

T.A.G. CAVES



Sewanee Mountain Grotto
Volume 3 Issue 2

TAG Caver ~ Volume 3 Issue 2

Summer 2012

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/>

2012 Sewanee Mtn Grotto Officers:

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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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Front Cover:

Jason Hardy getting ready to blast, design by Kelly Smallwood

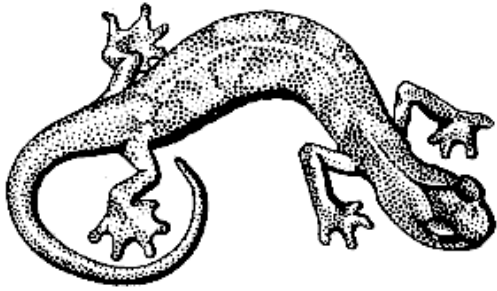
Back Cover:

Congratulations to Peter & Shelly

Design by Kelly Smallwood

Pics provided by Jeff Cody & Holly Tingle McClintock

Calendar of Upcoming Events



June 19th – 22nd – NSS Convention in the Greenbrier Valley of West Virginia. Visit <http://www.nss2012.com/> for registration and more information. The grotto will be bringing the 10x20.

July 14th – SMG Meeting at John Attaway's house in Sewanee, TN. Potluck dinner 6pm, followed by meeting at 7pm.

July 20th-22nd – Karst-O-Rama celebrating it's 20th year at the Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve in Mt. Vernon, Kentucky. Visit www.karstorama.com for more details.

August 11th – SMG Meeting at Jack Lynch's property on Battle Creek. Potluck dinner 6pm, followed by meeting at 7pm.

August 31st – September 3rd – 10th Annual SMG Fundraising Event now known as Sewanee Mountain Cave Fest. Friday night movie, Saturday night Bat Float to Nickajack Cave and Sunday night is the Potluck Dinner & Auction. \$5 camping fee per person for the entire weekend. Guests are asked to bring a dish to the potluck dinner and donate an item to the auction. There will also be led cave trips.

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.



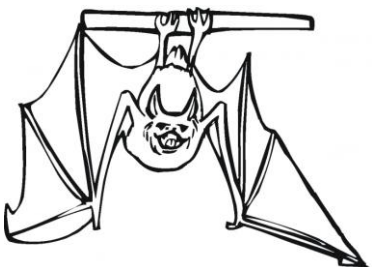
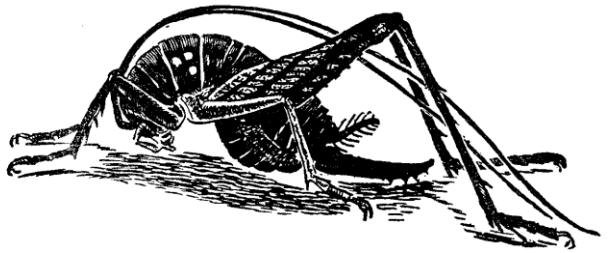
Sewanee Mountain Remailer

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

The Grotto has Baseball Hats for \$15, 14oz mugs for \$5 and 3' patches for \$5. All items have our grotto logo on them. Please contact Kelly Smallwood at rowland7840@bellsouth.net to purchase any of these items.



THE TAG SCOOP

The Grotto has voted and the new name of our annual fundraiser is Sewanee Mountain Cave Fest!

**You can 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 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.



3" grotto patches featuring our logo, \$5.

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





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 Hazzard Bryant...! Congratulations HAZ!



Cliff+Sarah
63882 OK Rd
Belmont OH 43718

YOUNGSTOWN OH 444

29 MAR 2012 PM 2 T



To all the amazing
Sewanee Mtn. Grotto
members;

You rock! Thanks
so much for the
card + donation to
the SCCi! We
can't wait to catch
up at a future cave
event! Much love,
Sarah (Cliff)



Your generous donation is greatly appreciated.
SKTF values your support and participation
in cleanups of our karst and cave areas.

Thanks!
SKTF Committee

2012 SERA Map Salon

By Brent Aulenbach

The 18th annual SERA Map Salon was held on Saturday, February 11th, 2012 at the SERA Winter Business Meeting, at Gunthersville Lake State Park, AL hosted by the Huntsville Grotto.

The goal of the map salon is to encourage mapping of SERA caves, to provide a venue for cartographers to display their maps, give an opportunity to view other cartographer's maps and techniques, and to provide an incentive for improving cartographic skills and techniques through critique and competition. The map salon had good participation this year as there were 9 maps entered for competition along with 1 map entered for show only, representing the work of five different cartographers with caves from two different states.

Maps were judged in a single category. Five of the nine maps received awards.

Two maps received Merit awards for achieving a high level of quality:

Zeta Pit, AL (A1479) by Dave Hughes, and Cavle Cave, Warren Co., TN (TWR310) by Don Hunter

Third place went to Don Hunter for A Mazing Root Cave, White Co., TN (TWH508). Second place went to Julie Schenck Brown for Solution Rift, Marion Co., TN (TMN42). Best of Show went to Jason Hardy for Doodlebug Hole Blowing Cave, Jackson Co., AL (AJK195).

Of special note was the bigger than wall-sized map of Blue Spring Cave, TN that Jason Richards displayed -- an impressive effort! Not often you get the opportunity to see such a huge map layer out.

Congratulations to all the cartographers for your great maps!

Thanks goes to the judges: Bill Walter, Jason Richards, and myself.

Looking forward to everyone's great maps next year! --Brent

National Speleological Society

This is to certify that

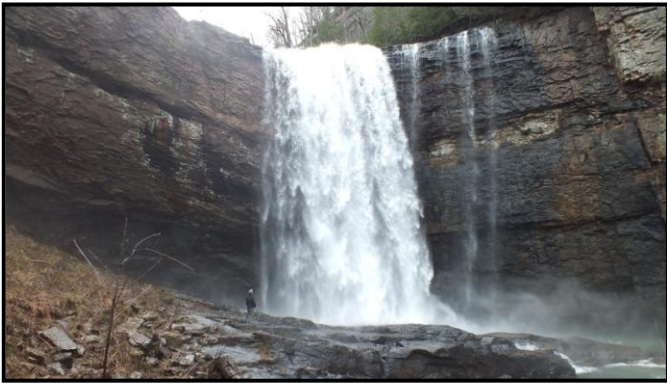
Sewanee Mountain Grotto

Has donated block #1 on 02/08/12 of the



NSS Headquarters & Conference Center

Wm Shrewsbury
Wm Shrewsbury, President



Noteworthy Waterfall Hike in TAG
Activities include: Hiking, Bicycling,
Photography
Rating: Easy to Moderate

Located only 20 minutes from Chattanooga and approximately 3 miles south of Lookout Mountain,

Georgia is a privately owned 4,000 acre preserve known as The Lula Lake Land Trust. The creek that forms both the lake and falls is known as Rock Creek. It flows north from the old Durham coal mining community and spills into Lula Lake and then over the nearly 90 foot high waterfall known as Lula Falls. The creek then continues down into McCallie Gulch and then to a valley down below Flintstone, Georgia.

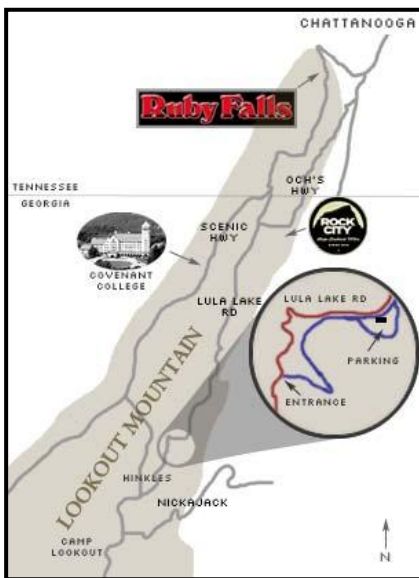
Lula Lake & Falls were one of the many natural attractions that Civil War soldiers discovered while they were on Lookout Mountain. Because most of the men were from flat areas they were constantly amazed at the views and the natural beauty of Lookout Mountain. Soldiers from both armies found time the time to explore this wonderful landscape and during the war soldiers used the site to relax. It became one of their favorite recreational spots for swimming. Lieutenant Chesley A. Mosman, a member of Company D of the 59th Illinois Infantry Regiment wrote the following in his journal:

"I went swimming with Lieutenant Van Osdel and we couldn't find bottom anywhere except at the edges. Swam across and got under the waterfall which gave us a pretty heavy shower bath. The bluff of rock was arched and there was a great space in behind the waterfall but it was too dark to see how far it went. Drift wood and pine bark was piled up back of the falls. The sides of the channel canyon it might properly be called continued at about the same height for one half mile below the basin and is filled with rock weighing from five pounds to 50 tons, as black as can be from the action of the water when it is at flood tide. About one quarter of mile below the water all disappears under the rocks but reappears lower down, coming out from under a rock 20 feet square."

According to genealogical sites and census records, Noah Fugatt opened the first coal mine in the area in 1858. A few free laborers and 150 state convicts were used to operate the mines, which produced nearly 700 tons of coal per day. Their work was manual, done with picks, shovels and occasionally dynamite. Donkeys pulled carts called dinkies which hauled the coal out of the mines. It was then taken to nearby Rock Creek and loaded into baskets to be washed. By 1891 they had built a 17 mile railroad from Durham to Chickamauga, where they had 100 coke ovens. The ovens were designed to turn coal into coke for use in iron and steel foundries in Chattanooga. By 1910, the Durham community included a barber shop, movie theatre, gambling & pool hall, butcher shop, icehouse, schoolhouse, blacksmith, post office and three boarding houses. It was during the great depression, when the main seam of coal was gone that the company shut down. Several other

companies tried to mine the remaining coal but by 1947 all mining had stopped in Durham and the railroad was abandoned in 1951.

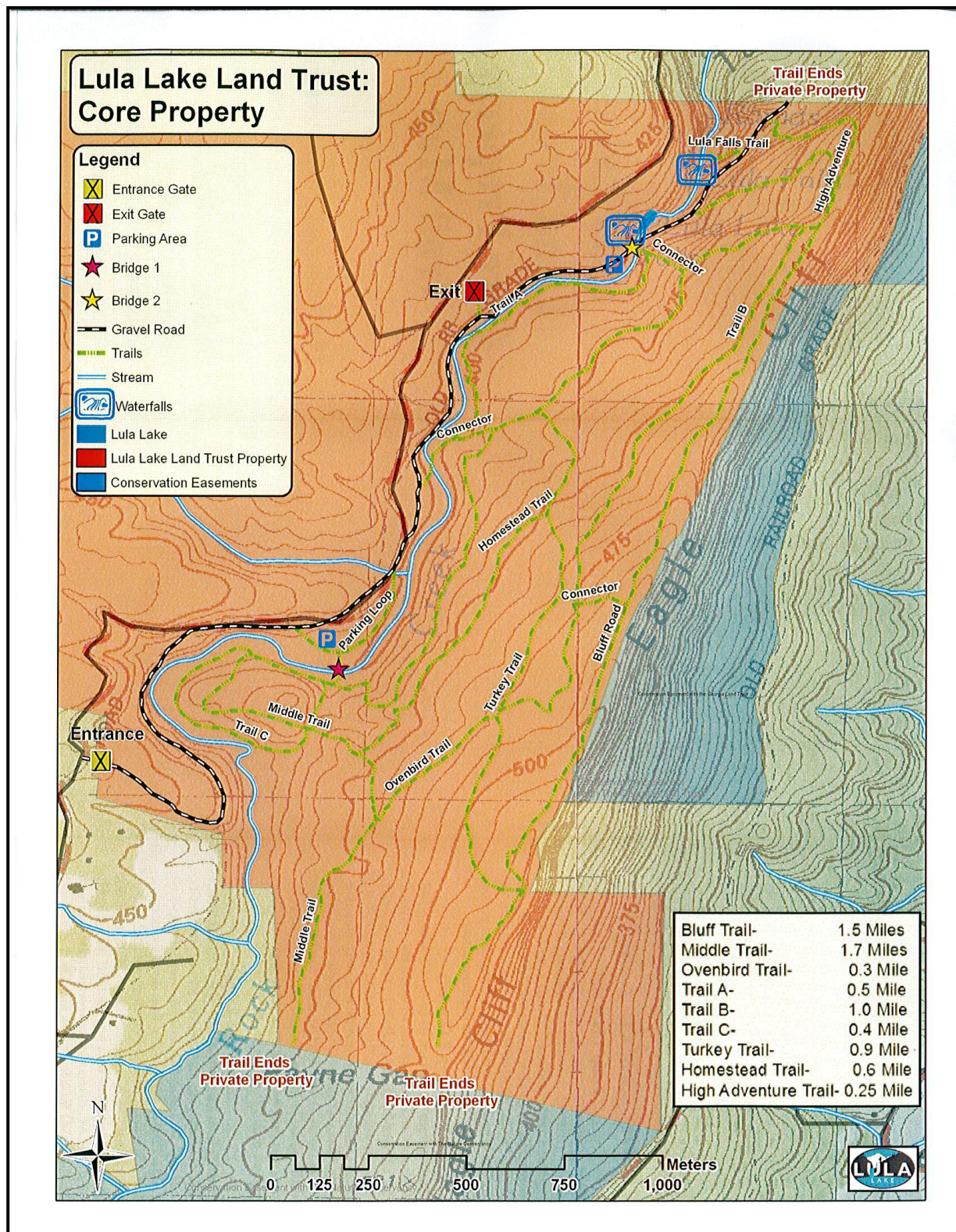
In 1958, Mr. Davenport began acquiring property in the area that would later form the core of the land trust. Included in his original acquisitions were Lula Lake and Lula Falls. The mining from the many previous years and clear cut timber harvests had left the majority of the surrounding area depleted of its natural beauty and value. There was also unrestricted public access which led to a lot of garbage dumping. Because of the state of the land this gave Mr. Davenport the opportunity to quietly acquire several hundred acres throughout the 1960's & 1970's. In the 1980's he began rejuvenating the land by cleaning up the dump sites and replanting timber. By the time of Mr. Davenport's untimely death in 1994 he had acquired over 1,200 acres around Lula Lake & Falls. He had talked to his family about long term goals for the area such as preserving it and conducting biological inventories to identify any rare or unique plants and animals. In January of 1994 the Lula Lake Land Trust was established by his will. It seeks to protect and preserve the natural beauty and abundant resources within the Rock Creek Watershed for the benefit of present and future generations by fostering education, research and conservation stewardship of the land. Already one federally threatened plant, the Virginia Spirea (*Spiraea virginiana*), has been found on the property. It was previously known from only one other location in Georgia. Today the Land Trust has increased protection within the watershed to over 4,000 acres and the current attractive condition of the property is a tribute to Mr. Davenport's hard work.



Currently, the Lake Lula Land Trust is only open to the public the first and last Saturday of each month from 9am-5pm. You will not find a developed parking lot or any fancy buildings on the site for tourists. Nor will you see signs pointing you to the site atop Lookout Mountain. Signs are only put out at the gates on the days they are open for access. **Access from Chattanooga:** Take Ochs Hwy from St. Elmo to the top of Lookout Mountain. Continue on Ochs Hwy and it will turn into Red Riding Hood Trail. Red Riding Hood Trail will dead end onto Lula Lake Road, go Left. Follow Lula Lake Road for about 4 miles until you see the signs at the driveway on the left. You will encounter the exit first followed by the entrance. Drive down the gravel road to the parking area.

Once at the Land Trust you will be greeted by a volunteer. Here you can sign in and also pick up a trail map of the preserve. There are several loop trails ranging from 2 miles (roundtrip) to over 6 miles. The easiest of the trails is a flat one mile walk on the old rail road grade to the lake and falls. There are several other trails that lead you across an old foot bridge, pass Chestnut Tree restoration projects to a beautiful view overlooking Flintstone, Georgia. Mountain Bikers can also enjoy a fast down hill ride by taking the Bluff trail back down to the parking area. Once at the falls there is a steep trail leading down to the base of the falls. Sorry, there is no swimming in Lula Lake but you can get in the water at the falls. Pets are also welcome as long as they are kept on a leash. No rock climbing or

rappelling is allowed. There are also several small sandstone caves that have been found and surveyed on the property by Brent Aulenbach & Alan Cressler. The longest is around 200 feet. If you wish to kayak Rock Creek you will need to do your own research to find out how. Please note the portion of Rock Creek at the land trust is Class V and requires tough mandatory portages that are not for the weak. You also must obtain permission from the Land Trust to use the portion of Rock Creek on their property. Kayaking on Rock Creek through this section is not allowed on open gate days.





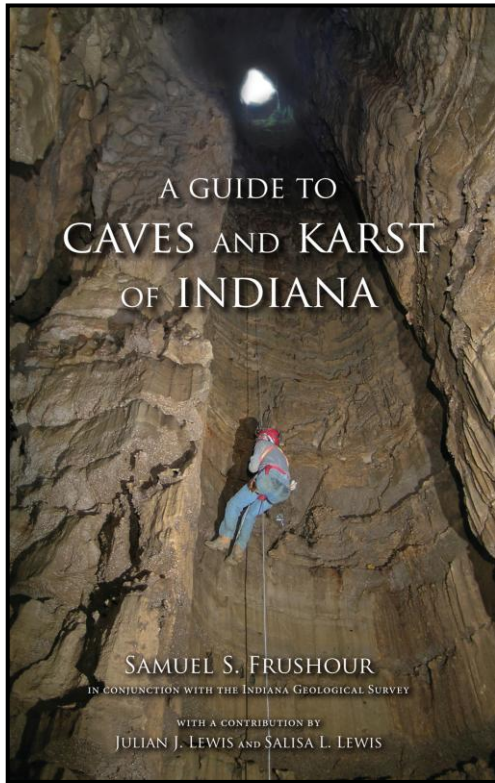
TAG Brewery By Kelly Smallwood

While attending an Executive Committee meeting of the Dogwood City Grotto back in October of 2011, Bill Putnum asked the DCG to host the NSS Board of Governors

Spring meeting. After the meeting I approached Bill and asked him if he would be interested in the TAG Brewery supplying the beer for the party. He agreed so now I just had to convince the guys to each make a 5 gallon brew. I first approached Jason and Jim with the idea during dinner one night at a Taco Mac while we were visiting in Atlanta. They both agreed, although Jason later says he didn't remember! A few weeks later I asked Blaine if he would also be interested and he was. During the November grotto meeting I brought it up to let our fellow grotto members know that our guys were going to be providing the beer for the BOG party! Peter Michaud made a motion that the Sewanee Mountain Grotto provide the backing for the beer, it was seconded and before we knew it the beer was paid for. All the guys had to do now was make it. Jason chose to make MOS Ale, Blaine made Pack Rockin Irish Red and Jim made Carbide Assist IPA. Saturday March 31st, Anne dropped Blaine off at our place and we headed down to Acworth, GA to Jim & Rachel's house. After hanging out for a bit we made our way over to the BOG party at Jeanne Hunter's house. We had 10 grotto members at the party and the BOG members really enjoyed our beer and presence. We later retreated back to Jim & Rachel's house and nearly finished off Jim's Carbide Assist IPA. The next afternoon we headed up to the volleyball court at Maureen's and finished off Blaine & Jason's brew.



IU Press publishes guide to caves and karst in Indiana



BLOOMINGTON, Ind. -- A new field guide from Indiana University Press provides a starting point for anyone planning a visit to one of Indiana's tourist caves, looking to explore some of the state's wild caves or just curious about Indiana geology.

Samuel S. Frushour's compact and comprehensive book, "A Guide to Caves and Karst of Indiana," explains how caves are created, examines the different geological features in them and tells about the types of animals that inhabit them.

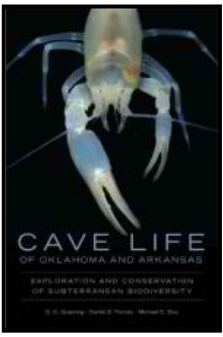
Frushour is retired head of the field services section of the Indiana Geological Survey, a state geological research agency based at Indiana University Bloomington.

The field guide, written in conjunction with the Indiana Geological Survey and scheduled for publication this month, contains practical information on safety and cave etiquette, equipment and caving organizations, as well as descriptions of individual caves and their unique history.

Features of karst topography -- formed by the dissolution over many years of limestone bedrock and characterized by caves, sinkholes, caverns and other formations -- are pictured and described. A section of the book by southern Indiana cave biology experts Julian Lewis and Salisa Lewis provides information about the unusual animals that live in caves.

"A practical guidebook with something to offer both beginning and experienced spelunkers," Library Journal writes. "Readers interested in the geology or topography of the region will also find it worth a look."

The book is especially valuable for its information on obtaining permission to visit Indiana caves. The majority of Indiana caves are on private property or require visitation permission from county, state or federal agencies.



Cave Life of Oklahoma and Arkansas: Exploration and Conservation of Subterranean Biodiversity.

G. O. Graening, Danté B. Fenolio, and Michael E. Slay.

University of Oklahoma Press (Animal Natural History Series), Norman; 2011.

ISBN 978-0-8061-4223-4.

6 by 9 inches, 226 pages, hardbound. \$59.95.

This small but expensive book is sort of a hybrid between an introduction to cave biology and its conservation in the area and a formal contract report for the Subterranean Biodiversity Project. A casual reader can get a pretty good notion about the principles of cave biology from parts of the text and the color photos, but he'll have to put up with an awful lot of pedantry and pseudo-science along the way, because the book is very heavily biased toward the report aspect.

The authors have compiled an extensive record of animals seen in caves in Oklahoma and Arkansas, with 1355 taxa listed, 690 to the species level, in Appendix A. Much of the data resulted from generally brief visits to a large number of caves, where eyeball searches were used. But a considerable amount was obtained from extensive surveys of literature, from scientific papers to caving-club magazines. The authors recognize that this has resulted in a rather unsystematic database of a pretty random collection of observations, but that doesn't discourage them from applying lots of statistics.

The actual scientific value of the book is the list of fauna and the caves in which they were observed, which in principle makes it possible to at least create distribution maps. However, that won't be easy in practice, because they've elected to put the distribution data in Appendix B, which is the list of caves and the serial numbers of the taxa in Appendix A that were seen in each of them. That means that to find out where a given species has been found one must search for its number throughout that fifteen-page Appendix B. It would have been a whole lot better to number the caves, not the taxa, and list the cave numbers for each taxon in Appendix A, with just the names (or, often, just cave-survey numbers) of the caves in numerical order in Appendix B.

The authors seem to think they were being paid by the number of literature citations they could cram into the text, and so the innocent reader is subjected, for example, to numerous citations for things that are common knowledge about biospeleology and can be found in any introduction to the subject. It's a rare paragraph that doesn't have several intrusive citations. Some pedantry, such as a half-page list of the collecting permits the project had, is easy to skip over, but then there are things like the information that they used "Access 2007 (Microsoft Corp., Redmond, Washington)." Who cares what database they used? Who else makes Access? How many Microsofts are there?

The pseudo-science comes in when the authors apply statistical techniques to their data, despite its acknowledged limitations and biases. For example, for each site they recorded qualitative data such as how extensively it is visited, lightly, moderately, or heavily. Then they applied a statistical test to see whether this "affects" species richness. In this case, they find that the most heavily visited caves have the greatest biological diversity, to their surprise, but this is just because cavers prefer to visit longer caves. Correlation is not causation.

They fit curves to scatter plots of things like species richness versus site length, even though there is no theoretical reason to expect the data to fit that particular form of equation. In one case, they fit both linear and exponential functions to the same data, displaying the best-fit coefficients to four allegedly significant digits with no confidence intervals. Both fits give $p < .0001$. What p is that? I doubt the authors know; it just fell out of the software. The mathematical qualifications of the authors may be judged by their statement that the number of taxa found at a site tends to increase exponentially with the number of specimens collected.

Caving in Thailand by Angela Morgan



Chiang Mai Rock Climbing Adventures (CMRCA) is a guide service in Chiang Mai whose primary focus is rock climbing, but they also offer Introduction to Caving and Introduction to Vertical Caving courses. It's a great organization with highly qualified guides having various medical, rock guiding, and rescue training and certifications.

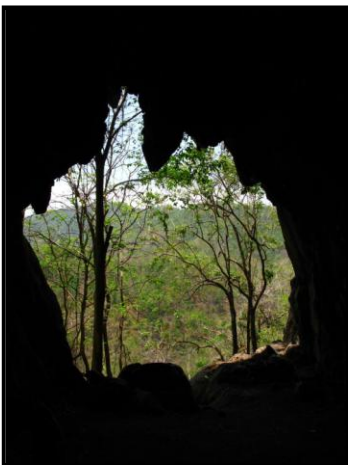
Prior to coming to Thailand I had been "email introduced" to the CMRCA owner Josh, by Martin, a British caver living in Thailand and with whom I had been corresponding for almost a year. Josh and his crew are relatively new to caving, have been exploring some new caves in northern Thailand, and need some instruction in cave surveying. That's where I come in! I am always happy to teach anyone about cave surveying.

I went by their shop to meet Josh in person, also meeting several of his instructors and other team and family members. It so happened that they were doing the Intro to Vertical Caving the next day, and Josh invited me to tag along and observe, and provide any feedback about how the course was being taught.

The next morning there was a crowd at CMRCA, mostly rock climbers (some guided, some "independent climbers" just taking transport with CMRCA). I learned that there was one paying client for the vertical caving course, Emily, and two instructors, P'Taw and Brian. After a while all the gear and people were loaded up into two of CMRCA's song tao taxis. We were headed for Crazy Horse Buttress, a popular rock climbing area which also has a few caves.

It was about a 40-minute drive to Crazy Horse Buttress, near Mae On. When we reached Mae On we stopped off at a house / store / restaurant, which provides to-go lunches for CMRCA outings. Besides the lunches we picked up some rescue gear that CMRCA stores there.

Once at Crazy Horse we geared up and Brian did some vertical training with Emily on a short cliff drop, while P'Taw went into the cave to rig. Emily practiced ascending and descending a couple of times (picking it up very quickly), then we headed to the middle entrance of the cave (it has three entrances).



Along the way we passed the lower entrance that was partly obscured by fallen-down wall of bamboo. Apparently some locals like to party at cave entrances, catch bats, cook them up on the fire and.....well, you get the picture. They build a bamboo wall across the entrance, leaving a small hole so the exiting bats are easier to catch.

It makes me shudder just thinking about it!

The cave we entered is named Anxiety State Crisis Cave. The middle entrance is horizontal, and we sat inside and ate our lunch (yummy Thai stir-fry), then did a

short up-climb to a large skylight room (the skylight being the third, upper entrance).

Crossing the skylight room, we traversed around the edge of a pit to a rebelay for the 40m drop into the main part of the cave.

The cave is not extensive, but is very well decorated and the passage dimensions are quite large. There are also a lot of bats in the cave (I don't know what species).

In one area there was a lot of fluffy yellow stuff on top of bat guano. It sure looks like sulfur but it isn't. Anybody know what it is? A fungus, perhaps?

Too soon it was time to go. A really nice cave, and a fun day.



Gypsum Crust over Flowstone



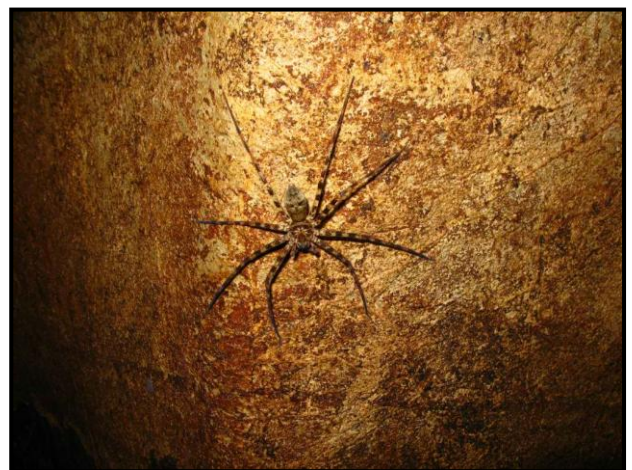
Noodle Millipedes



P'Taw with Flowstone



Huntsman Spider (Heteropoda)



JANSEN CAVE, TENNESSEE

Marion O. Smith



On several pages of John L. Smyre and Ronald L. Zawislak's 2007 report, "Big Bone and the Caves of Bone Cave Mountain", are references to Jansen Cave, a stream conduit draining into Rocky River from the Van Buren county side. The authors were told about the cave but they never found time to visit it. They assumed it drained the large topo-shown sink marked "cave" on the Doyle topographic map at approximately 35° 46'19" 85° 35'56". This was on the Hitchcock farm, and the sink according to the residents had been during former times clogged so as to form a pond. Supposedly one night people "were awakened...by a loud roar when the swallet unplugged and water exited through the reopening swallet." Smyre and Zawislak were told that Jansen Cave (a name they invented) was "quite muddy" and that it had only "been explored for about 30 meters."

Consequently, on September 30, 2007, after the "Bone Cave Mountain" book was published, I did a solo kayak trip to the bend where Jansen Cave was supposed to be. I expected telltail signs of a resurgence by Rocky River while it was at low pool. But I entirely missed the entrance by being too lazy to get out of my kayak. For much of the last ninety years the cave has been flooded by the Great Falls Dam which controls the water level on Caney Fork, Collins, and Rocky River.

Years later, on October 25, 2011, I did another solo kayak excursion looking for Jansen Cave, and this time I got out of my craft and found it, just where it was supposed to be. The pool level that day was 788 feet and the unobvious opening was perhaps thirty-two feet higher. The entrance is always dry, ten feet wide and up to a foot and half high. The passage immediately slopes to spacious 25' by 25' dimensions. However, 50 to 60 feet inside, there were steep sided mud banks with the floor channel containing water of undetermined depth. I could see 50' ahead with the same large parameter continuing. I left.

That night I called Smyre to tell him I had located Jansen Cave and asked him if he would like to see it. He said yes. Therefore, the following November 2, he, Anne Elmore, and I did a midday kayak excursion to the cave to examine the contents. It was not John's intent to do any mapping, but we had all the necessary survey gear with us and Anne "pushed" for us to map as we toured/explored the cave. So, that is what happened.



Jansen Cave, predominantly flooded for generations, was definitely a muddy place, but for 500 feet or more the main route remained large. Then the dimensions got smaller and the floor more yucky, with lots of muddy trash in the floor, apparently coming through breakdown from a sinkhole, presumably the large one on the Hitchcock property. Perhaps a hundred feet before the end of the main stream passage, which trended northeast toward the sink, was a trash-free passage headed north-northwest for a few hundred feet, with a few small formations. Our survey terminated when pencil lead gave out, even though the true end was a hundred feet beyond. Thus we left after 6:34 hours, having mapped 409 meters (1,337 feet), and paddled back upriver in the dark.

The Great Falls Dam pool level remained low, and on November 8 John, Anne, and I returned to the cave with Bill Walter as our new instrument man. This time we walked some 800' to the entrance from the residence of a bike riding friend of Sharon K. Jones (NSS 42689). During this second surveying foray we pretty much finished the cave, including the short but sometimes small and unappealing side passages and upper level apartments. At the end of the north-northwest passage we were almost directly underneath one of the two houses on the Hitchcock property. We exited after 6:04 hours with the countable total survey of Jansen Cave standing at 535.1 meters or about 1,750 feet. Not bad for a cave new to the Tennessee Cave Survey.

Jansen Cave

Van Buren Co., Tenn.

VB 819

C.R.G. Grade 5 Survey

Nov. 2, 2011

Nov. 8, 2011





Marion O. Smith

Anne Elmore

John Smyre

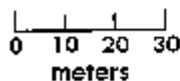
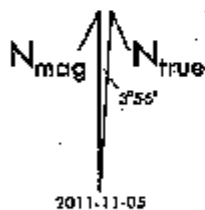
Bill Walter

Floor Elevation Depth Legend (m)

	Level 1: 0.00 to -2.99
	Level 2: -3.00 to -5.99
	Level 3: -6.00 to -8.99
	Level 4: -9.00 and below

Survey Length: 542.2m
(Horiz: 535.1m)

Vertical Extent: 10.9m



Topographic Overlay



Entrance

Note: Cave survey was conducted near seasonal low of Great Falls Lake, about 768 feet elevation. At maximum lake level, 805 feet, the lower 4 to 5 meters of Jansen Cave is back-flooded, and silt is deposited. Entrance elevation is approximately 820 feet.

Inkscape Layered Vector
Cartography -- JIS



JANSEN CAVE, TENNESSEE

The real survey report

Anne Elmore

Any time Marion tells me "I have this cave that you're going to love" I always cringe. It's the smirk on his face and the tone of his voice that tell my inner brain NO NO NO. When he mentioned the cave being on the river, I was excited. It's another excuse to get the cooler out, load up the kayaks, and paddle down the beautiful Rocky River and I'm all for it. He

told me a little history of this alleged cave that John Smyre and Ronald L. Zawislak mentioned in their Big Bone Cave book in 2007 and the fact they had never visited it, only heard tales of its magical force of opening up a massive swallet. Part of me thought Marion wanted to explore it, but another part of me wanted to see if it really did exist. That got my attention right there.

Back to the "cave you're going to love" statement that he repeated several times within a week, I agreed to join him; only then did he mention a wet suit since his entrance check the week before suggested a possible swim at the beginning. Ughh. Hearing his description of a cave that's normally under water year round, I had visions of mud mixed with a little mud, all set in a cave of mud. Being one of the "usual suspects" our group rounds up, I agreed to support Marion. He's always looking for suckers who will follow him. And the mention that John Smyre has agreed to go, that sounded like a challenge.

We met on November 2 and introduced John to kayaking. We made sure he was secure and settled in one of my boats, and sent him down the river while we joined him. Marion and I have kayaked for years and always enjoy seeing a newby navigate his way with the balance, cramped legs, off set paddle, tight life jacket, and fear of flipping. That's a sport in itself watching new paddlers.

Without much effort at all, we found our spot to dock the boats and climbed the bluff to the cave opening. After getting to the entrance and gathering our equipment and survey supplies, John discovered his carbide light was missing. Knowing he had it in the boat, we figured it to be in the leaves somewhere, Marion luckily found it and we headed into the cave. The first little bit was nice and dry slopping bank, then there it was!!! Water and mud as far as I could see. Luckily Marion was thrilled to announce the water had gone way down, but then the mud was there waiting for us. We're not talking bottom of the boot mud, we're talking hold your breath and get ready for the mud ride down. Once you stand and attempt that first step, the cave wants to steal your boots, one at a time. The 3 of us slopped down the passage setting survey stations along the way. I guess I was the only vocal one while trying to hang onto my high top boots. Within a short time, we slowly encountered trash, lots of trash, interesting trash, broken stroller and toys trash, ceiling fan trash, footwear trash, mini blind trash, tire trash; you get the idea. With no way to mark the survey stations, not that we needed to keep them, I begin gathering toys for markers. Making references to the stations was a little easier than numbers. Since I was "point" (and I hate that job), I was determined I wasn't going to stop slopping until I found dry passage and I did. By the time we got to the end of the main passage, someone's (??) pencil lead decided to run out, and we wrapped up a little over 1300'. Not bad for an underwater cave. I was glad we decided to run the survey since we are probably the only ones to ever visit it.



We left the cave after dark, satisfied at our accomplishments and commitment to return next year when the water levels were right. Paddling by moonlight down the river was a good way to end the day.

Four days later, out of nowhere, I got the MOS call that we need to get back in and finish the cave rather than wait a year. Hit it while we can and was I interested in returning with he and John??? I had barely gotten the mud off my gear, but I could see another challenge. Gather another usual suspect, Bill Walter. BW had declined to go the first time because his "bread bag" boot covers wouldn't protect him from the water and mud and he was glad he didn't go. Well, if I'm going, so is he. I talked to him and told him about what a great cave it was, all the cool things to look at, and the few leads we left and the beautiful view from the entrance overlooking the gently moving Rocky River. And the water receded and it wasn't bad at all, that did it. He was suckered in.

For our 2nd trip, Marion had arranged for us to walk to the entrance from an adjoining landowner. Once inside we noticed the water had receded a little more, making even more mud. We immediately got to our last survey station, finished up and headed to the one lead we had. Thinking we'd have a few shots to wrap up the survey, we were surprised the cave kept going and going, never ending. Around every corner was more passage. There was constant grumbling about having more cave. Virgin passages? Probably, but we still wanted out. In the end, it was a fun cave with good friends and new numbers for the Tennessee Cave Survey. My favorite thing of the day was when we returned to our trucks parked in a neighbor's driveway, and the owner looked at Marion covered in mud, and offered him a piece of cardboard to sit on in Old Blue so he wouldn't get her dirty. We know the odds of being able to return are slim, but that's a good thing.





As the Grotto Turns
(Trip Reports & other Buffonery)



Easter Weekend 2012

For the first time in 13 years I actually had the pleasure of having Good Friday off with pay. My previous employer in Georgia never gave me this holiday so I was very happy that my new employer here in Tennessee does. Dakota was also out of school so I knew I had to take advantage of a long weekend. However, it was also Dakota's weekend to visit her Dad so she was only going to be able to join us on Friday for the cave trip. A few weeks prior Leslie Lytle had contacted me about arranging a kid friendly trip so I knew this would be a perfect day. She wanted to take her grandson's caving for their second time while they still had excitement from their first trip. So after tossing around a few ideas and then discussing it with Anne Grindle we decided upon Hermit Cave on Charlie Smith's property near Kimball, TN. Now that we had a caving plan we decided to extend the invitation to a few other cavers who also had kiddos. We also went a step further and decided to plan the rest of the long weekend with a canoe trip down the Elk River.

Friday morning I kept hitting the snooze button on my alarm clock. I kept telling myself, just 10 more minutes. Within a few minutes of finally deciding to get up and get motivated the Campbell's (Jim, Rachel, Kaya & Tao) showed up at the house ready for the weekend. I opened the door and greeted them with, "You're early". They were prompt to reply that I had instructed them to be there by 9am central so they weren't really early, I just slept later than I should have. Since Jason had to work he was not able to join us for our trip so I helped him load our canoe for the next day. We got all our caving gear together and then myself, Dakota & the Campbell's headed over to Charlie's property to meet Leslie, her two grandson's Nick & Nathan and Anne Grindle. Woody was also supposed to show up but decided he would work instead. Jim also wasn't going to join us in cave since he had injured his back just a few days prior and knew he would need to save his strength for the canoe trip the next day. He decided he would ridge walk and check out some of the entrances to other caves on Charlie's property. We all geared up and started our short walk up to Hermit. Just before we went in Jim snapped a picture of us with Leslie's camera. Unfortunately, for the second time EVER I had forgotten my camera at home so was unable to take any photos. One by one we all made our way down into the entrance. For all of us except Leslie & Anne this was our first time into the cave. Since there were 5 kids and 4 adults we decided it would be best to let Anne lead us with two kids following her then one adult, two kids, an adult, the last kid and lastly the last adult. This would leave all the kids close enough to at least one adult to help them if needed. Tao who was our youngest on the trip at age 7 immediately jumped at the opportunity to follow Anne. He teamed up with Leslie's grandson Nathan who is 12. Dakota and Kaya teamed up who are both 10 and then Leslie's older grandson Nate who is 16. Thankfully Nate is tall and as it turns out he was able to assist most of us at one point or another through the cave. We all wiggled through the first crawl and shortly came to our first challenge. A big step around a big piece of flowstone. If you missed your step you could easily fall 10 feet or so to the floor below. Anne went first and I stood near the edge to assist all the kids around to Anne. Using the hand line everyone made it safe. We then trekked further to our second challenge, a climb up to a shelf with no foot holes. This is where Nathan was able to assist the majority of us in giving us a boost up. We then all went thru the waist deep water and as Tao, the youngest and shortest went into the water he

quickly realized it was going to be about chest deep on him. After making some noises and calling for his Mom, Rachel scooped him up and carried him through. This brought us to our next challenge. A short climb up using two ropes with knots. One by one all the kiddos made their way up making sure to say "off rope" when they were at the top! Our next challenge was some chimneying that sure would have scared me if I was as small as some of our kiddos. They all did exceptionally well and we finally made our way to the big room in the back. Anne told us how she was so worried the night before that we were not going to be able to make it that far with the kids and how she was pleasantly surprised that they did so well. While Anne, Leslie & Nathan spent a few minutes trying to get up the rope in the back the rest of the kiddos played around in the mud. Anne & Nathan were successful but Leslie was unable to make it. Once Anne & Nathan returned they climbed back down and we all started our journey back out of the cave facing each of the challenges again. I can't express how proud I am of the kiddos on our trip and everything they did. They impressed us all! We made it back out to find Jim asleep in his truck.

After the trip, Dakota, Myself & the Campbell's went over to Jasper to enjoy some Mexican food for dinner. We then went back to the house and cleaned up our gear. By this time I had to drive over to Chattanooga to drop off Dakota with her Dad for the weekend. On the way back I met up with Shari Lydy in Lookout Valley and she followed me back to the house. We hung out with Jim & Rachel, drank a few beers and then headed for bed around midnight. Jason arrived home around 1am after we were all asleep.

Saturday morning came early. Our plan was to meet Maureen, Steve, Bonnie and one of Maureen's workers at the Tim's Ford Dam put in at 9am. Anne, Blaine, Leslie & Bambi were going to put in a few hours later at the Ferris Bridge and we were all going to rendezvous at the Old Dam Rd takeout for dinner and camping. I was surprised we made it out of the house 15 minutes earlier than planned. We headed up the mountain towards Monteagle, stopped for breakfast, ice and picked up some subways for lunch and then finally arrived 15 minutes late at the put in. Turns out Maureen was running about 15 minutes late too so it all worked out well. Maureen decided to leave a vehicle at the Ferris Bridge take out in case Steve didn't feel like doing the entire 14 miles while Jason, Shari & Jim shuttled vehicles to the Old Dam Road take out. Finally we were on the water around 10:30am.

We had a very nice day floating and fishing down the river. Jason was able to catch 5 trout and Jim caught 1. Luckily Steve caught 7. We made it to the take out and all enjoyed a wonderful dinner. It amazes me that no matter how few or many people we have when we do the Elk River that it always provides just enough. The Campbells, Jason & I, Anne & Blaine, Shari and Leslie all camped out. Maureen, Steve & Bonnie headed home for the night.

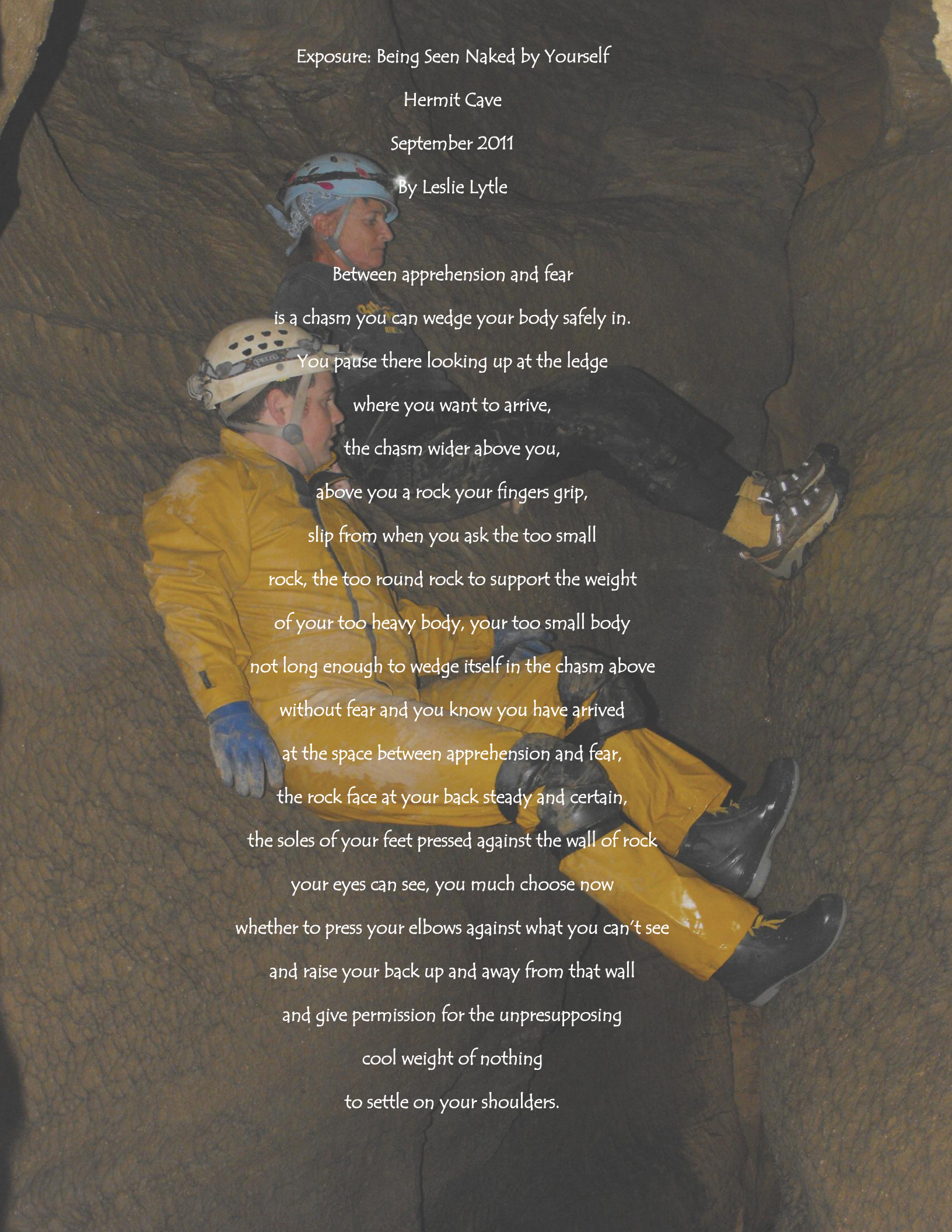


Exposure: Being Seen Naked by Yourself

Hermit Cave

September 2011

By Leslie Lytle

A photograph of two rock climbers in a cave. The climber in the foreground is wearing a yellow jacket, blue gloves, and a white helmet, looking up. The climber in the background is wearing a dark jacket, a blue helmet, and is looking down. They are both wedged against the rock face.

Between apprehension and fear
is a chasm you can wedge your body safely in.
You pause there looking up at the ledge
where you want to arrive,
the chasm wider above you,
above you a rock your fingers grip,
slip from when you ask the too small
rock, the too round rock to support the weight
of your too heavy body, your too small body
not long enough to wedge itself in the chasm above
without fear and you know you have arrived
at the space between apprehension and fear,
the rock face at your back steady and certain,
the soles of your feet pressed against the wall of rock
your eyes can see, you much choose now
whether to press your elbows against what you can't see
and raise your back up and away from that wall
and give permission for the unpresupposing
cool weight of nothing
to settle on your shoulders.

Caving with Marion

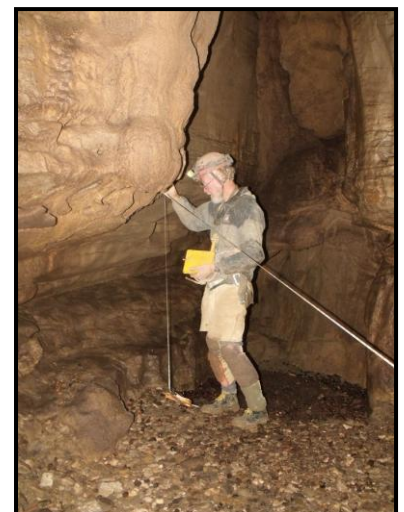
By Kelly Smallwood

At the SERA Winter Business Meeting this year Marion O. Smith asked Jason and I if we would be interested in helping him survey an area in Blue Spring Cave called Preacher Dome. After getting a few laughs from Clinton, Emily & Anne Elmore we said we would be interested in helping Marion. Jason was on vacation the last week in March so we knew this would be a good time for the trip. I took 2 days off work and told Jason to plan everything. Saturday March 24th we drove up to Lost Creek Cave and met up with Anne Elmore, Bill Walter and 2 others. We did the Ben White thru trip and whew it was tight. I had always heard how tight it was but it was interesting to finally experience it for myself. After hanging out for a while at Lost Creek and checking out the waterfall we all went up to Sparta to eat at a local Mexican Restaurant. Anne chose this place because they had CalfKiller Brew on tap. Unfortunately it wasn't the one she expected but Jason and I still enjoyed the brew. We then all headed over to Marion's house where Jason and I were to spend the next 3 days.



7:30am Sunday morning Marion was heading out for breakfast just as we were waking up. We got dressed and met him at the convenience store diner just a few miles from his house. After breakfast we went back to his place and got all of our caving gear together and put it in Marion's truck. As we started down the road Jason noticed a small hornet's nest in the front passenger window. When we stopped at Hardee's in Sparta for Marion to get his caving biscuits Jason carefully removed it from the truck. When we arrived at Blue Spring we were the only ones there, most likely because it was a Sunday. We entered Blue Spring Cave at approx. 10:30am and made our way back to thru the BO Crawl. I am not familiar

with Blue Spring but had always heard about the jaguar tracks so was very excited when we got to see them. We continued on and made our past the 1st River Crossing and down the NA Survey, which was very pretty. From there we went down the NC Survey thru Lonnie's Lane. Finally we made it to the first climb up to the dome area leading to Preacher Dome. Marion had left this area rigged so it was an easy short climb up. After that was the Preacher Dome. We all climbed up the rope that Marion had also left rigged and once at the top began the survey. Our trip to Preacher Dome yielded 94.721 true horizontal cave passage and a vertical gain of 110.421 from the bottom of the dome to the station in the top. We knew we were close to the surface at the top of the dome because we saw spiders and evidence of critters. After we finished surveying Jason and I descended back down the dome to wait at the bottom for Marion. His plan was to safely remove the ropes

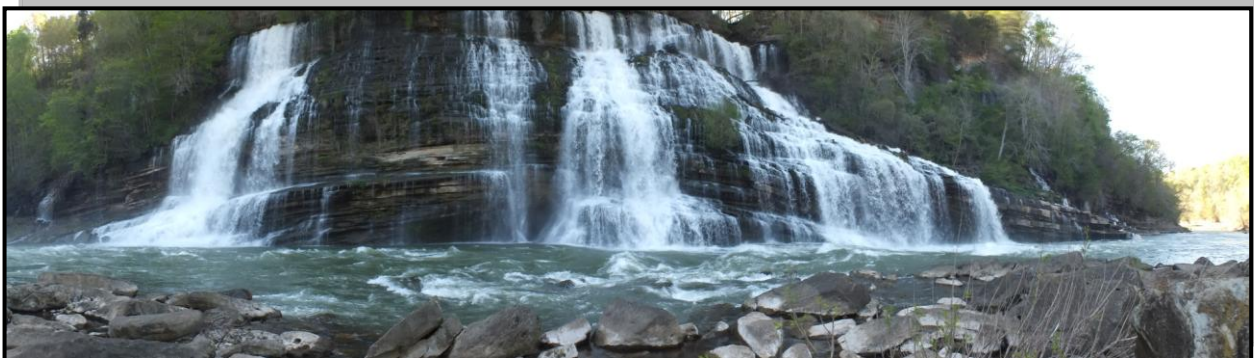


from the dome. He spent a few minutes re rigging and soon he was down and we pulled down the last rope. We made our way back to the other climb down where again we removed the rope on our way out. This left Jason to carry about a 150 foot rope and me a 80 foot rope on the way back out. After what seemed to be an eternity, we finally exited the cave at approx. 4:30am on Monday morning. Whew, we had spent nearly 18 hours in the cave! We got back the truck, put on some clean clothes and headed over to Sparta to eat some breakfast. The Huddle House wasn't open but a small hole in the wall restaurant was. We went in all very exhausted and ate some breakfast. We then headed back to Marion's house for some much needed rest. I think it was about 6:30am when we finally got to bed. I woke up to the sound of dishes in the kitchen and felt like I had slept most of the day away. I woke Jason up and told him we needed to get up so we could at least do something for the day instead of sleep. Sharron heard us and said, "You didn't sleep long." With that Jason looked at me and asked Sharron, "What time is it?" She replied, "9:30am." Oops. Sorry Jason. I don't know how but we still managed to get up after only having 3 hours of sleep. It was a beautiful day outside so we sat on the porch chatting with Sharron. Marion must have heard us because he soon joined us. After some relaxing on the porch Sharron and Jason went in search of Morel mushrooms. With no luck they returned and Jason and I decided to head over to Rock Island to see the waterfalls since I had never been there.



After a few hours at Rock Island we went back to Marion's. We relaxed in the living room and after a while Sharron said she would fire up the hot tub. Jason and I knew this would make our aching muscles feel much better.

The next morning Sharron cooked us whole wheat waffles with strawberries and walnuts. We spent the afternoon nerd holing with Marion and were even able to open up a virgin 96 foot in cave pit. I learned a few important things from our time in middle Tennessee. When Marion puts on 4 pairs of knees pads you should at least wear two and if he says you need elbow pads, well you need elbow pads!



THE HERMIT CAVE TRIP BY TAO CAMPBELL

We went to a cave called Hermit Cave. We parked at the edge of Charlie's property. You hike up a hill, then you go through a path in the grass, to your surprise you will come to a big opening to a rock. Inside the opening you will see an area that looks like a fire pit and next to it there is a space where a bed might be. It is kind of freaky when you here a story about someone living in the cave you are in. You might think someone might jump out of the middle of nowhere and scare you. When you leave the room someone lived in you will see a crack in the back of the room. Then you go through a passage and then you will do a tight belly crawl. Next you go through a little duck passages. There were several climb ups. 1 was when Mrs. Ann climbed up first and Nick gave us foot holds to help us when we climbed up. Another climb up we did Mrs. Ann used webbing to build a ladder. After that there was a pool and the water went up to my chest and I made mommy carry me. On the other side Kaya and Dakota got in a mud fight. There was a passage called the canyon passage where you put your feet on side and shimmy down the whole way. The reason it is called the canyon passage is because there are so many gaps between each one. There were so many bats on the way back to the entrance in the water there was a dead bat floating around. When we were coming out it was much easier. That trip was fun, hard, challenging, and exhausting. When we were all out of the cave we all went out to eat and ate Mexican. ☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺



The Next Day By: Kaya Lilly Campbell

We went on a 14 mile canoe trip on the elk river. After our cars were taken back to our camp site we were ready to go. My brother and I sat in the middle while mommy and daddy steered. We had Kelly, Jason, Jasper (Kelly's dog), Maureen, Steve, Shilo (a dog) and her mommy Shari (the lady who loves ticks☺), Bonnie, and the dude who was riding with her. We were supposed to meet the rest of our party, Bambie, Blaine, Ann, and Lesley, but we were to slow. The river was so low we kept getting stuck and eventually mommy made us flip. Everyone tried to fish except me, but luckily Steve and Jason were there to feed us all. After a really long and wet day the others had a fire and warm clothes waiting. We got to sit next to the fire, dry off, go for a walk with Ann, and watch Jason open birthday presents. We had a giant dinner; salad, corn on the cob, baked potato, sausage, beans, and of course FISH! After dinner we curled up to go to bed. The End

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Telephone 256-852-1300
Fax 256-851-3241

April 30, 2012

Sewanee Mountain Grotto
900 Old Sewanee Rd
Sewanee, TN 37375-6032

Dear Sewanee Mountain Grotto,

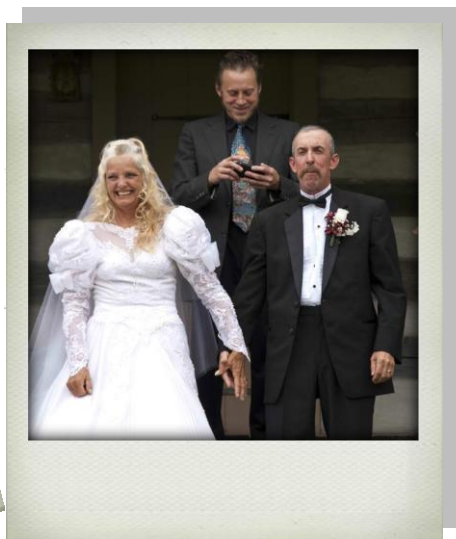
On behalf of the Board of Governors of the National Speleological Society, thank you for your contribution of \$50.00 to the Headquarters Fund of the NSS for the "Buy-A-Block" program, in honor of the wedding of Mudpuppy and Cavewolf. We appreciate your support.

Your "Buy-A-Block" certificate is enclosed. Thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Wm Shrewsbury, President
National Speleological Society, Inc.

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