at rowland 7840 @bellsouth.net to purchase any of these items.



THE TAGSCOOP

*Welcome new SMG members: Julie Henry, Woody Woods, Travis Houston & Tom Loring.

- **You can download an updated Membership List from the Yahoo Group.
- ***Membership dues are \$10 and due in January. You can pay at the next meeting or you can send them in via snail mail. If you are mailing your dues please send a check payable to Sewanee Mountain Grotto, 482 Wild Heart Lane, Sewanee, TN 37375. Make sure you include your contact information (name, address, phone number & email address) & your NSS number.

Grotto Merchandise...!



The Grotto has hats featuring our logo embroidered on the front. The logo is approx 2 inches in diameter and the hats are \$15 each. Supplies are limited.

The grotto now has 3" patches featuring our logo. Cost is \$5 and they should arrive in time for the January meeting.

The Grotto also has 14oz mugs featuring our logo in black/white. The mugs were purchased for our annual fundraising event and are \$5 each.





<u>SKTF Winter 2010 - 2011</u>

The new watershed clean up season is upon us and the SKTF has a busy winter planned. The Wet Cave watershed begins on top of the Cumberland Plateau at the head of Roark's Cove. The cove is located just north of the Domain of the University of the South and has been the site of historic dumping. When leaving the Domain on Roark's Cove Road is the junction with the aptly named Junk Lane. This area has had significant dumping of trash for a long enough time that the road was named for the junk piled up along the cove.

As we have seen from past clean-up efforts in other watersheds, the debris that is dumped in the upper part of a watershed eventually makes it down into the caves lower in the watershed. In addition to the typical debris, there are usually hazardous substances such as batteries; paint and oils which will also enter the caves affecting the cave environment. This is true of the Wet Cave watershed.

The SKTF has planned to begin the clean-up of this watershed on January 14, 2011. Based on what we can see on the surface this clean-up will probably take multiple days to accomplish.

In addition, the SKTF has planned a celebration of the restoration of the Russell Cave Watershed. This is planned for April 14, 2011. We will pick up recent trash and end up at Russell Cave. The plans are preliminary at this point, but we hope to have a late lunch for people at Russell Cave after the clean-up.

For more information, contact Maureen Handler at tnshotgun@earthlink.net or 423-605-5569.

The 2011 John Van Swearingen IV Stewardship Award Winner: Southeastern Regional Association Karst Task Force (SKTF)

The Southeastern Regional Association Karst Task Force (SKTF) is the winner of the 2011 John Van Swearingen IV Stewardship Award. The SKTF is a non-profit resource organization dedicated to karst conservation and the clean up of cave and karst features through the education of both the public and caving communities.

The SKTF has developed a planning process to assess and plan out projects. This procedure helps identify high priority karst features and/or caves. The Directors also get involved and employ a hands-on approach to karst and cave conservation. Advance planning enables the SKTF to restore karst features and/or sensitive caves to a more natural splendor as well as removing contaminates. Through our educational initiative we are able to reach out to others in the public and caving community and educate them concerning karst features, caves, large springs and sinkholes. The resources SKTF provides to our partners includes organizational skills, cave or karst clean up expertise, tools, supplies, and potential access to a dedicated volunteer base.

Over the last 10 years the SKTF has been involved in dozens of cleanups in multiple watersheds (watersheds are the areas of land that catch rain and drain the water into a stream, river, lake, or marsh). The biggest success story is the removal of over 100,000 pounds of debris from the Russell Cave Watershed over 5 years in conjunction with the Sewanee Mountain Grotto. The following is a listing of projects the SKTF has been involved with over the last 10 years:

TN	Big Room Cave Watershed Clean Up #2	April 9,. 2011
TN	Big Room Cave Watershed Clean Up #1	February 12, 2011
TN	Copeland Cave Clean Up	November 6, 2010
GA	White River Cave	May 22, 2010
AL	San Souci Cave Clean Up	April 25, 2010
TN	Conner Creek Cave Clean Up	March 8, 2009
TN	Blue Spring Cave Watershed Restoration #2	February 21, 2009
TN	Blue Spring Cave Watershed Restoration #1	November 15, 2008
AL	Talley Cave Clean Up	November 1, 2009
TN	Russell Cave Watershed Restoration #4	April 12, 2008
GA	Pettijohns Cave Clean Up and Restoration Project	February 16, 2008
TN	Horseshoe Bend Cave Watershed Clean Up	January 12, 2008
TN	Horseshoe Bend Cave Clean Up	September 1, 2007
TN	Grassy Cove Watershed Clean Up	June 2, 2007
TN	Russell Cave Watershed Restoration #3	March 24, 2007
TN	TN River Gorge Sinkhole Clean Up	February 4, 2007

AL	Manitou Cave Clean Up	October 7, 2006
GA	Byers Cave Restoration Project	October 8, 2005
TN	Rocky River Cave Clean Up	December 11, 2004
TN	Carson Campbell Cave Clean Up	May 22, 2004
TN	Rocky River Cave Clean Up #4	April 17, 2004
TN	Rocky River Cave Clean Up #3	February 7, 2004
TN	Rocky River Cave Clean Up #2	December 13, 2003
GA	Pettijohns Cave Restoration Project	October 11, 2003
TN	Rocky River Cave Clean Up #1	May 17, 2003
GA	Newsome Gap Road Karst Clean Up Project	April 12, 2003
TN	Soard Cave Clean Up	March 2, 2002
TN	Lost Creek Cave Clean Up	December 14, 2002
AL	Stephens Gap Cave Clean Up	October 12, 2002
TN	Lost Creek Cave Clean Up	August 24, 2002
TN	Lost Creek Cave Clean Up	July 13, 2002

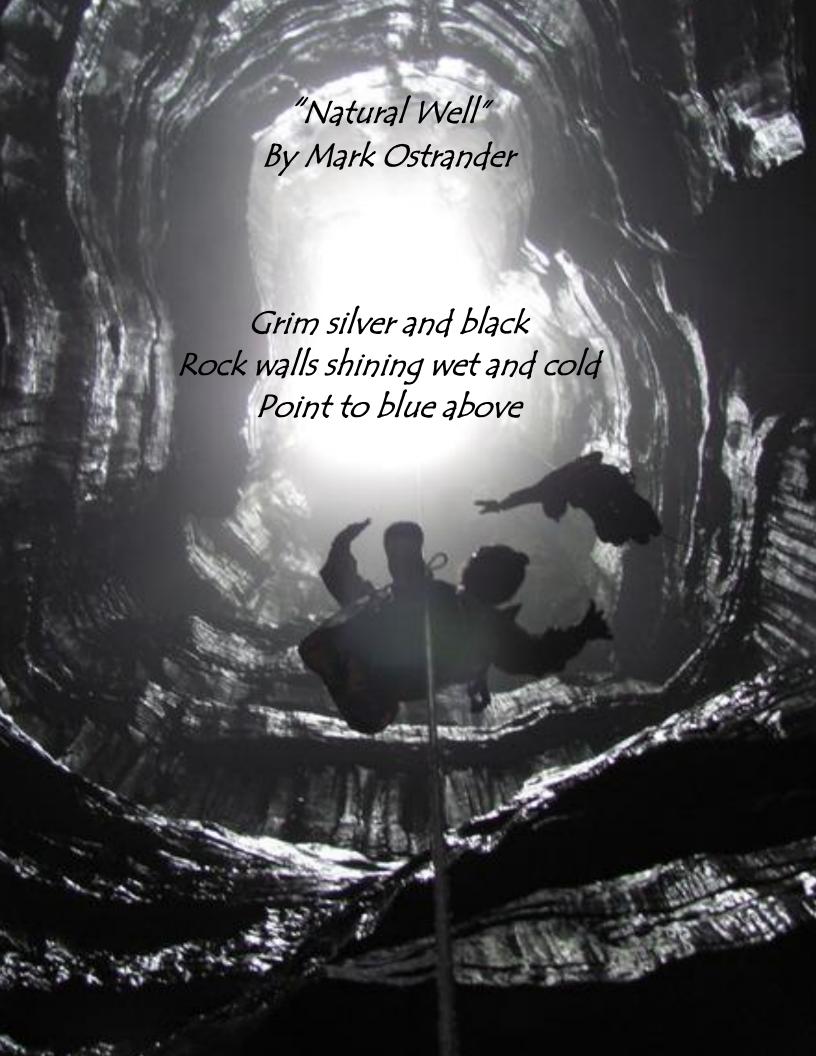
Local communities in which the cleanups occur have been incredibly receptive to the clean up work the SKTF has performed. This has opened up new areas for cavers to explore with the good will generated. In addition, the fun and camaraderie cavers have when working on the clean up projects brings cavers together from all over the region.

However, the most important message the SKTF sends is how fragile our watersheds are. When people connect

the roadside dump with the water quality downstream, they become much better stewards of our fragile cave ecosystems.

The SERA Karst Task Force is a resource organization dedicated to karst conservation and the clean up of karst features and caves through the education of both the public and caving communities. To learn more about the SKTF and how to get involved, visit their webpage at http://sktfi.org/ or "Like" their Facebook page (http://www.facebook.com/groups/serakarsttaskforce/).







Noteworthy Float trip in TAG Elk River, Tennessee Trip Length: 4 – 44 miles Activities: Canoe/Kayak, Trout Fishing, Camping Rating: Class 1

The Elk River rises on the edge of the Cumberland Plateau in the Middle Tennessee and flows southwest through steep wooded hills and farm land to the Tennessee River near Wheeler Dam in North Alabama. It was known to the Native Americans as "Chuwalee," the Cherokee word for elk.

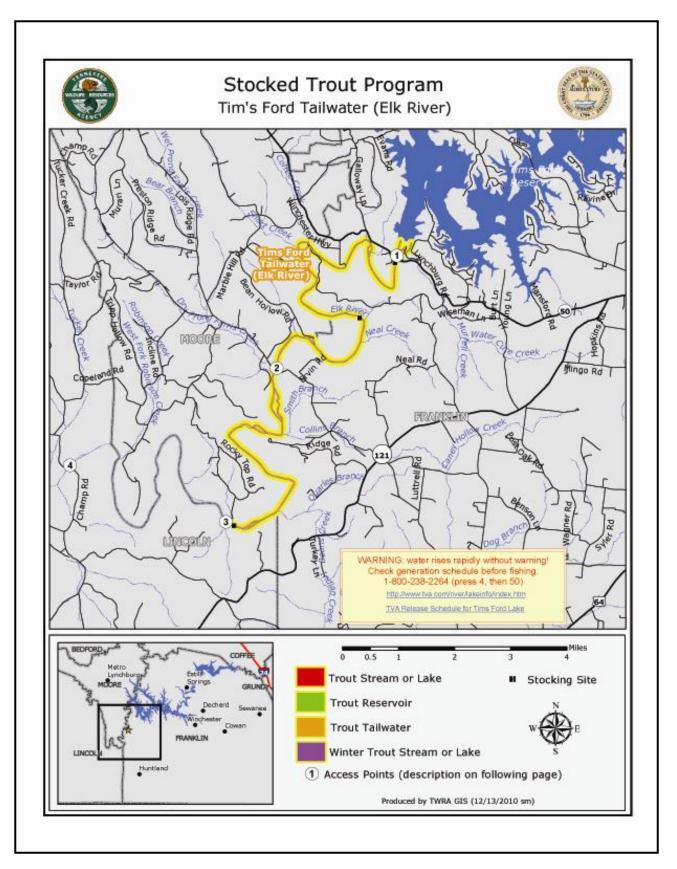
The Elk River has good current, yet is a pastoral stream suitable for family recreation. It is also a scenic stream and is easy to float. The river varies in depth from a few inches over the gravel shoals to more than ten feet in the quiet pools. To find the correct course downriver is not difficult, but some care is needed in the bends and around the islands where fallen trees sometime form obstacles. The Elk River offers excellent trout fishing in the upper stretch and smallmouth bass fishing is popular in the deep pools. Because the river is TVA Dam controlled it provides good canoeing and kayaking even in dry summer months. Some wildlife you may encounter along the river are blue herons, muskrats, hawks, turtles, deer, and bluebirds.

The Elk River below Tims Ford Dam is also known for its aquatic diversity. It is home to a wide variety of mussels, snails and fish, including a number of species protected by the Endangered Species Act. One of these federally listed species is a small fish called a boulder darter. The only known naturally occurring population of boulder darters exists in the Elk River drainage basin. The Elk River is also home to a regionally important trout fishery. Because this is the only natural location of the darter, the TVA has to ensure it can coexist with trout.

The trout fishery, which is stocked by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, is a put-and-take fishery that is maintained during the summer months by the water released through Tims Ford Dam. When TVA releases water from the dam, it is very cold, due to the depth of the reservoir. Trout thrive in the cold water, but it is too cold for the boulder darter, several endangered mussels that inhabit the tailwater and warm-water sportfish. The cold water released when TVA runs the hydropower turbines at the dam for long periods of time can cause a drop in water temperatures many miles downstream of the dam. This change in temperature can stress boulder darters and smallmouth bass, affecting spawning success and growth of young boulder darters.

After careful study, TVA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS) agreed that TVA would modify its hydropower operations at Tims Ford Dam to warm up the temperature of the tailwater to help protect and promote recovery of the boulder darter and listed mussels. These modifications also should result in improvements to the warm-water recreational fishery in the Elk River.

In 2008, TVA began adjusting releases from Tims Ford Dam to provide temperatures suitable for boulder darters, listed mussels and other warm-water species downstream of the cold-water trout









fishery. Water temperatures are being monitored along the length of the tailwater with the goal of adjusting the operation of Tims Ford Dam to keep water temperatures at the Farris Creek stream gage (Elk River Mile 124) within the targeted temperature range for trout while keeping water temperatures near the Fayetteville stream gage (Elk River Mile 93) similar to seasonal temperatures in free-flowing streams in the region, which can reach the mid-80s (F) during late summer.

Cold water releases from Tims Ford Dam allow a put-and-take fishery for two non-native trout species—rainbow and brown trout—to be maintained in the Tims Ford tailwater. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation has designated the Elk River from Tims Ford Dam downstream to Fayetteville (ERM 93) as a trout stream. This area supports trout during the cooler fall and winter months; however, historically, water temperatures in the area between Old Dam Ford (ERM 120) and Fayetteville increase above the temperatures trout prefer during summer months. Water temperature conditions suitable for trout survival and growth in the Elk River are typically restricted to areas upstream of Old Dam Ford beginning in July. TWRA identifies only the area from Old Dam Ford upstream to Tims Ford Dam as a trout tailwater in its Stocked Trout Program.

Over the years, TVA has worked with several local groups to improve trout habitat in the Elk River and installed equipment at Tims Ford Dam to add oxygen to the water. Two large blowers are used to force air into the water as it passes through the main turbine when TVA generates electricity. If additional aeration is needed, TVA uses an oxygen-injection system in the forebay of Tims Ford Reservoir to help maintain the water quality criterion for dissolved oxygen for waters having an official "trout stream" designation. Water also is released through the sluiceway at the dam to maintain minimum flows when the hydroelectric turbines are not in operation.



Earlier this year a few of us were able to make two different trips along the Elk River. The first trip we put in at the Farris Creek Bridge and canoed & fished to the Old Dam Ford Access area. The second trip we put in at the Hwy 50 TVA Dam and canoed & fished to the Old Dam Ford. Both the Farris Creek Bridge and Old Dam Ford offer primitive camping. Further downstream the Shiloh Bridge access also offers camping. If you are going to fish for trout you must have a Tennessee Fishing License with a trout stamp. We

found that the fishing was better between the Dam and the Farris Creek Bridge. Both times we caught enough trout to feed 4-6 people.

You can call ahead of time to find out the water release at the dam at 423-751-2264.

Access to put in at Tim's Ford Dam is off of Hwy 50 next to where the water flows out from the dam. Access to the Farris Creek Bridge is off of Ferris Creek Road and access for the Old Dam Ford is off of Old Dam Road.

Locksley Hall Pit, Hart County Kentucky Trip Reports by Steve Gentry 9/27/28/2010 & 10/12/2010

September 27 2010: Dave Foster (ACCA), Missy Shields and Steve Gentry contacted Mr. Owen Hart about a cave on his property. Mr. Harp had talked with Dave about a month earlier the cave. Mr. Harp wanted the cave mapped to see where it was heading. Mr. Harp was worried about the proposed road construction near the cave. Dave, Missy, Steve along with Mr. Harp checked out the entrance and the ravine in which it was located. Steve asked about returning the next day to explore the cave. Mr. Harp gave the group open access to the cave. Steve also GPSed the entrance. Steve plotted the location after returning home and found he had no known cave at that location. Steve contacted Norman Warnell who had explored the cave a few years ago. Norman told Steve about what they did and saw.

September 28th: Steve, Missy and Richard Gilliam returned to explore the cave. The cave started off as a crawl into a large room. This room branched off into several leads. The left lead ended after several feet. A lower level lead ended also but there was a small hole in the floor leading into a void. Another lower lead ended in a small room under the main room. The right hand lead went several hundred feet with several leads branching off. This lead is the top side of a canyon passage with some formations. The group

checked some of the leads and found two pits. Both pits were large opening into the bottom of the canyon passage. Without vertical gear exploring was done for the day.

While exploring the cave it was noted from that the cave had a start of a survey and that one of the pits had been bolted. Norman had told Steve about both the survey and the bolt above the pit. Norman also sent Steve some pictures of the cave. Steve contracted Dave Frazier to join the survey team. Plans were made to return to start the survey on October 4th. That trip was canceled and rescheduled for October 12th.

October 13th: Missy, Richard, Dave and Steve returned to start the survey. The group had all agreed to survey all the upper level before rigging the pits. Dave on book, Steve on tape and front instruments, Richard point and back instruments and Missy learning the tips of surveying filled in where ever she was needed. The entrance crawl was the normal pain in the butt. Richard was having problems reading back shots, so the survey was proceeding slowly. Once the team made it into the first room the survey started moving faster. While Dave sketched the rest of the group in between shots rechecked for leads leaving the room. The left hand lead and straight ahead lower level lead were surveyed. The hole in the floor of the lower measured 83 feet deep. The hole is too small to drop. It will require modulation in order to drop. This hole should have a marker light dropped before the bottoms of the big pits are surveyed. After this room was completed it was decided to stop for the day. All the survey gear was packed and Dave was shown the right lead. This lead has the start of some formations along with side and upper /lower lever leads. Working down the canyon

The pit looks as if it is going under the level of the canyon passage. Only the survey will tell its course. The group exited the cave after 5 hours.

passage opens up into a pit on each end.

Locksley Hall, Hart County Kentucky Trip report by Steve Gentry 1/17/2011

Objective: Continue the upper level survey. **Team Members:** Missy Shields, Holly McClintock, Richard Gilliam & Steve Gentry.



The day started with everyone meeting up in Munfordville. Charolay Russell joined us and planned on helping us survey, but life got in the way and she departed before entering the cave. Holly with camera in hand started documenting our day. We finished gearing up and headed for the cave. In the entrance of the cave there were some nice ice formations and an ice covered entrance crawl leading into the cave.

Missy Shields entrance, Photo by Holly McClintock

Holly and Missy on our last trip checked a lead and found another pit. I had looked at this lead on our first trip but had missed a side lead that led the pit. We rechecked that lead and another lead in the entrance room. The lead with the pit was going to be our objective of the day. We would pick up the survey at point A8 and continue till we reached the lead. The other lead in the entrance room turned out to be short and tight, but it did work its way down several feet thru the breakdown. We will save this lead for another day.

Richard on point, Missy back shots and laser target, Holly laser and front shots and I'm on book.

We started with A8 surveyed our way towards the lead. The team had some very interesting survey shots. We were surveying a passage that twisted and turned up over and under breakdown. The ladies had some trying times trying to read the instruments. They were finding out that the cave would do anything it could to make you work for that reading. There were several shots that were taken over and over till they were within guidelines.



Steve Gentry & Missy Shields, Photo by Holly McClintock

We surveyed our way to the lead in question. The lead starts with a climb down of 9 ft into a 4 ft tall passage. This passage goes about 36 ft to a breakdown wall with a small crawl that goes only a few feet before getting smaller. At the bottom of the climb down, to the right, is the side lead heading 25 ft or so to the drop. We surveyed both leads and called it a day. We tied our survey into old survey point A23.



Richard and Holly laser-ed the drop at 80 ft. This lead should be the top of the large canyon passage we have seem from the other 2 drops. There is going cave on this level, but we are in a clay layer several feet thick lined with large unstable breakdown. We will not try to drop this pit because of all the clay & breakdown. We are planning on hanging markers at all of the openings looking into the canyon in order to tie in the levels together once we are surveying in the bottom.

The tie in Photo by Holly McClintock



Sewanee Mountain Grotto annual fundraiser, Pupfest 2011 By Jason Hardy – Pupfest Chair 2011

I would like to thank everyone in the grotto that helped make this event possible by donating their time and energy and also to every caver who came out and supported our annual fundraising event. We are proud to say that proceeds from our event go right back into the caving community. Last year we were able to donate over \$2,000 to the SCCI, \$1,000 to the NSS, \$500 to the SKTF, \$500 to the Fiery Gizzard Land Trust and were also able to purchase nearly \$1,700 of survey gear for the grotto. At the September grotto meeting Blaine was able to report that we should be banking over \$3,000 from this year's event. This is a huge increase from last year. We also had a higher attendance this year to which we can thank for all the promoting of the event. Each year we can continue to grow our event and do good for the community in which we all love.





Pupfest 9 Accounting

Submitted By Blaine Grindle

\$4,805

Income:

Donations (Mugs, etc...) \$1,040 Auction \$3,567 Yard Sale \$168 Online Auction \$30



Expenses:

Total Income:

Beer (Shiner \$373.14/Homebrew \$144) \$517.64 Mugs w/ Grotto Logo \$208 \$16.94 Shipping costs for mugs \$245 Pig/Processing Chicken, Foil, spices, sauce, etc... \$87.49 \$200 Band (Ever Vega) \$150 Port 0 Let (2) \$33 Soda, Water, Popcorn, Ice \$20 Uncollected auction \$



Total Expenses: \$1,478.07





In addition we would also like to thank the following business for their donations to our annual fundraiser: Hamers in Winchester and their S. Pittsburgh location; The University Book & Supply Store in Sewanee; Lorena's in Monteagle; Julia's in Sewanee; MiCasa in Monteagle; Super 8 Motel in Monteagle; Smoke'n B's BBQ in Monteagle; The Lemon Fair in Sewanee; Shan Chinese Buffet in Monteagle; Sonic Drive In in Monteagle; Hellelujah Pottery in Monteagle; Larry's Army Navy in Monteagle; Mountain Outfitters in Monteagle; Shenaniqans in Sewanee; Lodge Manufacturing in S. Pittsburgh; Charlotte & Garvis; TN/AL Fireworks in Kimball.

Southeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. Update www.scci.org

Tumbling Rock is Ours!

Great news! The SCCi is pleased to announce that cavers now own Tumbling Rock Cave! The SCCi signed the paperwork on June 29, 2011 transferring ownership of the property to us, and to all cavers. Purchasing the property ensures it will never be closed, which was a real concern a few years ago.

Tumbling Rock is a true TAG classic. The popular cave is a frequent weekend destination for many of you. We're thrilled that cavers now own this fabulous underground wilderness so it will be preserved and protected for future generations!

For more information about Tumbling Rock Cave and the Tumbling Rock Preserve, please visit our web page at

http://scci.org/Preserves/tumblingrock/tumblingrock.html

If you've never visited Tumbling Rock and are wondering what the cave is like, you can check out Nathan Williams'

http://www.flickr.com/photos/realms_of_reality/sets/72157626922523999/

Thanks to all of the cavers who support our mission to buy and protect caves across the southeast. We couldn't have done it without you!

**For those who did not know the Sewanee Mountain Grotto voted in August to donate \$1,000 towards one payment on the mortgage at the Tumbling Rock Preserve...!

The Southeastern Cave Conservancy is 20 Years Old!

Twenty years ago a group of cavers got together and decided to start buying caves for cavers. Many people were skeptical that a conservancy dedicated entirely to buying caves would ever work. Now, 20 years later, SCCi members own 27 preserves containing 185 caves in six southeastern states! We own 19 of the preserves and a total of 1,453 acres. Over 800 people are members of the SCCi and support our work. We want to thank all of our members and supporters. You're the reason the SCCi is so successful!

We're Reopening Caves!

The SCCi Board of Directors recently voted to re-open nearly all of our caves with seasonal bat populations in May 2012. We had closed these caves in 2009, when the cause of White-Nose Syndrome (WNS), and mechanism by which it spread, were poorly understood. At the time, WNS was over 1,000 miles away from our caves, and the board wanted to reduce the potential that a visitor to one of these caves could inadvertently cause a long-distance jump of WNS. The SCCi acted before most state and federal agencies, demonstrating our leadership in cave conservation and management. Since 2009, we have continued to monitor WNS developments, and we have also continued to analyze the best ways to protect both bats and caves in general. Scientists now understand that bat-to-bat transmission is the primary mode by which WNS is migrating. We also now know that the

risk of inadvertent WNS transmission by humans can be dramatically reduced by following established protocols to clean and decontaminate caving gear and clothing.

WNS has now been found in central Tennessee, making it well within individual bat-flight range of all of our caves with seasonal bat populations, and eliminating our original concern about inadvertently facilitating a long-distance jump of WNS. Also, over the past year, some our closed caves have been found to have been vandalized during the closure period, demonstrating the negative impact to caves and cave ecosystems that can occur when cavers stop having an active presence on our preserves.

When the caves re-open, visitors will be required to follow the current SCCi cave visitation policy, and will need to obtain permits and decontaminate their gear and clothing prior to visiting the caves. The SCCi takes WNS and bat conservation very seriously, and will communicate additional information about access to specific caves in the coming months.

New Parking Lot/Access for Fox Mountain Preserve

The SCCi has a new parking area and access for the Fox Mountain Preserve. To get there, go 200 feet past Rising Fawn Market (formerly Sue's Market) on Highway 11 South. Turn right into a clearing and go straight to a new gravel road. Please don't go towards the trailer. Follow the gravel road to the parking area. The new trail is up the cleared hill and accesses the old trail from the Market about 20 feet from the fence ladder.

GPS coordinates:

The turn-off from Hwy 11 is N 34 44′ 56.2″/W 085 32′ 11.2″ The actual parking area is N 34 44′ 58.9″/W 085 32′ 14.5″

Also, anyone planning to visit the preserve should be advised that the south end of the preserve was drastically impacted by the April 2011 tornadoes. The main road up the mountain was partially obliterated and finding Rusty's and Byers is difficult, even if you know the way. We have begun the arduous task of clearing the trails, but it will be a while (maybe years) before they are totally clear all the way to Byers. *The SCCI will be having a cleanup at the Fox Mountain Preserve on December 17th, 2011 to clear downed trees on the trails to the caves. Please come out and help. Meet at 9am Eastern at the new parking lot. (Photo below by Jerry Wallace).



DCG TAG Closed Cave and Cave Access List

November 2011

Please share this information with all your caving friends!
You may freely copy this, as long as it stays intact.
http://www.dogwoodcitygrotto.org/ccl.html

2011-2012 Deer Hunting Seasons

TN: Sep 24 - Jan 8 AL: Oct 15 - Jan 31 GA: Sep 10 - Jan 1

Pigeon Mountain WMA Fall Hunt Dates

The Pigeon Mountain WMA will have special managed deer hunts on the following dates. No caving will be allowed on these weekends. This includes Ellisons Cave, Pettyjohns Cave, Mountain Cove Farm Caves, Ulla, etc.:

Oct 22-23 Nov 10-12 Dec 7-10

SPECIAL NOTICE: WHITE NOSE SYNDROME

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has recommended a **voluntary** moratorium, effective immediately, on **all caving activity** in states known to have hibernacula affected by WNS, and all adjoining states, unless conducted as part of an agency-sanctioned research or monitoring project. **This includes Tennessee**, **Alabama and Georgia**. The SCCI has officially closed access to some of its caves in Tennessee, as well as Fern Cave (Surprise Pit) and Anderson Cave in Alabama. A special permit policy has been developed for the remaining preserves. All caves in the Southern Region of the U.S. Forest Service are closed. The State of Tennessee has closed **ALL** caves on state land. This includes State parks, forests, TVA land and Wildlife Management areas. The Nature Conservancy has followed suit. Closed caves include favorites such as Rumbling Falls Cave and Camps Gulf Cave. Most Alabama and Georgia state-owned caves will remain open for visitation, but clean caving and a reduced amount of visitation has been requested.

For the most up-to-date information, go here: http://www.caves.org/WNS or http://www.scci.org

Closed Caves

The following caves are closed! Please go somewhere else.

GDD153 Afterbirth Cave	TBE6 Friddle Cave	TCD9 Mill Cave
THM26 Airplane Cave	AJK290 Gary Self Cave	AJK2310 Mega Well
ADK1891 A. J. Cave	TPU334 Goffton Ghyll	TCN18 Melton Hole
ADK781 Allen Switch Cave	AJK1993 Graham Cove Cave	AJK379 Montague Cave
ASH357 Anderson Cave (WNS)	TCD6 Grassy Cove Slp. Cave (WNS)	TCH4 Neptune Saltpeter Cave
GDD99 Arm Pit #2	TCB133 Greenhouse Cave	Newsome Sinks Area (AL)
AJK1033 Balcony Sink	AJK1278 Gross Hole	TCD117 Nirvana
TBD10 Barbecue Pit	AMS38 Guntersville Cavern	AJK2697 Obscure Magnificence
ABA14 Bangor Cave	AJK847 Hairy Pit/Flowing Spring Cave	TRB11 Old Mill Cave
GDD23 Baxter Cave	TDK17 Hall Cave	AJK2569 Pauls Cave/The Cataract
AJK413 Bell Spring Cave	AJK1600 Hambrick Sinks Cave	TPU305 Patriot Pit
TMU1 Benderman Cave	TDA10 Hardins/Junkyard Cave (WNS)	GWK89 Peacock Cave
TMN197 Bicentennial Cave	TBE23 Harrison Spring Cave	AJK581 Peacock Cave
TVB1 Big Bone Cave (WNS)	TRU8 Herring Cave	GDD61 Pearsons Pit
TCN1 Blue Crystal Well	TWY7 Holley Creek Cave (WNS)	AMG191 Petersons Pit
AJK831 Borderline Cave	TRB7 Honey Run Saltpeter Cave	TJK32 Pilot Knob Cave
GKH54 Blowing Springs #2/Chelsea Gulf	TMN16 Honeycutt Cave	GDD359 Poplar Spring Cave
GDD69 Boxcar Cave	TMN17 Honeycutt Pit	GDD60 Poplar Springs Pit
ADK1868 Browns Cave	TGD16 Hubbard Slp. Cave (WNS)	AJK Procession Mtn. Pits
GDD139 Bulldog Cave	AJK2179 Huddleston Hole	TMN129 Pryor Cave Spring
AJK2290 Cairn Blowhole	AMG157 Hughes Cave	AMS188 Quarry Cave
TVB1 Camps Gulf Cave (WNS)	GDD62 Hurricane Cave	TDK69 Quarry Tube
AJK1000 Canyon Cave	AJK2347 Inglis Hollow Cave	AJK669 Rainpot
TCR1 Carter Saltpeter Cave	TCF6 Jarrell's Cave	TCO2 Rattling Cave (WNS)
ABA640 Catfish Cave	AJK273 Jim Cave	GDD624 Razor Cave
TCN41 Cave of the Domes	GDD17 Johnsons Crook Cave	TMN111 Reams Cave
TGN3 Cedar Creek Cave	TSM4 John Fisher Cave	TMN112 Reams Pit
AMG208 Chapel Cave	AJK2512 Kaolin Pit	TMN66 Roaring Rapids Pit
TMN 8 Dancing Fern Cave	TMN459 Kelly Chasm	ACA15 Robertson Cave
AJK1945 Dark Well	GDD208 Kenimer Pit	ADK750 Rockeater Pit
AJK2080 Daves Double Drop	TSQ15 Keyhole Cave	AJK1184 Rousseau Well
AJK1518 Davis Cove Cave	TRB10 Kilgore Cave	TVB588 Rumbling Falls Cave (WNS)
GDD31 Dead Mans Pit	ADK734 Kudzu Cave	TCD62 Run To The Mill Cave
AJK391 Devils Den	AJK1558 Langston Cave	AJK169 Russell Cave
AMS564 Devils Dungeon	AMS319 Ledbetter Cave	TFR23 Salt River Cave
AJK2302 DHAN Pit	TOV22 Linder Mountain Cave	AMD58 Scott Cave
AJK731 Dick Cave	TOV120 Lize Still Well	TCO6 Sand Mountain Cave
TCD18 Dorton Knob Smokehole	GDD101 Longs Rock Wall Cave	TCD123 Serendipity Pit
TRN6 Eblen Cave	GDD438 Lost Canyon Cave	TMN121 Sinkhole
AJK614 Edgefield Cave	TMN20 Lost Pig Cave	GGO372 Spider Cave
TMN93 Ellis Pit	TWR305 Lumber Yard Cave	TAN3 Springhill Saltpeter Cave
AJK266 Engle Double Pit	AJK668 Lusk Double Pot	TPU56 Stamps Pit
AJK1033 Falling Cave	TMN342 Main Well	AJK954 Steves Pit
AJK1302 Falling Spring Cave	GWK133 Matthew Sink	AJK1518 Stolen Well
AJK597 Fern Cave (WNS)	AJK285 McAllister Sink Cave	AJK1513 Summers Pit
AJK1737 Fireside Well	ABA1115 McClungs Hole	TMN346 Swell Well
AJK392 Four Wells	TJF66 McGee Cave	TMN109 The Levels
TVB144 Fox Hole	AMS186 Merrill Cave	THM13 Tiftonia Pit
GWK14 Fricks Cave (WNS)	AMG203 Mikes Wolf Cave	AJK274 Tom Cave
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

AJK1400 Trenton Well AJK2000 Walrus Pot AMG192 Wolf Cave

TCD105 Trillium Cave AL1667 Watery Cave TFE12 Wolf River Cave (WNS)

AJK615

TCN29

Wynne Cave

Youngs Pit

TWR302 Underwood Shine Cave AJK281 Weigand Pit
AJK1860 Vast Caverns TFR30 Wet Cave
AMS321 Walnut Cave TMR9 Will Stone Cav

MS321 Walnut Cave TMR9 Will Stone Cave

Special Cave Access and Other Useful Information

Animal Farm Cave (TN): Personal permission from the landowner, Mr. Cardin, is required to visit. Closed during hunting season.

Antler Pit (AL): Avoid during hunting season.

Anvil Cave (AL): Bluff entrance accessible from Flint Creek is still open. All other entrances are closed.

Anderson Spring Cave (GA): Cave is open, but access from the bottom is not. Come in from the top of the mountain down Rape Gap.

Big Coon Valley (AL): Much of the Big Coon area is controlled by hunting clubs, please avoid this area during hunting season. Some caves in Big Coon Valley (such as Iliad/Odyssey, Iron Hoop and Elmo's Canyon) are on Skyline Wildlife Management Area land. Take care not to trespass on private property in accessing them.

Birthday Pit (AL): Closed during hunting season.

Bishop Cave (TN): Please DO NOT try to contact the owners for info on access. Contact Paul Snook at 615-944-5669.

Blowing Spring Cave (TN): The Wicked Splendor entrance of Blowing Spring Cave is closed during hunting season.

Blue Springs Cave (TN): Permission and a key from owner Lonnie Carr is required. Contact him at 931-761-2704.

Bowling Cave (AL): Permission required.

Brady Mountain Caves (TN): 1500 acres around Dorton Knob, Nirvana, Serendipity, Run To The Mill, etc. have been closed by the owner. Signs have been posted, but they keep getting torn down. Please avoid this area for the time being.

Bucks Pocket Cave (AL): Closed during hunting season.

Bugger Hole (TN): The landowners, Beecher & Bobbie Huff require visitors to sign a release. Visitors may call in advance and they will put one in the mailbox or one can be obtained by stopping at her house. The address is: 3972 Wolf River Loop, Pall Mall, TN Phone #931-879-5314

Bull Cave (TN): Park permission is required. Trespassers will be prosecuted. Currently closed due to WNS concerns.

Cagle Chasm (TN): Closed after dark. A hunting club has leased the land and put up No Trespassing signs, but cavers are allowed to walk the trail directly to the pit. Cavers must be off the mountain before dark.

Case Cave (GA): See Sittons Cave below.

Cedar Ridge Crystal Cave (TN): Gated. Contact the Chattanooga Grotto to arrange access.

Charlie Smith's Caves (TN): Closed during hunting season. Contact Charlie's daughter Leann at other times, 423-837-7514.

Climax Cave (GA): You must sign a release form and drop it off at the owners house before going into the cave. There is a gate in the Sand Crawl.

The Flint River Grotto is the contact for the key. No caving on Sunday. There have been reports of Histoplasmosis from trips going into South Climax.

Conley Hole (TN): Closed during hunting season.

Coronation Drop (AL): Closed during hunting season.

Crackerjack Cave (AL): Closed during hunting season. When it is not hunting season, you must contact the owner who lives nearby.

Cripps Mill Cave (TN): Large bat population, cave should be avoided October through May.

Cuyler Cave (TN): The Blowing Cave entrance (E2) of Cuyler Cave is closed. The Byrd entrance to Cuyler is open and requires a release form from Agnus Caughorn. Her number is 865-453-8887.

Deep Well (AL): Leased by the SCCi as part of the Long Island Cave Preserve. Please see www.scci.org to obtain the required visitation permit. Closed during hunting season.

Doodlebug Cave (AL): A new house has been built back in Fanning Cove (below the cave). Talk to the owner before visiting.

Dry Creek Cave (AL): Permission required.

Eblens Cave (TN): Contact James Lewis of the East Tennessee Grotto at least two weeks in advance for access, 865-483-5880. Please do not try to contact the landowner directly.

Ellisons Cave (GA): On Crockford-Pigeon Mountain Wildlife Management area. No camping at trail head parking lot. Designated camp area located 1/3 mile away on Blue Hole Road. No ropes are to be left stashed or rigged in the cave. Cave use cards are to be filled out at the Blue Hole Kiosk for use of any of the Ellisons entrances. Cave is closed during firearms deer hunts, so check regulations for specific dates.

England Cove Area (TN): This area is gated. Closed during hunting season. Contact Jerrell Killian of the Upper Cumberland Grotto for more info. This area includes Skagnasty Cave.

Eudy Cave (AL): Permission required.

Fargo Well (AL): See access info for Water Well (AL).

Fern Cave (AL): All entrances to Fern Cave (including Surprise Pit) require a permit to visit. Contact Steve Pitts of the Huntsville Grotto to obtain a permit. His contact info: spitts@mchsi.com, 256-603-6125 (cell). Only NSS members will be allowed to obtain a permit. The West Passage of the cave is closed. The Morgue entrance and Little Morgue entrance of Fern are home to a bat maternity colony and are closed between August 15 and April 15. Violators will be prosecuted. Temporarily closed due to WNS.

Fiery Top Drop (TN): Closed during hunting season, October through January.

Flowing Stone Cave (GA): In Crockford-Pigeon Mountain Wildlife Management Area, but do not trespass inside the chain link fence around the quarry or other private property below the cave. Also, you must fill out the required sign-in card at the kiosk just inside the main DNR gate. Floyds Pit (TN): Email Robby Black at cavecrew@blomand.net for access information.

Fox Mountain (GA) Caves: Cemetery, Rustys, and Byers Caves are open for visitation, but do NOT park at Sue's Market (Rising Fawn Market). There is a new gravel 100 yards to the south that curves past a trailer to a better parking area. Please use this route coming and going to all Fox Mountain caves. Hurricane Cave is temporarily closed due to an unstable lower entrance. See the SCCI website at http://www.scci.org for more information.

Gourdneck Cave (TN): The cave is leased by the Southeastern Cave Conservancy. See the SCCI website at http://www.scci.org for access information.

Grassy Cove Saltpeter Cave (TN): The cave is now owned by the State of Tennessee, and is closed due to WNS concerns.

Graves Cave (AL): Gated. For access contact members of the Birmingham Grotto, specifically Tony 256-550-1159, Dave 205-616-1490, or Scott 205-914-7487. The lock is a changeable combination lock like used at Sinking Cove. We plan to change the combination monthly.

Greens Well (AL): Closed during hunting season (September thru May). Contact Mr. Tony Andreoni at 256-881-1962 for access at other times.

Grindstone Cave (TN): Grindstone Cave (TN): Open by permission. Contact owner Michael Hillis at 423-236-2785, or mhills@southern.edu.

Gross Skeleton Cave (AL): Permission required. For permission to enter upper entrance, contact Mr. Ken Albrecht, 1044 County Road 77,

Scottsboro, AL 35768 (256-259-0744). Permission will only be granted to groups that call ahead and which are led by an NSS member. The owner of the bottom entrance, Mr. Weeks, does not want people to drive through his property, but has allowed cavers to hike through.

Guess Cave (AL): See Jacobs Mountain Cave Preserve information below. The horizontal entrance is often silted shut, and the vertical entrance requires a low-airspace swim.

Guffey Cave (AL): Gated. Dan Harbin, the landowner can be reached at 256-878-9489. Cave is closed during deer hunting season!

Guys Cave (AL): Closed during deer and turkey season. Permission required from the owner at the end of the road at all other times.

Haggard Cave (TN): Hank Lee (423-837-5709) lives near the cave and suggests that you park in his drive instead of along the paved road. Please call him before visiting for directions.

Halleys Hole (AL): See Jacobs Mountain Cave Preserve information below.

Halls Pit (AL): Closed during hunting season. Owner allows very limited visitation. Contact Tim White at southeast@ncrc.info for access information

Hang 'Em High Cave (TN): All caves in the Franklin-Marion State Forest are closed due to WNS concerns.

Hardins Junkyard Cave (TN): Leased by the SCCI. Contact Bill Overton at cavekrazy@aol.com for access information. Temporarily closed due to WNS.

Hering Cave (AL): Get permission from owner, Magnolia Woodard.

Hermit Cave (TN): Closed during hunting season. Contact Charlie Smith's daughter Leann at other times, 423-837-7514.

House of Happiness Cave (AL): Gated. The occupants of the nearby house do not have a key. Trips must be prearranged at least one day in advance through the landowner's son. Liability releases are required. Contact Scott Fee (scottfee@caves.org) for access information.

Hubbards Cave (TN): Access restricted due to presence of Gray Bats and historical artifacts. Contact Tim Curtis of the Spencer Mountain Grotto for details.

Hurricane Cave (GA): The lower entrance is temporarily closed, as a section of the concrete culvert has partially collapsed.

Jacobs Mountain Cave Preserve (AL): The 65+ caves on this property are leased by the Southeastern Cave Conservancy. SCCi membership is required for all visitors. The preserve will be closed for deer season beginning November 12th. For permit information and access at other times, contact jacobsmountain@scci.org, or visit the SCCi website.

Johnson Cave (TN): Park up the road and hike in from across the ridge, do not bother or trespass on the landowner below the cave.

Johnson's Crook Area (GA): This area should be considered off limits for now. This includes Lost Canyon Cave.

Kennamer Cave (AL): The cave is owned by the Southeastern Cave Conservancy. See the SCCI web site at http://www.scci.org for access info.

Keystone River Cave (TN): Closed during hunting season. Contact the owner Daniel Titus at 931-686-2768 for other times.

Kingston Saltpeter Cave (GA): This cave is owned by a private foundation, but administered by the NSS. It cannot be accessed without crossing gated private property. Contact Larry Blair (NSS member, GA) for information.

Lamons Cave (AL): Contact the Huntsville Grotto for access information. These caves are absolutely closed during hunting season!

Long Island Saltpeter Cave (AL): Leased by the SCCi as part of the Long Island Cave Preserve. Please see www.scci.org to obtain the a visitation permit.

Lowery Cave (GA): Lowery Cave is a Gray Bat hibernaculum and should not be visited during hibernation season.

Manitou Cave (AL): Contact True Adventure Sports at 256-997-9577.

Maria Angela Grotto: See Nunley Mountain Cave System.

Mink Cave (AL): Mink Cave is owned by Ken Albrecht (who also owns the upper entrance of Gross Skeleton). See entry for Gross Skeleton (above) for Mr. Albrecht's address. Do not go to Mink Cave without Mr Albrecht's permission.

Morrell Cave (TN): The owner charges \$5.00 a head "for parking"; owner has release forms and keys for the gated entrance.

Mystery Falls (TN): Gated. Contact Buddy Lane of Signal Mountain, TN for access information.

Neversink (AL): The cave is owned by the Southeastern Cave Conservancy. See the SCCI web site at http://www.scci.org for access information.

Newsome Sinks area: This area is closed. This area is an endangered species habitat and the penalties for trespassing are severe. Caves in this area include: Mikes Wolf Cave, Peterson's Pit, Sycamore Cave, Hughes Cave, Rabbit Cave, and Chapel Cave.

Norsemans Wells (AL): See Jacobs Mountain Cave Preserve information above.

Nunley Mountain Cave System: The landowners of the Maria Angela Grotto Entrance consider all caves and passages on and under their land to be closed.

Old Blowing Cave (AL): Closed during hunting season.

Paint Rock River Cave (AL): See Jacobs Mountain Preserve information above.

Pipeside Pit (AL): Pipeside is closed during hunting seasons. Contact Milton Polsky of the NSS for permission.

Pretty Well (AL): Closed during hunting season.

Rattling Cave (TN): Now leased by the SCCI. The cave will be closed during the winter months, Sept. 15th to April 30th. Contact rattling@scci.org for more info. The cave is currently closed due to concerns about bats and White Nose Syndrome.

Rawhide Horror Hole (TN): Closed during hunting season.

Rebel Cave (TN): The caver landowner has become concerned about the overuse of his property. Please try to limit trips to Rebel Cave for now. Richard O'Hara's Bloody Elbow Cave (AL): Closed during hunting season.

Roaring River area (AL): This includes Roaring River Cave, Skylight Cave and others in the area. Closed during all hunting seasons. Please contact Andrew Monaghan for permission at the following email address: cheaha at gmail.com

Sawmill Well (TN): Closed during hunting season. Contact Charlie Smith's daughter Leann at other times, 423-837-7514.

Shelta Cave (AL): Gated. Owned by the NSS. Contact Bill Torode of Huntsville, AL to arrange access.

Signal Light Pit (TN): Large groups should park at the fireworks store and walk the extra 5 minutes to the cave.

Sinking Cove Cave Area (TN): This area is accessible only during non-hunting seasons, though it will be accessible through bow season this fall. The entire Sinking Cove area (including Custard Hollow) has been leased by a third party, and is now gated and monitored for illegal access. All caves in the area are administered by the SCCi, please contact them before your trip. At least one SCCi member must be present on all caving trips. For more details, see the official Sinking Cove Management Plan on the at the SCCi's website, www.scci.org.

Sittons Cave (GA): Caving reservations can be made for Sittons and Case Cave up to 11 months in advance by calling Cloudland Canyon Park at 706-657-4050. Caving Permits and vehicle registration must be completed at the park office prior to entry. The gate code to the caver parking lot will be issued at this time. The two caves will be open Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday of each week. There will be no entry to the caves during the months of February, May, August, and November. A maximum of 12 people will be allowed in each cave on open days. Cavers will be allowed in before 2:00 PM and must be out 30 minutes before sundown.

Solution Rift (TN): Closed during hunting season. Contact Charlie Smith's daughter Leann at other times, 423-837-7514.

Snail Shell Cave (TN): Now owned by the SCCi, permission is required before visiting. See their website at www.scci.org for more information, or contact Bob Biddix at snailshell@scci.org.

Stephens Gap Cave (AL): Stephens Gap is closed during hunting season. Please contact Milton Polsky of the NSS to obtain permission to visit the pit.

Steward Spring Cave (AL): Gated. Contact stewardspring@scci.org for access information.

Student Park Cave (TN): Open by permission. Contact owner Michael Hillis at 423-236-2785, or mhills@southern.edu.

Summers Double Pot (AL): Closed during hunting season.

Surprise Pit (AL): Now owned by the SCCI. Contact fern@scci.org at least two weeks in advance for access. Temporarily closed due to WNS. Talley Cave (AL): The ladder has been removed, so it is now a vertical cave. Also, permission is required to visit the cave. Please contact cave manager, Brad Barker at 706.766.5158 or zero22884@gmail.com for access.

Talucah Cave (AL): Get permission from Greg Henderson, 2236 Talucah Rd, Valhermosa Springs, AL 35775 205-778-9290. Show him your NSS Card. Please use only the main entrance.

23 Dollar Pit and other pits on hillside (AL): See Halls Pit info.

Torode Pit (AL): See Jacobs Mountain Cave Preserve information above.

Tumbling Rock Cave (AL): The SCCI has acquired Tumbling Rock Cave. Beginning January 1, the cave will be open primarily on weekends. Adult visitors will be asked to make a donation when they visit the cave. Regular members of the SCCi will be asked to make a \$7 donation. SCCi Sustaining Members will not be asked to make a donation, as they already donate to the SCCi each month, and the SCCi uses a portion of those donated funds to support the Tumbling Rock Cave Preserve. Non-members age 18 and over will be asked to make a \$10 donation. Visitors under the age of 18 will not be asked to donate, however they must be accompanied by an adult. See http://www.scci.org/preserves/tumblingrock for the latest information.

Ulla Cave (GA): A gate has been established at the entrance. Visitation is limited to no more than 12 visitors per day and by reservation only. To reserve a date to visit the cave, go to the Wildlife Division Website www.georgiawildlife.com. Then using the search engine box on the upper right corner of the page type in "ULLA" and you will find a link to the "Recreational Permit". Click on this and the caver application form opens. Complete all the required fields and submit. Authorization to visit the cave will be sent by email. Please allow a minimum of 72 hours for a response. After you receive your authorization all cave visitors will still be required to check-in at the cave kiosk located next to Dougherty Gap Road in the head of the cove. The sometimes sump located near the entrance is 14 feet below the nearby creekbed level. Heavy rain will close passage for long periods of time. Use caution! Cave is closed during firearms deer hunts, so check regulations for specific dates.

Valhalla (AL): Valhalla (and other caves nearby) are now owned by the SCCi. Access to the preserve will be available during the dates and periods determined and announced by SCCi. There will be no access without special permission during hunting seasons. At least one member of any visiting group must be a current member of the SCCi or the NSS. Advance notification is required before visiting the property. Notification may be given by contacting one of the SCCi Valhalla property managers or by sending email to the property management committee at valhalla@scci.org. For more details, see the Conservancy's website at www.scci.org.

Vernal Well and Vinson Cave (AL): Please contact the owner, Dan Brown at 121 Black Hawk Rd before entering any cave on this property.

War Eagle Pit (AL): Closed except by special arrangement. Contact Milton Polsky of the NSS.

WashPot (AL): Closed during hunting season.

Water Well (AL): Closed during hunting season. This applies to nearby Wils Welsh Well and Fargo Well also. At other times, talk to the Proctor family below the caves.

Welch Bowling Cave (TN): Access is limited to assure privacy and minimize disturbance for the elderly owners. Contact local caver, Robert Oakes, roakes@blomand.net to arrange visits. This applies to the main entrance and the Kritter Trax entrance.

Wicked Splendor Cave (TN): See note for Blowing Spring Cave.

Williams Saltpeter Cave (AL): See Jacobs Mountain Cave Preserve information above.

Wils Welsh Well (AL): Closed during hunting season. This applies to nearby Wils Welsh Well and Fargo Well also. At other times, talk to the Proctor family below the caves.

Wolf River Cave (TN): Now owned by the SCCi, check their website at www.scci.org/preserves/wolfriver for more information. Closed from Sept. 1st to May 15th to protect the Indiana bat hibernaculum. The cave is currently closed due to concerns about bats and White Nose Syndrome. Xanadu Cave (TN): Gated. Call Chris Kerr for access. He is listed in the NSS Membership Manual.

Yates Cave (TN): contact Doug Plemons (POB 190134 Nashville TN 37219-0134, or at "caver22889@yahoo.com". Doug is one of several contacts who can arrange for infrequent visitation. This applies for nearby Dry Cave as well.

Yell Cave (TN) - The cave is closed April 1 - Sept 1 while the Gray Bat maternity colony is in the cave. The cave is also the landowners water supply and permission is required to visit the cave Sept 2 - Mar 31 when the bats are not present. Contact cave managers, Lynn Roebuck pretzlgirl@charter.net or Brian Roebuck solow@charter.net for access information.

Other access of concern to cavers:

Scottsboro Mountain (AL): The road up the mountain is gated. Cavers are still welcome, contact Andy Zellner (see below) for access information.

Information about hunting seasons: Alabama Wildlife Management: 334-242-3469 www.outdooralabama.com/hunting

Tennessee Wildlife Management: 615-781-6500 www.state.tn.us/twra/wildlife.html

Georgia Wildlife Management: 706-295-6041 www.georgiawildlife.com

NOTE: This list may not include every closed cave in TAG. It is complete only to the best of our knowledge. Contact your local Grotto for information about caves in your area before attempting to visit. If you have any additions, updates, corrections, or questions about this list, please contact Andy Zellner at:

2090 Azalea Drive Roswell GA 30075 cell 770-296-0539 andyzellner@hotmail.com

Update – In the past few months, a lot of the property around the 40-acre SCCI Horse Skull Cave preserve has changed ownership. The cave is still open for visitation of course, but the little field we've been parking in is not on SCCI property.

The new owner, a nice fellow named Mr. Royce Cornelison, is okay with cavers parking in the field, but for no other purpose (ie. hunting, camping, partying, etc.) He would like any visitors to contact him ahead of time so he knows what's going on:

Royce Cornelison 423–240–1819 royce@pc-const.com

2012 SERA Winer Business Meeting

The 2012 SERA Winter Business Meeting will be held Saturday, February 11 at the Lake Guntersville State Park Lodge. The Lodge is located at 1155 Lodge Dr, Guntersville, AL 35976. There will be an admission charge of \$3 per person (children 12 & under are free) to help defray the costs of the meeting place and refreshments. There will be a Banquet following the meeting and the cost to attend will be \$18 per person (children 12 & under will be \$10). Rick Finch from Cookeville, TN will be the Guest Speaker at the Banquet. He will be doing a presentation, imaginatively titled, Caving in Some Highly Unusual Caves. If you plan to attend the Banquet, please RSVP no later than January 12, 2012 to Michelle Vaughn @ ladycaver55064@gmail.com or by mail to the address listed on the registration form. There will be a vegetarian alternative available to the banquet menu, so if you have other dietary requirements, please make a note on the registration form. Larry Matthews and Dave Hughes will be available for a book signing, so if you have a copy of either of these Authors publications, please feel free to bring them with you. Copies will also be available at the meeting through the NSS Bookstore. If you need to get into the Camellia Room in advance of the meeting to set up, you may. We will have access to the room beginning at 7:30 am the day of the meeting. There are a block of rooms reserved at the Guntersville State Park Lodge if you wish to come in advance of the meeting or spend the night afterward. These rooms are first come, first served and I'm sure they'll go quickly, so don't delay. If you wish to reserve a room in the "block" you can do so by calling (256) 505-6601 or (800) 548-4553. Give the Reservation Clerk the 4-digit (2638) confirmation number and the Group Code: SERA when you call. We look forward to seeing you all in Guntersville!

Michelle Vaughn Huntsville Grotto/Treasurer NSS 55064



Don't forget also landowners for the **SERA** nominate cavers Awards (Francis McKinney Award, Richard Schreiber Award, Alexis Harris Conservation Award & Larry S. Adams Landowner Appreciation Award) that are given out each year at the meeting. Nominations must be received 30 days prior to the meeting. You can send your nominations to Kelly Smallwood rowland7840@bellsouth.net or Chrissy Richards christina.richards@tn.gov. Go to http://www.caves.org/region/sera/SERAAwrd.htm the submission read quidelines for each award and to download the nomination form.

2012 SERA WINTER BUSINESS MEETING BANQUET REGISTRATION FORM

	February 11,	
Date:	2012	
	Lake Guntersville State Park Lodge & Convention Center, Cam	ellia
Location:	Room	
Hosted By:	The Huntsville Grotto	
Guest Speaker:	Rick Finch	
Time:	9:00am-5:00 pm (Banquet to follow)	
_		
Name & Internal O	rganization	\$18.00
	Total	
Please mail this form,	along with your payment, to the address below on or before Ja	anuary 14, 2012.
Payment by check or	money order should be made payable to the Huntsville Grotto.	
Mailing Address:	Huntsville Grotto	
	PO Box 1702	
	Huntsville, AL 35807	
Email Address:	ladycaver55064@gmail.com	

**Please note on the registration form if you will require a vegetarian alternative to the scheduled

banquet meal.

Georgia Outdoor Recreational Pass

Effective January 1, 2012, a Georgia Outdoor Recreational Pass (GORP) will be required to use 32 properties managed by Wildlife Resources Division.

The properties are Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and Public Fishing Areas (PFAs). Each is managed for wildlife/fish habitat and development and funded mostly by revenue from hunting and fishing licenses. Secondary uses, such as hiking, cycling, caving, bird watching and many other such activities, are also allowed.

The Georgia Outdoor Recreational Pass will help the Wildlife Resources Division cover the maintenance costs of properties that experience heavy traffic from secondary users.

GORP 3-Day: \$3.50

GORP Plus 3-Day Fishing: \$3.50

GORP Annual: \$19

Small Group,* 3-Day: \$10 per vehicle Small Group, Annual: \$35 per vehicle



BEST VALUE: Buy a GORP Plus, which includes a 3-day Fishing License, for the same price and you have fishing privileges while you're on the property.

*A Small Group equals 8 people or less in one vehicle. Contact the Regional Game Management office for assistance with Right-of-Entry agreements for larger, organized groups.

The pass is now available for purchase and takes effect January 1, 2012. You can call 1-800-366-2661 or visit a license retail agent

A pass will be required for people ages 16-64. You do not need a pass if you are in possession of a valid WMA License, Honorary License, Sportsmen's License, Lifetime License or Three-Day Hunting and Fishing License.

List by Area, Facilities within the Area, County

Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Public Fishing Area (PFA), Natural Area (NA)

- 1. Altamaha WMA, Butler and Champney Islands and McGowan Lake Tract, McIntosh County
- 2. Beaverdam WMA, Shooting Range, Laurens County
- 3. Big Hammock WMA, Shooting Range, Tattnall County
- 4. Big Lazer Creek WMA, Shooting Range and PFA, Talbot County
- 5. Bullard Creek WMA, Shooting Range, Jeff Davis County
- 6. Chickasawhatchee WMA, Shooting Range, Baker County
- 7. Clayhole Swamp WMA, Campground and Ponds, Glynn County
- 8. Clybel WMA/Marben PFA, Entire Area excluding Charlie Elliott Visitor Center, Conference Center and Educational Buildings, Jasper County

9. Crockford-Pigeon Mountain WMA, Entire Area, Walker County

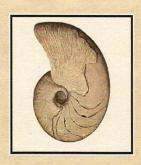
- 10. Dawson Forest WMA, North of GA Hwy 53, Dawson County
- 11. Dixon Memorial WMA, Shooting Range, Ware County
- 13. Evans County PFA, Entire Area, Evans County 14. Flat Creek PFA, Entire Area, Houston County
- 12. Dodge County PFA, Entire Area, Dodge County

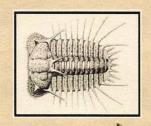
- 15. Grand Bay WMA, Entire Area, Lowndes County
- 16. Hannahatchee WMA, Shooting Range, Stewart County
- 17. Hugh M. Gillis PFA, Entire Area, Laurens County
- 18. J.L. Lester WMA, Entire Area, Polk County
- 19. Mayhaw WMA, Shooting Range, Miller County
- 20. McDuffie PFA, Entire Area, McDuffie County
- 21. McGraw Ford WMA, Entire Area, Cherokee County
- 22. Ocmulgee WMA, Shooting Range and PFA, Pulaski County
- 23. Paradise PFA, Entire Area, Berrien County
- 24. Rich Mountain WMA Cartecay Tract, Entire Area, Gilmer
- 25. Richmond Hill WMA, Shooting Range, Bryan County
- 26. Silver Lake WMA (NA), Riding Trails Access, Decatur County
- 27. Sprewell Bluff WMA, East of the Flint River, Upson County
- 28. Tuckahoe WMA, Campground, Screven County
- 29. Walton WMA, Shooting Ranges, Walton County
- 30. Wilson Shoals WMA, Shooting Range, Banks County
- 31. Yuchi WMA, Shooting Range, Burke County
- 32. Zahnd WMA (NA), Entire Area, Walker County











Sarah Kreitzer & Clifford Nelson

INVITE YOU TO JOIN IN THE CELEBRATION
WHEN WE EXCHANGE MARRIAGE VOWS
AND BEGIN A LIFE TOGETHER
ON SATURDAY, THE THIRTY-FIRST OF MARCH
TWO THOUSAND AND TWELVE
AT THREE THIRTY IN THE AFTERNOON

ABE MARTIN LODGE BROWN COUNTY STATE PARK NASHVILLE, INDIANA

> March 31, 2012 3:30 pm

R.S.V.P.

By Phone: (740) 695-1748

By E-mail: skreitzer@coalsource.com

By Mail. Sarah Kreitzer

63882 OK Road

Belmont, OH 43718

Guest(s) Names					
Accepts with p	pleasure Regretfully declines				
Please initial each guest's meal choice					
Kids	Roast Beef Au Jus				
Chicken Tenders	Baked Chicken				
Grilled Cheese	Baked White Fish				
Cheeseburger	Vegetable Lasagna				
Personal Cheese Pizza	8 oz. Rib Eye Steak				

Please reply by January 15, 2012

