

PUPFEST

2011



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T.A.G.
CAVER

Sewanee Mountain Grotto
Volume 2 Issue 3

TAG Caver ~ Volume 2 Issue 3

FALL 2011 – SPECIAL PUPFEST ISSUE

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: Peter Michaud

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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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*Thank you to all of
our supporters &
contributors!

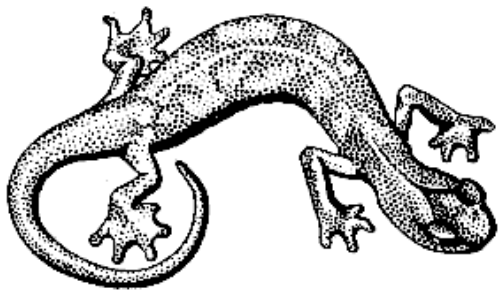
Front Cover:

"The Piper at the Caves of Dawn" by Jerry Wallace

Back Cover:

Word search of vendors who donated to our event!

Calendar of Upcoming Events



September 10th – SMG Meeting at Jack Lynch's property on Battle Creek. Potluck dinner 6pm, followed by meeting at 7pm.

September 24th – Maureen Handler's 50th Birthday Party. 7:00pm Central at Cavers Paradise in Sewanee, Tennessee. Bring a side dish to accompany the bbq. Camping is encouraged. There will be a small charge to cover expenses. Maureen asks for no presents. For details or directions contact: Jim Wilbanks (jimgail69@earthlink.net).

October 6th – 9th – 34th annual TAG Fall Cave In. Pre registration ends September 1st. Cost is \$37 at the door. Visit <http://tagfallcavein.org/> for more info. Online registration is open..!

October 15th – SMG meeting pushed back one week due to TAG Fall Cave In. Meeting location still to be determined, although Harold Geick did mention the possibility of having at his new place in Sewanee...!

November 12th – SMG meeting at John Attaway's house on the mountain. Potluck dinner 6pm, followed by meeting at 7pm.

December 10th – SMG meeting at Maureen Handler's house on the mountain. Potluck dinner 6pm followed by meeting at 7pm. Dirty Santa to follow the meeting. Gift limit \$10.

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

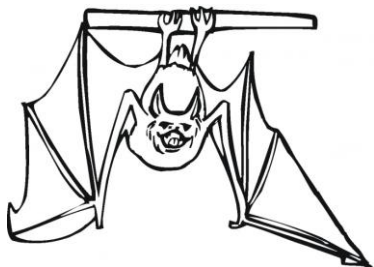
After you have joined the grotto, join our mailing list to keep up to date with cave trips and meetings.

Go to: http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/sewanee_mountain_grotto/ 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 (rowland7840@bellsouth.net) to purchase any of these items.



THE TAG SCOOP

*Welcome new SMG members: Jim, Rachel, Kaya & Tao Campbell, Jordan Olshan, Tommy Royston & Amy Smith.

**You can also download an updated Membership List from the Yahoo Group.

***Membership dues are \$10. 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 Senawee Mountain Grotto, 482 Wild Heart Lane, Senawee, TN 37375. Make sure you include your contact information (name, address, phone number & email address) & your NSS Number.

New Grotto Merchandise...!



The Grotto now 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 also now has 14oz mugs featuring our logo in black/white. The mugs were purchased for our annual fundraising event, Pupfest. Mugs are \$10 each.



Welcome to Pupfest 9



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 children under control
- Watch for snakes and spiders around wood piles and rock outcroppings
- Field showers available near the Sauna



Schedule of Events

Friday

All Day – Caving!!

Dark 30 – Popcorn & a Movie “Cave Women to the Rescue” Campfire & Beer

Saturday

All Day – Caving!!

6:00 PM – Canoe Trip to Nickajack
Cave Bat Flight

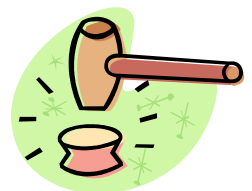
Dark 30 –Live Band,Campfire &
Beer

Sunday

All Day – Caving!!

5:00 PM – BBQ Pig, Potluck dinner
& Beer

7:00 PM –Pupfest Auction!





SKTF Volunteer of the Year

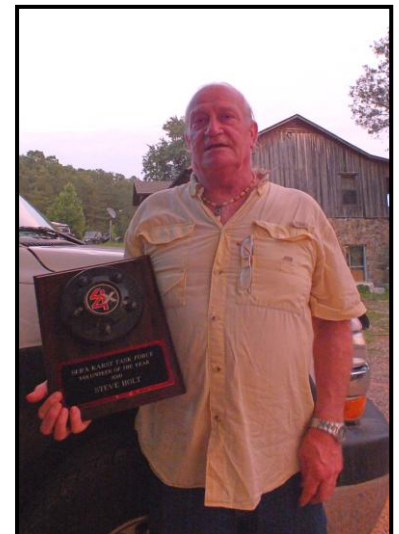
Over the years hundreds of volunteers have donated their time and skills to SKTF Projects. Cavers as well as grottos, people in the community, & Boy Scout Troops. Many volunteers are individuals who simply feel a strong calling to help clean up karst, caves and the drinking water supply. Numerous supporters have donated money, tools, ropes, pulleys, skills, or a strong back to help SKTF clean up karst environments.

A few of the reasons people give when asked why they are inspired to volunteer – making a difference, making an impact, leaving a mark, clean drinking water. Many others volunteer for the opportunity to meet new friends or work with new people. While others take on the task because they are curious and want to see a karst feature or a cave and others want to explore karst areas that they might otherwise not visit. Others like the feeling of accomplishment or learning a variety of new skills. Regardless of the motivation most volunteers agree that working on just one SERA Karst Task Force Project is enough to teach you an appreciation of the cave and karst environment, the relation of the earth's surface to groundwater and get you involved with other cave and karst projects.

People of all ages and backgrounds are answering the SKTF call by volunteering and making a difference in karst areas in the southeastern United States. So many, that the SKTF Directors established the SKTF Volunteer of the Year Award! Each year the recipient is chosen by the SERA Karst Task Force Board of Directors. The award recognizes those Volunteers who have gone above and beyond in our efforts and who have made serving the SKTF a central part of their lives.

With exception of the SKTF Directors, the award is available to volunteers of all ages, as well as families and groups who have achieved a high standard – measured by continued involvement, support of SKTF Projects and an exceptional volunteer attitude.

- ◇ Provide appropriate recognition to SKTF Volunteers that are doing outstanding work!
- ◇ The award draws attention to the importance of SKTF Volunteers!
- ◇ Encourages participation in SKTF Projects!
- ◇ The Award recipient receive a SKTF personalized Plaque of Achievement!



**This year's SKTF Volunteer of the Year Award goes to STEVE HOLT...!
Congratulations Steve.**

Big Room Cave Watershed Restoration Project

By Maureen Handler

The SERA Karst Task Force is always looking for new projects. These projects are usually brought to the SKTF by local grottos. In 2009, Anne Grindle of the Sewanee Mountain Grotto 'discovered' a sinkhole right across the street from the entrance to Big Room Cave that had been used for years as a site to dump debris. Anne spoke with Maureen Handler, Conservation Officer for SMG about this location as a possible clean up target.



After the SKTF had time to evaluate the site, they decided to assist SMG with this clean up. The sinkhole is a beautiful karst feature that is part of the Payne Cove watershed in Grundy County, Tennessee. There are a number of significant caves in this watershed, which all discharge their water from Payne Cove. Like most of our other clean ups, this one appeared daunting at first. The original scheduled cleanup was supposed to occur in January 2011. This was postponed due to a forecasted snow storm. Of course, that Saturday was beautiful and the snow did not hit until Sunday night, sigh! The cleanup was rescheduled for February 2011.



The day dawned with beautiful weather. Over 60 cavers showed up to assist with this restoration project. In addition, a Tracy City Boy Scout troop also came to help. While the boy scouts cleaned up all of the trash at the spring exiting Payne Cove and the roadway leading into the cove, the cavers attacked the sinkhole with fury. Steve Holt spent the entire day on the tractor helping pull large pieces out of the sinkhole and transporting all of the trash to the dumpster located about 500 feet away. It was amazing how much trash was removed in just 6 hours. We even had trouble getting people to stop at the end of the day. The cavers were 'crazed' with enthusiasm and kept pulling out more trash. In total, 8 tons of debris was placed in the dumpster and another 2 tons of recyclable metal was staged for reclamation. Ten tons was removed in ONE DAY! This was an SKTF daily record. Enough debris was removed to look into the bottom of the sinkhole and what appeared to be going cave. There was good cave air flowing out of the bottom of the debris that was left in place.

SMG & the SKTF scheduled a second event for April 2011. Nearly 40 cavers showed up for the second event. During the March rains, the sinkhole experienced a garbalanche. A significant amount of trash and soil had washed down into the bottom of the sinkhole, effectively plugging the potential cave entrance we had found earlier. This did not dishearten the volunteers. They again attacked the debris with fury! We removed another 8 tons of debris, again filling up the dumpster. Grundy County has been supplying the dumpsters and hauling off the trash in addition to providing community service workers to help.

The SKTF is evaluating the continuing effort for this sinkhole. We are looking as using heavy equipment and a trash sorter to continue with the cleanup. So much soil has been mixed with the debris, that hand work has become unfeasible. Keep your ears open for more information on this great watershed restoration project.



A Caver's Slice of Heaven

2011 NSS Convention Update

By Kelly Smallwood

For those who were unable to attend you just might have missed the best convention to date. Although it was my first, this was a common statement that was made by many convention veterans. This year it was held in beautiful Glenwood Springs, Colorado. There were 1,260 cavers who attended and out of those there were 13 Sewanee Mountain Grotto members present. Myself, my daughter Dakota and Anne Grindle made the 1,400 mile journey each way bringing Leslie Lytle back on the return trip with us.

Who could possibly ever beat the HOWDY Party that was held at Glenwood Caverns complete with an amusement park and a cave! Tuesday night there was a NSS 70th Anniversary party in the campground followed by the normal Wednesday night campground party. Thursday night was the Salons showing and Friday the banquet. There were many daytime activities each day and lots of sessions. Oh and let's not forget the free beer provided by the Glenwood Canyon Brewing Company each night! On the next page is a collage of photos from several cavers including myself, Anne Elmore, Bambi Dunlap, Gloria Martinez & Martha Mills.

Congratulations on the following awards won at convention by several of our Grotto Members:



Our newsletter won a Merit Award for the Fall 2010 Cover and our 2010 SERA Guidebook cover won an Honorable Mention.

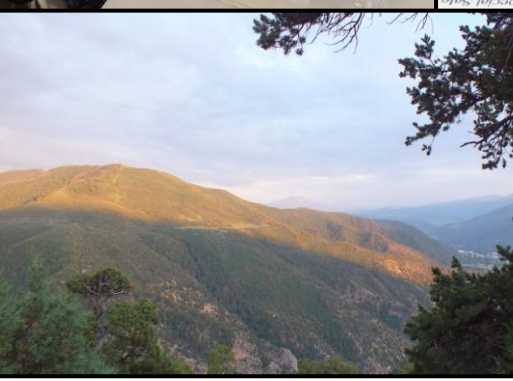
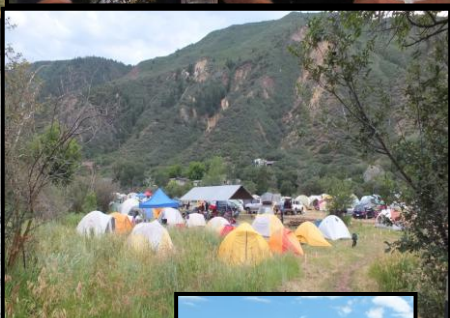
Tina O'Hailey's T-shirt design for our 2010 SERA event won an Honorable Mention.



Jeff Bartlett won two Merit Awards for his maps.



Kelly Smallwood won 2nd place in the Photo Salon with this picture of a Salamander titled "Ready, Set, Jump".



Above Ground Attractions

Lula Falls



20 minutes south of Chattanooga tucked away in northwest Georgia atop Lookout Mountain is a land trust called the Lula Lake Land Trust. History and postcards tell us this was a very popular place for tourists for many decades even including use during the Civil War. By the late 50's the area had suffered a lot of damage from logging and locals dumping their trash. In 1958 Robert Davenport began acquiring land around the lake and falls and cleaning it up. Throughout the 60's and 70's he continued to acquire more land and began rejuvenating it by planting more trees and clearing out all the trash. By the time of Mr. Davenport's death in 1994 he had acquired nearly 1,200 acres. He had informed his

family of his wishes to preserve and protect the land for many more generations to come. The land trust has now grown to nearly 4,000 acres. The property is only open for visitation the first and last Saturday of each month and has over 6 miles of hiking trails. From the parking area there is an old rail road grade that makes as the main trail through the property. You walk this level trail for approx 1 mile until you reach Lake Lula. Here a small waterfall spills over and forms a very beautiful lake. Unfortunately they do not allow swimming here. Continue on the trail just a bit further to reach the very impressive Lula Falls. Here you can take a short but steep hike down into the canyon to visit the 100 foot plus waterfall. Once at the bottom you can hike around and even walk in the rock shelter behind the falls.

Directions: The site is approx 45 miles from the campsite and is only open the first and last Saturday of each month from 9am-5pm. Pets are allowed but must be on a leash. Take Stagecoach down the mountain towards Kimball. Once in Kimball take a RIGHT onto 72 and then LEFT onto I-24 Eastbound. Exit #174 (US 41/ US 11/US 64, Lookout Valley) and go RIGHT. Follow US 11 for about 3-1/2 miles until you reach the town of St. Elmo. Take a RIGHT onto SR 17 (Tennessee Ave.) Go about 1/2 mile and bear RIGHT onto SR 58 (Ochs Hwy). Once at the top of the mountain you will come to a T intersection at Lake Lula road. Turn LEFT onto Lake Lula Road and go 4.5 miles to the gravel drive entrance on the LEFT. You will only see small signs marking the area on the first and last Saturday of each month. Once at the parking lot you will be greeted by volunteers where you can pick up a map of the area and see relics that have been found on the property.

(Lula Falls in 1864)



Foster Falls



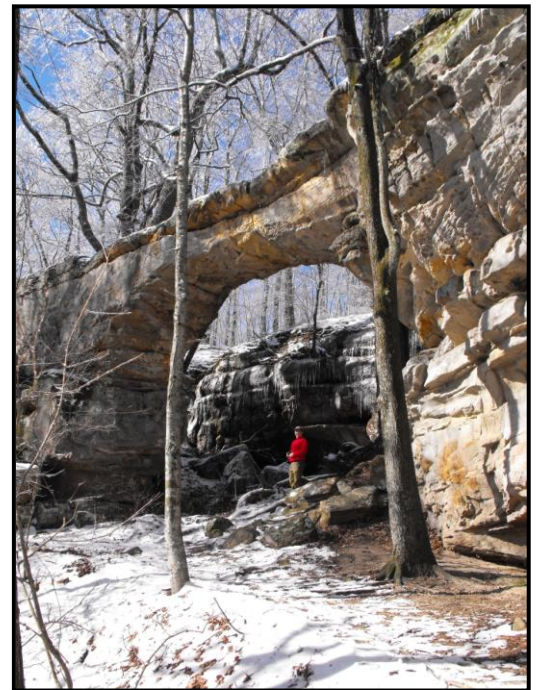
Foster Falls, which lends its name to the area, drops sixty feet and marks the southern end of the Fiery Gizzard Trail. South Cumberland manages 550 acres at Foster Falls that has become a world class destination for sport rock climbing. Facilities include restrooms, a picnic pavilion managed by the TVA resident manager, a handicap accessible boardwalk and viewing platform and a wooded picnic area. Activities include SWIMMING and hiking.

Directions: Shortest distance from campground (26 miles) – Take Stagecoach down the mountain towards Kimball. Once at Kimball go LEFT onto 72/64 towards Jasper. Once in Jasper take a LEFT onto 41 for about 9 miles. Take LEFT into parking area for Foster Falls.

Sewanee Natural Bridge

Natural Bridge is a three- acre natural area located in Franklin County. Natural Bridge is a 25 feet high natural sandstone arch with a span of 50 feet that provides a scenic overlook of Lost Cove. There is a wet weather spring associated with a rock house located behind the natural bridge. The spring probably contributed to the formation of the arch. Lost Cove is a large karst formation on the dissected section of the Cumberland Plateau. It is essentially a giant sinkhole. Lost Creek flows into the valley and disappears into Lost Cove Cave at the Big Sinks and re-emerges as Crow Creek from Buggytop Cave within Mr. & Mrs. Harry Lee Carter State Natural Area. The site also has been referred to as Sewanee Natural Bridge since the University of the South in Sewanee once owned it. The natural area is a part of the South Cumberland Recreation Area.

Directions: Site is approx 16 miles from Campground. Take LEFT onto Stagecoach Road, go 1-1/2 miles and take LEFT onto Snake Pond. Go another 1/2 mile and make a RIGHT onto SR 156. Follow 156 until you reach the intersection at the airport. Follow airport road around to the LEFT to HWY 41. Make a LEFT onto 41 and then go about 1-1/2 miles and turn LEFT onto SR 56. Go approx 2-1/2 miles and make a LEFT onto Natural Bridge Road. The Natural Bridge is a short walk from the parking area.





Buggy Top Cave Trail

Please note, the cave itself is **CLOSED**. However you can still hike to the entrances. The Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lee Carter Natural Area is a 375-acre natural area located in Franklin County that is part of the South Cumberland Recreation Area. Named after the couple who donated the land to the state, this natural area protects part of a large solution valley associated with the karst erosional processes characteristic of the Cumberland Plateau escarpment. A significant cave system

extends from Lost Cove to the head of Crow Creek. The stream systems draining into Lost Cove disappear into the Lost Cove Cave at the Big Sinks and travel underground for over a mile, emerging at the main entrance Buggytop Cave. This impressive cave entrance is 100 feet wide and 80 feet high. Peter Cave is the other main cave entrance. There have been considerable archeological artifacts of the Woodland and Mississippian period excavated from the entrance. The artifacts are on display at University of the South in Sewanee. The area is also home to several rare species of plants, animals and unique plant communities. Examples of rare plants include Cumberland rosinweed (*Silphium brachiatum*) and Eggert's sunflower (*Helianthus eggertii*). The forested area abounds with oaks, hickories, maples, and many shrubs. A rich mixed mesophytic forest is found in the cove near the cave entrance. This forest community has numerous dominant species that include sugar maple, buckeye, tulip poplar, buckeye, and basswood. Many of the slopes and spurs are an oak-hickory forest community with white oak prevalent on mid slopes and scarlet, black, and chestnut oak occurring on drier upper slopes. A new forest is forming here to replace the forest removed by past logging activities. There is also a limestone barrens community above the Buggytop cave entrance that is home to native grasses and other barrens plants like liatris, rattlesnake master, and agave. The natural area has a wonderful spring wildflower display that adds much seasonal color to the forest floor.

Directions: Site is approx 22 miles from Campground. Take LEFT onto Stagecoach Road, go 1-1/2 miles and take LEFT onto Snake Pond. Go another 1/2 mile and make a RIGHT onto SR 156. Follow 156 until you reach the intersection at the airport. Follow airport road around to the LEFT to HWY 41. Make a LEFT onto 41 and then go about 1-1/2 miles and turn LEFT onto SR 56. Go approx 6 miles to parking area on LEFT. The trail begins at the parking area and is approx **2-1/2 miles EACH WAY**. Allow for several hours and make sure to bring plenty of water for your hike.

Nickajack Cave Float Trip

Nickajack Cave is a large, partially flooded cave in Marion County, Tennessee. It was partially flooded by the Tennessee Valley Authority's Nickajack Lake, created by the construction of Nickajack Dam in 1967. The entrance was originally 140 feet wide and 50 feet high.^[1] There is now about 25-30 feet of water at the entrance, so the portion of the entrance above water is 140 feet wide and 20-25 feet high. It houses a large colony of Gray Bats, an endangered species and the water levels have posed a danger to the bat colony ^[2]. The cave took its name from the Cherokee town of Nicojack/Nickajack, located between its mouth and the Tennessee River.



Directions: Site is approx 20 miles from campground. Take RIGHT onto Stagecoach Road and head down the mountain towards Kimball. Once in Kimball take a RIGHT onto 72 towards South Pittsburgh. Take LEFT onto SR 156 and cross over the Tennessee River. Follow 156 for approx 6-1/2 miles. Once you cross over the lake you will see Nickajack cave on the RIGHT. Take your first RIGHT pass the lake onto Macedonia Road. Parking area is on RIGHT.

(Nickajack Cave 1864)

Russell Cave National Monument

The Russell Cave National Monument is a U.S. National Monument in northeastern Alabama, United States, close to the town of Bridgeport. The Monument was established on May 11, 1961, when 310 acres (1.3 km²) of land were donated by the National Geographic Society to the American people. It is now maintained by the National Park Service. The National Monument was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on October 15, 1966. With a mapped length of 7.2 miles (11.6 km), Russell Cave is the third longest mapped cave in Alabama, is ranked 90th on the United States Long Cave List, and is currently listed as number 314 on the World Long Cave List.^[1] Its exceptionally large main entrance was used as a shelter by prehistoric Indians from the earliest known human settlement in the southeastern United States, through to European colonization. The surrounding forest provided food, tools and fuel for fires.



Directions: Site is approx 21 miles from campground. Take LEFT onto Stagecoach Road, go 1-1/2 miles and take LEFT onto Snake Pond. Go another 1/2 mile and make a LEFT onto SR 156. Follow 156 for approx 12 miles and turn RIGHT onto Orme Road. Follow Orme road down the mountain through the town of Orme and cross over into Alabama. Site will be about 1/2 mile on RIGHT once you cross into Alabama.

Larson's Well Trip Report

By Rachel Campbell

Total Depth: 275'

Total Length: 403'



Saturday, July 23, we started our journey on our first "All Girls" trip. Our destination was Orme Mountain Road. Our plan was to drop Larson's Well, head to Waterworks Cave, then drop either Just Got Lucky Pit or Lucky's Revenge.

Once we finally made it to Orme Mountain Road, we parked our vehicles at Waterworks. The entrance to the parking lot to Waterworks has recently been barricaded closed to prevent the uncontrollable littering at the parking area. Though it looks as though the locals have been trying very hard to remove the boulders now blocking their path, so far, the barricade has stood up and, at least when we got there, the trash was very minor compared to what it has been in the past.

We geared up and headed down to Larson's. The pink flagging tape at the cave entrance was pretty worn and most of it was on the ground so we took some green duct tape and used it like flagging tape. We also added a cairn on the other side of the entrance to help identify the cave.

There are a total of 3 pits in this cave, 161' entrance pit, 39' waterfall pit and a 25' pit below breakdown at the bottom. The 25' pit does not have to be done to explore the bottom.

There is one large tree around the entrance that works very well for rigging. The entrance is a sliver approximately 6' long and at one point, 2' wide. It takes a little muscling to get through the first 20 feet through the shaft, but after that it not only opens into a beautiful freefall, but also begins to cool down. The ride down is very pretty, setting you into a nice little puddle at the bottom. On one side, you can hear water falling. From first glance, it looks like it may be falling through a crack in the floor, but the huge rock to the right is actually hiding the 39' waterfall drop. There is a beautiful flowstone formation to the left that is feeding the waterfall. If possible, the easiest way to continue down is to have a long enough rope rigged to the entrance. This is where we lost track of time. We did not have a rope long enough from the entrance, but instead, brought a smaller rope to rig the second pit. After quite some time, a rigging point was finally established utilizing a rock on the upper right ridge however, we ended up electing not to continue on through the water.

Ascending back up was a beautiful climb. With a gentle start, there was no bouncing however, once you get to the crevice, make sure to pause and kiss that cool air goodbye. The second you enter into the crevice, the summertime heat completely engulfs.

I do not suggest rope walkers for this trip.

Cave Descriptions



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 several caves in the area. 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 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.

ANIMAL FARM CAVE MN130

Monteagle Limestone - Horizontal

This cave was dug open by Rick Buice and Mark Wolinsky. The entrance is a crawl through breakdown into a large room. On the right of the room is a crawl leading into the remainder of the cave. The cave is quite large and very well decorated. Flowstone mounds, soda straws and totem poles are everywhere. (Rick Buice, 1976). **Personal permission from the landowner, Mr. Cardin, is required to visit. Closed during hunting season.**

CATACOMB CAVE MN161

Monteagle Limestone - Horizontal

E1 of Catacomb Cave is 25 feet above the creek in a large bluff on the south side of Fiery Gizzard Cove, directly across from Pine Set Baptist Church. E2 is a half mile farther up (east) the cove from the Pine Set Baptist Church. The stream flows into 25-foot-wide, 1.5-foot-high entrance.

E1 opens into a series of maze passages. This maze leads to a 30-foot pit. A lower level passage which terminates at the pit can be followed upstream for 2000 feet to the Inflowing Stream Entrance (E2). Halfway to E2, a hole on the left side of the ceiling leads to E2 (The Crows Nest Entrance). During wet weather the whole cave floods. Two hundred feet of passage was followed at the bottom of the pit before it sumped. (Gerald Moni, 1977, 1985)

CROWNOVER SALTPETER CAVE FR6

Monteagle Limestone – Horizontal

On the east side of Crow Creek Valley, 0.3 miles northeast of Anderson School and 4 miles south of Sherwood. The cave opens on the north side of a dry wash 30 feet from the streambed.

The mouth is 2.5 feet high and 5 feet wide. The cave's main avenue, which is 50 feet wide and 20 feet high, extends north for 500 feet. The floor is broken by extensive rockfalls in places, and near the back are three pits. In the area of the pits much vertical solution accompanied by breakdown is evident. High in the ceiling may be seen the remnants of an older, abandoned channel. A system of narrow, sinuous passages lies right (east) of and 20 feet lower than the main passage. In one of these is an incised saw-cut gorge in the floor of a low, wide, bedding-plane passage. Formation of the gorge, probably occasioned by subterranean capture of surface wash, may be related to the formation of the pits, by undermining the floor of the main channel. Quarrying of the ceiling blocks by ground water percolating down into the cave along joints and bedding planes has almost certainly contributed to the widespread breakdown. The other small passages in this system are chiefly dry crawlways, which total about 800 feet in length.

This system joins the main passage at four points. Evidence of saltpeter mining may be seen in the drier parts of the cave. Remains of the saltpeter hoppers reportedly could be seen in the cave up until recent times.

Past the breakdown area, 500 feet inside the cave, the cave continues for another 2 miles. To find your way through this breakdown maze, you follow the main passage up a slope to the top of a breakdown hill 200 feet from the entrance. To the left a downward slope leads to a 26-foot pit. Going straight ahead leads downward to a short crawl into another room. Past this room the downward sloping passage intercepts a right climbup that goes to several hundred feet of passage and a couple of pits. Continuing on down the slope leads to the Basement Room, which is under the breakdown maze. In the Basement Room turn left and go 75 feet. Go upward through a crawl to a climbdown. Do not climb down but go straight across and then climb up. At the top is a 5-foot wide, 10-foot high canyon passage that goes 300 feet to a small room adjacent to the main passage. The main passage goes 3500 feet as a 50- to 100-foot wide, 2- to 40-foot high passage. The last 500 feet is a series of parallel crawls, which averages 40 feet wide. These new sections of the cave were first entered by Ed Strausser and other Georgia Cavers in the early 1970's.

In the Basement Room, before you turn left and go 75 feet, is a hole in the floor that leads to Neffs Canyon. Neffs Canyon goes 2000 feet as a narrow, sinuous, 20- to 40-foot high canyon passage. An upper trending passage, 400 feet down the canyon passage connects to the main trunk passage.

The cave is formed in the Mississippian limestones in the Monteagle Limestone. The cave was formed by Crow Creek when the valley floor was 150 feet higher than at present. This "fossil" cave is now dry except for a small stream draining the local mountain side. ((Barr, 1961, Gerald Moni, 1984 & 2002)

Crownover Saltpeter Cave was described as Talley Fork Cave in Thomas L. Bailey's "Report on the Caves of the Eastern Highland Rim and Cumberland Mountains" in *Resources of Tennessee*, vol. VIII, no. 2 (1918), p. 195, Sample # 93. Bailey's location for Talley Fork Cave differs from Crownover Saltpeter Cave, but the description for both caves are the same.

FIERY TOP DROP MN274

Bangor Limestone – Vertical

Fiery Top Drop is on the south side of Fiery Gizzard Cove, 4000 feet northeast of the first bridge across the main creek.

The 6- by 8-foot opening leads to an offset 166-foot pit. A crawl 5 feet off the floor goes 25 feet and gets too tight. Found February 3, 1980 by Ron Lewis and descended the same day by Gerald Moni, Ron Lewis, and Dave Bradford. (Gerald Moni & Marion O. Smith, 1980)

AJK1277 Fountain Pit

Doran Cove, Bangor Limestone – Vertical



Fountain Pit is a 100-foot sheer drop. The entrance is a 3-foot by 10-foot fissure. The City of Bridgeport gets water from the gated cave above the pit (AJK 1281, Irongate Cave). The water pipe passes over the edge of the pit on its way to the tank. An overflow valve on the pipe next to the pit is the fountain for which the pit is named. The nice level walk to the cave is appealing in the hot summer, and the spring and pit provide a nice setting for a picnic.

LARSONS WELL MN495

Bangor Ls-Hartselle Formation – Vertical

The cave is located 4300 feet northwest of the Orme Depot, 650 feet northwest of Mr. Lawson's house and is on the north slope of Payne Cove. The entrance is in a small sink on the Pennington bench slightly above the Pennington-Bangor contact.

The entrance is 6 feet long and at one spot 2 feet wide. The 161-foot pit is mostly freefall after 20 feet in a 40-foot diameter shaft. At the bottom, a walking passage leads to a 39-foot pit. The water pours out of a small hole on the left wall. At the bottom, 150 feet of narrow canyon passage leads to climbdowns of 4, 7, and 8 feet into a large room. The horizontal passage is along the Hartselle Formation. There is a 25-foot pit below some breakdown which does not have to be done. There is a 15-foot climbdown reached by climbing down into the breakdown on the other side of the pit. The climbdown reaches a large room with massive breakdown. A 15-foot climbdown leads to a too-tight crack at the bottom, where the water goes. Some passage was explored in the upper breakdown room. One hands and knees passage has a weasel or mink skeleton in it. Larsons Well extends 130 feet below the valley floor. (Alan Cressler, 1994)



SWEET POT MN241

Bangor-Hartselle-Monteagle - Vertical

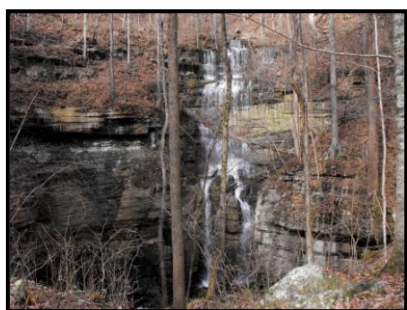
Located 5,000 feet east of Kelly Cove and 800 feet east of a major gully shown on the topo map. The pit is 4900 feet southeast of Thomas Cemetery on the south slope of Sweden Cove.

The entrance pit opens as a 75-foot drop with a waterfall. After 15 feet you go down an 18-foot pit. One hundred feet of passage leads to a 55-foot pit. Going downstream through a low stream crawl and then a 25-foot dug crawl, you find 800 feet of nice passage and two rooms. The cave ends in breakdown with air blowing through rocks. The mapped length is 1,839 feet. The cave passes through the Hartselle Formation 195 feet down from the entrance. (Gerald Moni, 1978)

In 1997, a 45-foot bolt climb at the bottom of the 55-foot pit led to a dome room with a large passage leading off. This upstream canyon passage goes to Guillotine Dome, 53 feet high. After bolting up Guillotine Dome, a canyon passage goes 300 feet to Final Jeopardy Dome, 35 feet high. The passage at the top goes a few feet farther and ends at a dig, with nutshells and surface debris. The upper level added 540 feet to the mapped length. (Dave Dehart, Brad Long & Lesley Colton, 2004)

WATERWORKS CAVE MN52

Bangor Limestone - Vertical



Waterworks Cave is located 1800 feet north of Orme; it is shown on the Orme quadrangle topographic map as a spring which emerges for a short distance and then disappears into a large sink. The town of Orme still gets some water from the spring above the cave. Water drains into the entrance in wet weather.

The entrance is a walk-in to a 12-foot pit within 40 feet (parallel to this is a 21-foot pit which drops into the same passage the 12-foot pit leads to). Then there is 150 feet of mostly nice walking passage to an offset 45-foot pit into a sizable chamber. At one end one can climb up and go 100 feet. At the floor level a hands/knees crawl leads to stoop/walking passage down 20 feet of climbdowns to the breakdown and rubble end (above this are 100 feet of rooms and pockets). (Marion O. Smith, 1993)

At the bottom of the 45-foot pit, a climb up and over a large breakdown block leads to a 3-foot-tall crawlway. After 20 feet this T's into another fossil stream passage, with right going upstream as a crawl for 50 feet to a too-tight area, and left getting larger and larger until a walking-size passage is reached. There is one 5-foot climbdown, and one tricky traverse over a pool of water. Beyond that, the cave continues another 50 feet to a heavily decorated grotto and a flowstone end. Back at the pool in the floor, one can slide down a flowstone slope, around the edge of the pool, and into a decorated belly crawl. Thirty feet farther the cave opens back up into a large borehole, 20 feet tall and 20 feet wide. After another 200 feet the cave appears to end in hillside retreat and breakdown. (Andy Zellner, 1998)

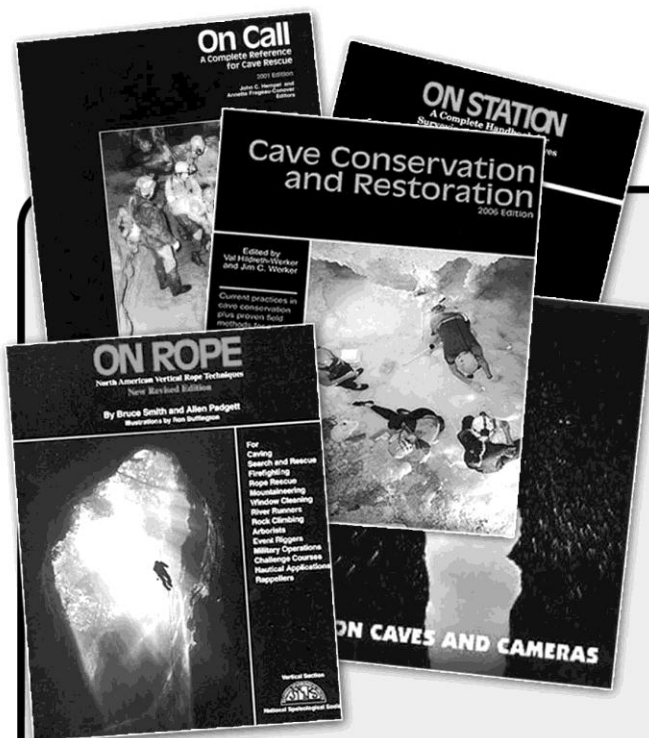
WHITE CRICKET CAVE MN75

Pennington Formation – Horizontal

White Cricket Cave is located on the east side of Old Shop Hollow, 0.9 miles northeast of Orme, 500 feet right (south) from a sharp left bend in the paved road leading up the hollow.

The cave entrance is 20 feet wide and 7 feet high. Water from the cave flows from the entrance and falls down a small pit nearby, White Cricket Pit (MN81). The entrance slopes down 20 feet vertically to the stream passage. The first 100 feet is crawling and stooping to a room. In the room is a moonshine site. The next 700 feet of the cave consists of stream passage 4 to 8 feet in height, floored by a stream 4 feet wide and up to 1 foot deep. About 800 feet from the entrance, breakdown is encountered in the passage, but a crawl through the breakdown allows the explorer to continue in a passage initially 20 to 25 feet high, but lowering to 8 to 10 feet high until, after an additional 750 feet, the cave ends in breakdown. The cave stream emerges from under the breakdown. In the first breakdown room on the ceiling is a slickenside, probably formed by a fault.

A stream crawl tributary to the main stream occurs 200 feet from the entrance. It averages 2 feet in height (it being possible to stand in one place) and is quite wet. It was followed for more than 400 feet to a siphon, and a side crawl was explored for 250 feet until it became too tight. No formations of any extent are developed in the cave. A description and map of White Cricket Cave appeared in the Nashville *Speleoneers* October, 1970, pp. 45-48. (Rick Buice, 1970)



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Though A Caver's Eyes
By Nancy Holler Aulenbach

I venture to that tranquil land
Where few of my kind go,
With a carbide in my steady grip
True content awaits below.

Through the sky's lantern will not shine here
And God's sweet breath won't blow,
I haven't a twinge of uncertainty
Of the uncharted conduits that follow.

The ancient world around me smiles
And my fluttering friends seem to sense,
That I am one of few who cares
To trek this land of sentiment.

Pale sightless inhabitants know not of hate
For there's nothing to dislike in this heavenly abyss,
Everything around them they appreciate
In their quintessential state of bliss.

Although I long to forever stay
I realize that it cannot be,
For my presence arose my silent friends
In this place of near-eternity.

So go then I through the hallowed halls
And back into the sunlight that gleams above,
Life awaits me out here in this great-big-world
But the caverns below hold my true immortal love.

Cave Mosh bars

By Amy Hinkle

First, mix together your dry ingredients:

- 1 cup vanilla almond granola (I purchased from Whole Foods bulk bins)
- 1 bag of Triple Treat Fruit (I purchased from Trader Joe's, it has dried mango, cranberry, and blueberry)
- 3/4 cup of mini Reese's peanut butter cups (Trader Joe's has these as their brand, but I think Reese just started making them too)
- 1 cup of semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup of crushed banana chips
- 3/4 cup of sunflower seeds (roasted, unsalted)
- 3/4 cup of walnuts
- 3 cups of whole wheat flour
- 10 shakes of cinnamon (I didn't measure, just shook it 10 times into the mix haha)

Then add in the wet ingredients:

- 1 cup of natural peanut butter (aka the good stuff yeah yeah it separates but damn it is so much better than jiffy or something, I get mine from Trader Joe's)
- 1/2 cup of chocolate peanut butter (I got this from Trader Joe's too)
- 1/2 cup of honey
- 3 eggs (beat before adding)
- 1 can of sweetened condensed milk

Mix up well it makes a very sticky mixture and takes some muscle to mix with how thick it is.

Press it down into a 43.8cm x 29.2cm x 2.54cm deep cookie sheet, it should fit about perfectly, mush/press it together if stuff is dryer and not sticky you didn't get it mixed well enough.

Bake at 350°F for 15-17min

Let cool for 5-10min, but cut while still a bit warm and let it finish cooling on racks. I wrapped mine individual in saran wrap.



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