

eat & sleep
CAVE
repeat

Sewanee Mountain Grotto
Cave Fest 2014

TAG Caver ~ Volume 5 Issue 3

Fall 2014 – Special Cave Fest 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/>

2014 Sewanee Mtn Grotto Officers:

Chairperson: Peter "Mudpuppy" Michaud
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Webmaster: Tina O'Hailey

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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.



Calendar of
Events (2)
TAG Scoop (3)
Caving A-Z in
Marion County,
Tennessee (4)

Thank you to all the
volunteers who
helped with this
years Cave Fest &
to Peter "Mudpuppy"
Michaud for being
the chair this year!

Front & Back Covers:

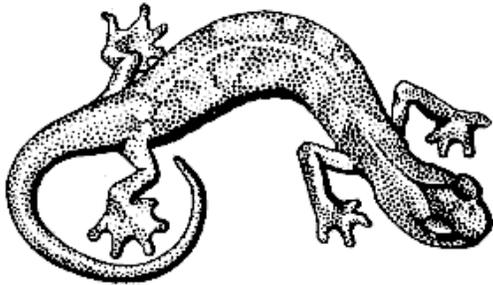
Front Cover: Eat, Sleep, Cave, Repeat
design by Tina O'Hailey

Back Cover: Thank you to all of the
vendors who supported our event this year!

Calendar of Upcoming Events

September 13,, 2014 – **Sewanee Mountain Grotto Meeting**. Meeting starts at 6pm central with potluck dinner, followed by business at 7pm. The meeting will be at the home of Kristine Medlen.

September 27, 2014 – **Tennessee Cave Survey, Fall Business Meeting**. Meeting will be held on the first floor of Johnson Hall, Tennessee Tech University. Meeting starts at 9am central.



October 9-12, 2014 – **TAG Fall Cave In**. Hosted by the Dogwood City Grotto atop Lookout Mountain, GA. Pre registration is \$28 and ends September 1st. To register online go to <http://tagfallcavein.org/>.

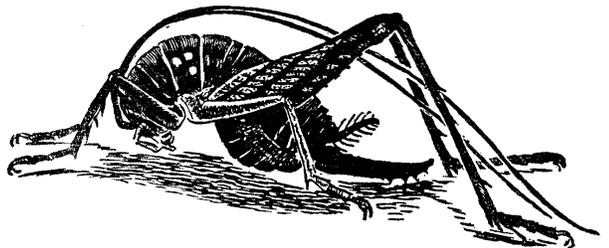
November 8, 2014 – **Sewanee Mountain Grotto Meeting**. Meeting starts at 6pm central with potluck dinner, followed by business at 7pm. The meeting will be at the home of Blaine & Anne Grindle.

December 13, 2014 – **Sewanee Mountain Grotto Meeting**. Meeting starts at 6pm central with potluck dinner, followed by business at 7pm. December is our annual Holiday Party and Gift Exchange. \$10 limit on gifts for Sneaky Santa.

February 21, 2015 – **SERA Winter Business Meeting, Hosted by the Sewanee Mountain Grotto**. More details later. Keep up with the event on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/events/321260808039180/>.

Connect with the Grotto

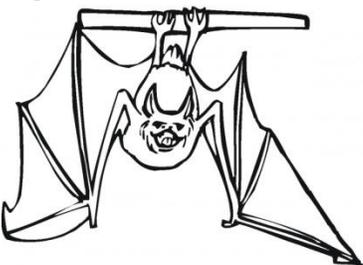
If you're new to the Grotto, here are a few ways you can get to know other members:



 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 & 3" patches for \$5. Both items have our grotto logo on them. Please contact Kelly Smallwood at rowland7840@bellsouth.net to purchase.





THE TAG SCOOP

You can download an updated membership list from the Yahoo group. Membership dues are \$10. You can pay Blaine at a meeting or send them via snail mail. Send check payable to Sewanee Mountain Grotto, 669 Old Sewanee Road, Sewanee, TN 37375. Make sure to include your contact information (name, address, phone #, email address, & NSS #).



CAVE FEST – SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday

All Day – Caving!

Dark 30 – Root Beer & a Movie

“The GOONIES”

Sunday

All Day – Caving!

5:30 – Canoe Trip to Nickajack

Cave Bat Flight

Dark 30 – Band “Albert Ogden”

Saturday

All Day – Caving!

5:00pm – Potluck Dinner

7:00pm – AUCTION!!



IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Do not SPEED. Please be mindful when you are driving around the campground as there are kids and dogs at play.
- Keep your campsite free of trash and make sure all food is secure from animals.
- Recycle all glass, plastic (no caps), and aluminum in the bins provided.
- Watch for snakes and spiders around wood piles.

Caving A-Z in Marion County, Tennessee

It is important to note that not every one of the caves listed below are open and accessible. There are over 650 caves in Marion County alone and over 10,000 in the State of Tennessee. This list is for a reference only of some of the caves we have in Marion County. Please remember that when you visit any TAG cave that most of them are privately owned. We are fortunate to have some of the best landowners around so please be respectful of their rights as a land/cave owner. Please make every effort to stop by and let a landowner and obtain permission before entering their cave. If you arrive at a cave and there is already a large group present, consider visiting another one. (Alphabet letters designed by Tina O'Hailey)



ANIMAL FARM CAVE MN130

Monteagle Limestone - 1207 feet long

This cave was dug open by Rick Buice and Mark Wolinsky. The entrance is a 4- by 4-foot climbdown through breakdown for 8 feet to a short tight spot which leads into a large room. Continue climbing down to a crawl on the left which leads into the remainder of the cave. The cave is quite large and very well decorated. Flowstone mounds, soda straws and totem poles are everywhere. This is a very nice cave! (Rick Buice, 1976; Gerald Moni, 2010)



Left: Girls trip to Animal Farm Cave.

Right: Angela Morgan at the entrance to Bible Springs Cave.

Photos by: Kelly Smallwood



BIBLE SPRINGS CAVE MN91

Monteagle Limestone - 4000 feet long

A short climbdown leads to a pool 10 feet long and 3 feet deep. The first 500 feet of the cave is a joint-controlled stream passage, 3 to 4 feet wide and 6 to 10 feet high, with the water varying from 3 inches to 3 feet deep. Then the cave leaves the joint-controlled trend and opens to a large walking passage 10 to 20 feet wide and 10 to 20 feet high. After 300 feet a low belly crawl through the stream is reached. Several rooms are developed in an upper level here. Continuing upstream the ceiling again rises after 100 feet and continues as walking passage for a short distance to another stream crawl. After the second crawlway the

passage continues for another 200 feet as a stoopway and then opens out to a large room 50 feet wide and 200 feet long. There are only short passages leading out from this room. Stygobitic blind crayfish (*Cambarus hamulatus*) inhabit the cave stream and Pickerel frogs (*Rana palustris*) were also observed in the cave. (Rick Moses, 1972)



CAGLE CHASM MN5

Bangor Limestone 1342 feet long – Multiple Pits can be rigged (184', 110').

Please note, The people across the street do not own the cave, but they request that covers be gone before dark. The big open-air shaft you walk up to is the main 184-foot pit. From the main entrance (E1) contour around the mountain to the right for 200 feet to the smaller entrance of Jeepside Pit (E3). To find Shallow Pit (E2), start at the main entrance (E1), and go 150 feet straight uphill.

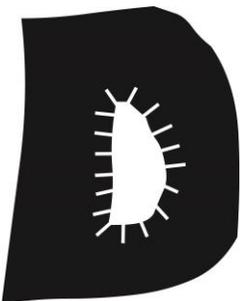
The entrance to Cagle Chasm is 15 feet wide and 20 feet long. The shortest pit which can be rigged is 184 feet. The pit is 50 feet in diameter at the bottom. A talus slope leads into a large room from which a 20-foot pit into a passage leads for 50 feet into a second large chamber. It is also possible to climb along a ledge at the bottom of the entrance shaft and come out near the top of this second large chamber. A crawl to the west at the base of the entrance shaft leads into a huge chamber 100 feet in diameter and 150 feet high. A waterfall in the center of the room falls into calcite pools. The chamber can also be entered by a window 60 feet above the floor which connects to the entrance crawl. Two pits near the main shaft also connect to this complex. One, (Jeepside Pit) 200 feet northeast of the main shaft, consists of a 15-foot pit followed by a 95-foot pit through a 40-foot-wide shaft. The total pit depth is 110 feet. A passage leads several hundred feet to a 30-foot climb to a short passage which ends at the bottom of an 80-foot shaft opening to the surface (Shallow Pit). A crawl from the passages connecting the two shorter pits opens into the side of the main pit approximately 100 feet above the floor. (Ron Zawislak in Matthews, 1971)



Left: Jason Hardy climbing out of Cagle Chasm.

Right: Kristine Medlen at the entrance to Devils Den.

Photos by: Kelly Smallwood



DEVILS DEN MNII

Bangor Limestone – 515 feet long – 75 foot pit entrance pit.

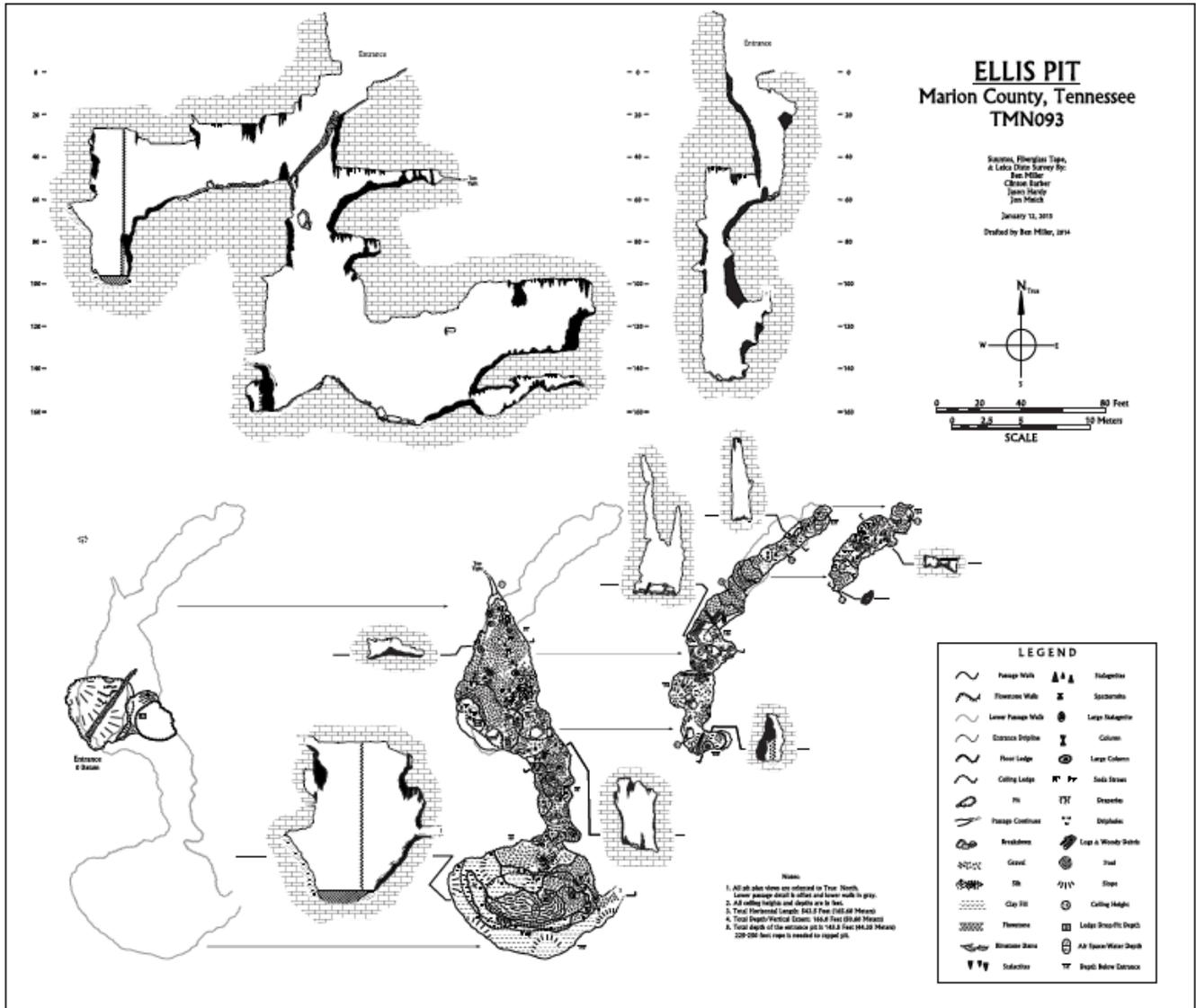
Devils Den is directly above Richard City quarry, 1.7 miles west of the Tennessee River in a 100-foot diameter sink. The entrance is 30 feet in diameter, and the drop from the north side is 75 feet. At the bottom the shaft elongates to 80 feet wide to the north, and the breakdown slopes steeply downward in that direction. Water enters the mouth of the pit and this may be followed on the bottom by climbing down several short drops into a flat-floored stream passage where the stream abruptly flows under a low ledge. This point is 120 feet below the entrance. (Ron Zawislak in Matthews, 1971)



ELLIS PIT MN93

Bangor Limestone – 543 feet long – 145 foot entrance pit.

Ellis Pit is on the west side of Battle Creek, below and east of Fishtrap Point and is near the top of a steep bluff. The entrance to Ellis Pit is an opening 5.5 meters by 4.5 meters. Above the uphill side of the entrance is a short bluff 7 meters high. Rigged on the lower, downhill side the pit provides a total drop of 46 meters, composed of alternate steep slope, nearly vertical, vertical and freefall sections. The pit is well decorated by flowstone formations, and 12 meters below the entrance from a sloping ledge in an apparently large walking passage (not checked) can be seen gray flowstone and stalagmites, rather attractive. Vertical, sloping, and again vertical portions of the pitch drop from the entrance to the bottom of this sloping ledge. A second short slope puts one near the top of a domepit canyon 25 meters high, 3.5 to 4.5 meters wide, and 9 meters long. A nearly vertical section is followed by a final freefall of 15 meters to the floor. Six meters to the south down a slope from the landing is the base of a waterfall and pool. Four meters to the north is a smaller domepit canyon continuation 2 to 5 meters wide and 9 to 15 meters high, explored for 20 meters. Down a rock talus slope a flowstone slope leads up to a 3-meter climb. Eight meters beyond this climb, a narrow fissure can be seen at the top of a difficult 4-meter climb. (John Smyre, 1974)





FIERY TOP DROP MN274

Bangor Limestone – 34 feet long – 166 foot entrance pit.

Fiery Top Drop is on the south side of Fiery Gizzard Cove, 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)



GOURDNECK CAVE MNI4

Bangor-Monteagle Limestone – 8000 feet long. 35 foot entrance pit. Gourneck Cave is currently leased by the Southeastern Cave Conservancy. It was artificially opened, and water is piped from the cave for a private supply. The small mouth, 3 feet wide by 5 feet long, opens into a 35-foot vertical fissure. As of 2006 the entrance ladder has been removed and rope is needed to do this pit. A powerful blast of air sweeps out of this hole in the summer. At the bottom of the entrance, a passage 6 feet high and 2 feet wide twists and turns for 230 feet, then intersects a stream passage. Downstream the

cave extends S. 40 degrees W. for 525 feet, where the ceiling descends to the water level. Upstream, along the pipeline, the cave is 60 feet high but is everywhere rather narrow. It is very sinuous but trends generally S. 30 degrees E. Many small waterfalls with some deep pools below them were observed, and the cave was explored for 2500 feet to Hans Falls (28 feet high). Hans Falls was climbed and 2000+ feet of large walking canyon passage was found. Above Hans Falls is a 20-foot long, low stream crawl that normally requires a wetsuit. This passage, which blows air, ends in a large "terminal" dome. Across the bottom of the dome was taped at 105 feet. The dome has been climbed and taped at 186 feet, but extends upward about 20 more feet. This last 20 feet was in rotten rock and could not be climbed. A small hole was seen at the top. According to the map and other indications in the cave, the canyon passage passes underneath Honeycutt Pit (MNI7) about 400 feet upstream from Hans Falls where waters from the pit and Honeycutt Cave (MNI6) enter the cave. Past this point (at least 1500 more feet), there is very little water flow. Stygobitic blind crayfish (*Cambarus hamulatus*) were observed in the cave stream. Just upstream from the junction of the entrance passage and the stream passage there are Tennessee cave salamanders (*Gyrinophilus palleucus*) living in the stream. Pickerel frogs (*Rana palustris*) were also observed in the cave. (Barr, 1961; Gerald Moni, 1986)

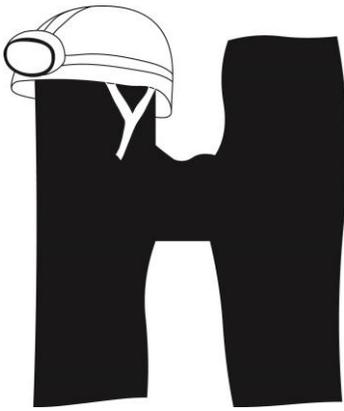


Left: Jason Hardy at the entrance to Gourneck.

Right: Kristine Medlen at one of the formations in Gourneck.

Photos by Kelly Smallwood



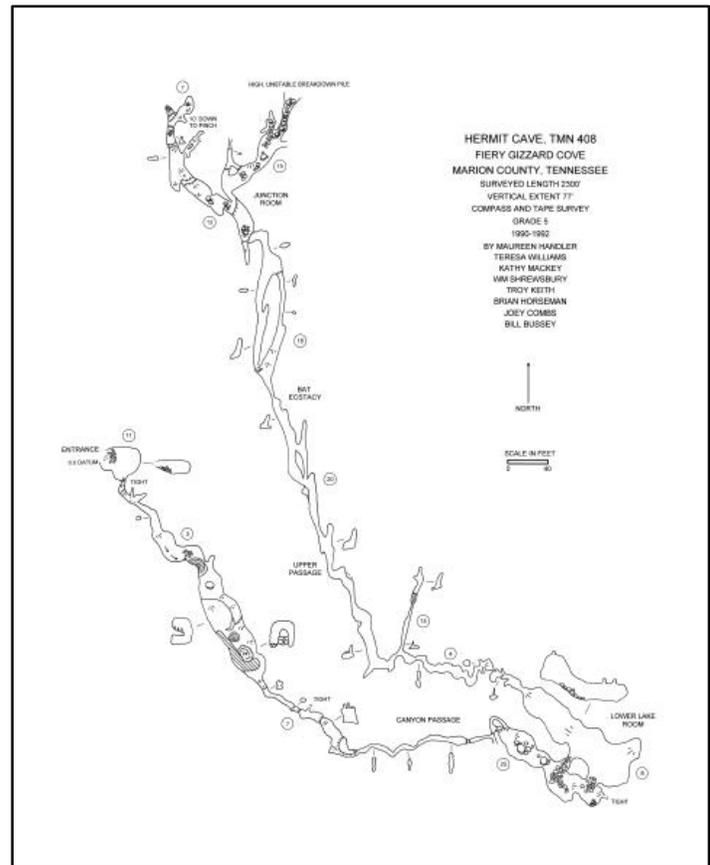


HERMIT CAVE MN408

Monteagle Limestone - 2300 feet long.

Located on the north side of Gizzard Cove, Obtain permission from the owners, Leanne Or Roy Smith. The entrance is 12 feet wide by 4.5 feet high. It slopes into a large room where a hermit once lived.

The room is 20 feet wide and 15 feet deep. A canyon passage on the right becomes a small belly crawl into a small room that leads to some walking passage. At this point there is a step-over, which is rigged, but the rope position is not especially helpful on the way in. The passage continues past some beautiful totem poles to a large haystack formation. You then have to cross a pool, usually about knee deep, and climb up a rigged sandy slope to the top of the passage. A stretch of exposed canyon passage leads to a climb down that looks scary, but which has decent holds upon careful examination. At the bottom of this climb you will be in walking passage that goes into a large room with a ceiling covered with some spectacular anastomosis. There are ropes in both directions in the room and ascenders may be required. The rope to the left is a difficult climb up into a series of crawling tubes. The rope to the right leads to the upper levels. Approximately 40 feet beyond the rope is a free climbable crack to the upper levels. The upper levels contain 900 feet of dry phreatic passage with many fossil specimens. The upper level forks near the end of the cave. The left fork leads to some low muddy crawls. The right fork leads to a breakdown blocked passage. This cave is a real "caver's" cave, with many different types of passage, from canyons and free climbs to impressive formations and fossils. (G. Will Chamberlin, 1988; Paul Aughey, 2005; Maureen Handler, 2010)



INDIAN GRAVE CAVE MN227

Monteagle Limestone - Unknown total length

The cave is located in Sweden Coves, near Gourneck and was discovered while digging for a cistern. It was investigated by McCrady and Kirby-Smith because of the Indian bones found there. The cave was mentioned in the Nashville *Speleonews* (September, 1970), p. 29 and was the subject of a news story done by the late Mort Loyd. Indian skeletons and skulls were found in the cave, and it is said that the cave was a burial ground. The entrance is in a small sink not more than 120 feet from the landowners home and at one time, he was dumping his garbage in the cave, so entering is hazardous. After a short and tight climb down, the cave winds and turns for 50 feet to a tight crawl, then opens to a small but deep canyon passage with a 30-foot pit leading to lower cave. The family living near the cave have been hostile at times so please DO NOT try to visit this cave. (Mike Smith, 1978)



JACKPOT MN311

Monteagle Limestone – 190 foot deep pit, 350 feet of passage
Jackpot is located in Jumpoff Cove. The 2 entrances are 10 feet apart. E1 is a small hole (2.5 feet by 2 feet) leading directly into the pit. E2 is 3 feet by 3 feet and opens as a slope leading directly into the main pit. The pit is 190 feet deep, oval-shaped and 5 feet in diameter. The bottom is 25 feet long by 10 feet wide. Thirty feet from the bottom, a side passage goes 40 feet to a 42-foot pit. At the bottom a stream passage goes 200 feet and gets too tight. No airflow. (Gerald Moni, 1981 & 2010)

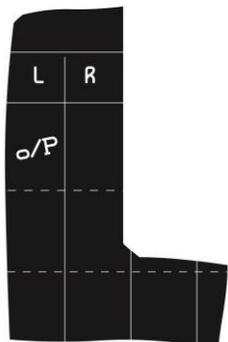


Rachel Campbell at the entrance to Kelly Chasm Photo by Kelly Smallwood



KELLY CHASM MN459

Monteagle Limestone – 122 foot pit, 275 feet of passage
Kelly Chasm is located near The Sinkhole (MN121). The pit entrance (E1) is 70 feet above the valley floor and the horizontal entrance (E2) is 70 feet to the east of and 18 feet below the pit entrance in a bluff. The pit entrance is a 3-foot wide by 2.5-foot hole that slopes down 3 feet to a lip. The lip is small, 2 feet by 2 feet. The pit can be rigged with a 180-foot rope. The pit is 122 feet, all freefall. The drop is 35 feet in diameter for 35 feet, then bells out to 60 feet wide before narrowing to a 10-foot by 15-foot hole. Below this hole is 43 more feet of pit that bells out to 25 feet by 15 feet with a low, muddy crawl at the bottom. Twenty feet up from the bottom is a 15-foot by 8-foot-wide passage that could be reached by a technical aid climb. By climbing back up the first 43 feet of the rope, you can get off rope on a ledge, climb up into a large room and climb up 12 feet to a horizontal entrance (8 feet wide by 5 feet high). The horizontal is a 12-foot slopedown/climbdown to a flat area. To the right of this flat area is a steep flowstone that leads up 40 feet to a 15 by 20 foot borehole heading towards The Sinkhole. To the left of this large room is the dome containing the pit entrance. Below the flat area is a difficult 20-foot climbdown leading to the connection to the pit entrance. The cave contains considerable flowstone and has very significant airflow. (Hal Love, 1991; Gerald Moni, 2013)



LOGGING CAMP CAVE MN19

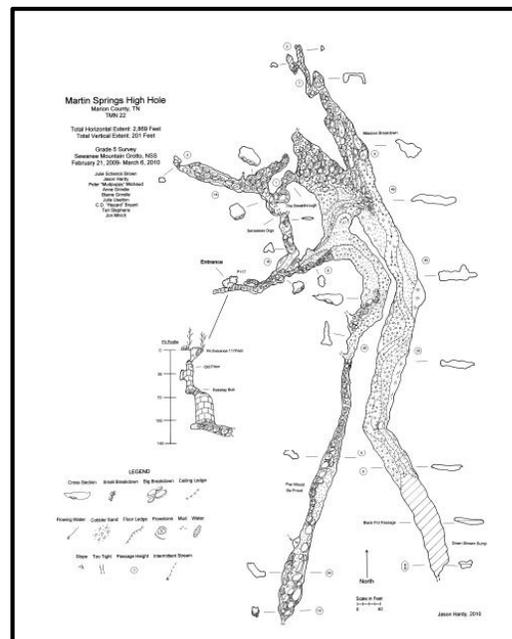
St Louis Limestone – 1,681 feet long

Logging Camp Cave is located near near Battle Creek. Not far from Martin Springs. A sink 50 feet in diameter slopes steeply downward into a large passage averaging 30 feet high and 30 feet wide. This passage extends for 300 feet and has a side room at the end. There are a few massive but inactive formations. (Ron Zawislak in Matthews, 1971) On 28 Dec 1976, Brad and Susan Neff climbed into a small hole 8 feet above the floor in the main passage, and after a short crawl and a chimney, found a large "S"-shaped room. Maximum dimensions were 120 feet by 40 feet by 30 feet. (Brad Neff, 1977)



Left: Photo of Dona Seyler in Logging Camp Cave. Photo by Kelly Smallwood

Right: Map of Martin Springs High Hole, drafted by Jason Hardy

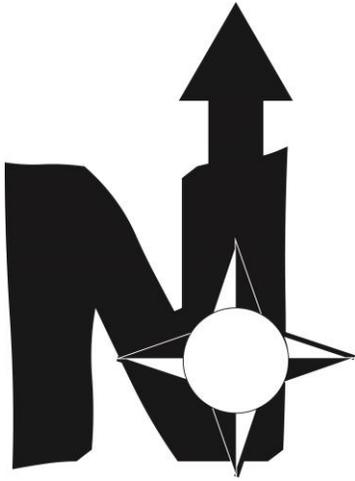


MARTIN SPRINGS HIGH HOLE MN22

Monteagle Limestone - 117 foot pit, 2,869 feet of passage

Martin Springs High Hole is located in a 30-foot sink. Rig the low side (a bluff) which gives a 117-foot drop. An old iron piton that was installed by Harvey Templeton in June 1942 is present just below the first ledge. A major ledge is encountered 80 feet down the drop and a re-belay bolt helps make the drop safer. Climb down 50 feet into a large room and to a stoop passage on the right. This leads to a big room with steep mud banks that have several passages leading out of it. From this big room, heading south for almost 800 feet, the passage continues as nice strolling borehole. At the terminus of this passage there is a highly unstable breakdown choke with strong air flow. A parallel passage follows the stream out of the big room. This stream passage terminates in a sump that drains Cave Cove and finally comes out at Martin Springs. Heading north from the big room, a high level lead is encountered on the left wall. A 15-foot climb down leads to a 10-inch squeeze through a breakdown maze. Follow the passage northwest to where it gradually opens to large borehole averaging 30 feet wide by 40 feet high. The breakdown in this area appears very unstable and the passage eventually terminates in both directions as a choked area. Upstream the passage goes to a breakdown area after several hundred feet. Beyond the breakdown pile, during low water levels a 30-foot long low airspace can be negotiated. Past the low air space, a 30-foot wide, 20-foot high

passage goes upstream as walking passage for 500 feet to an upstream sump. A right passage (10-feet wide, 4-feet above water, 2-feet below) goes 120 feet to a room. An in-feeder went into a 100-foot by 80-foot by 30-foot room with a giant sand dune in the middle. This room was once part of the stream passage, but is now separated by a wall of mud. (Gerald Moni, 1983; Chris Kelly, 1997; Jason Hardy, 2010)



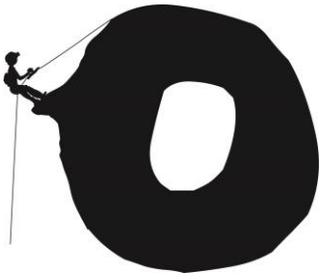
NICKAJACK CAVE MN26

Monteagle Limestone – 7,898 feet long (flooded by the TVA)

Located on the west side of Nickajack Cove, south of Shellmound Station. The cave is in the Nickajack Cave Wildlife Refuge. Nickajack Cave is one of the most famous caverns in Tennessee. It was used as a shelter by Indians and river pirates, was mined for saltpeter, was shelled by Federal troops during the Civil War, and has had a rather unsuccessful commercial history. Many tales of its tremendous length, especially of the “lost” upper level now supposedly blocked by a rockslide, have arisen; these are probably unfounded. Nevertheless, the cave is a most impressive one, and the huge mouth is probably the largest cave entrance in the eastern U.S. It is 140 feet wide and 50 feet high, and it is possible to drive automobiles a short distance into the cave. The stream is dammed up at the entrance to create

a fishing lake. A short distance from the mouth the cave is nearly 200 feet wide, with a floor of dry, mud-covered areas, broken rocks, and the large cave stream flowing below. In a short distance the passage narrows to 60 feet wide and 20 feet high and extends south-southwest for 2100 feet to a large room 300 feet long, 90 feet high, and 125 feet wide. There are many broken rocks on either side of this room, and the stream flows through the middle. Beyond the breakdown the cave forks. One branch is 325 feet long and trends southwest. It has several side branches, mostly crawls, and a cutoff back to the stream channel. The other fork (actually a continuation of the main cave though above the stream level) extends southeast through the breakdown, following the stream for 50 yards into a dry, sandy passage 30 feet wide and 8 feet high. This large avenue runs for 850 feet to the Bat Room, which is a low breakdown chamber 30 feet wide and 90 feet long. Beyond the Bat Room a crawlway 8 feet wide, 16 inches high, and 210 feet long leads to the final room of the cave, a chamber 35 feet high, 40 feet wide, and 100 feet long. Many attractive formations are developed in this room, including several large draperies and a huge flowstone formation – “Mr. Big” – which is 60 feet high and 75 feet in diameter. A network of smaller passages, southeast of the main cave passage, is accessible by two or three openings 300 yards from the mouth of the cave. About 1500 feet of passages were explored in this section. Nickajack Cave extends beneath Jackson County, Alabama and probably also Dade County, Georgia. The extensive breakdown 0.5 miles from the mouth coincides with Barton Hollow, which crosses the cove in Alabama (Barr, 1961) The cave was partially flooded by the Nickjack Dam. large colony of gray bats (*Myotis grisescens*) inhabit the cave above the pool level. Stygobitic blind crayfish (*Cambarus hamulatus*) and Tennessee cave salamanders (*Gyrinophilus palleucus*) lived in the cave before the cave was flooded. Nickajack Cave is the type locality for the blind crayfish (*Cambarus hamulatus*).





ORME PIT NR2 MN28

Bangor Limestone – 55 foot pit, followed by another 30 footer or 25 foot to a 33 foot, 140 feet passage.

Located near Orme. The entrance is 5 feet in diameter. The initial pit is 55 feet to a wide platform from which it is possible to continue two ways.

On one side is a 30-foot drop into which the waterfall entering the pit just below the entrance disappears. On the other side of the platform is a 25-foot drop which is followed by a 33-foot drop into a high dome room. A small hole in the wall of the room leads into a room 30 feet wide and 60 feet long. (Ricky Buice in Matthews, 1971)



PARKER PIT MN128

Bangor Limestone – 113 foot pit, 40 feet of passage

Located in Sweden Cove. The pit is in the middle of the streambed and is obvious if you get anywhere near it. The pit opening is 20 to 30 feet long and 10 to 15 feet wide, a pretty clear drop most of the way. The pit is 113 feet deep. At the bottom, the floor slopes down one way and rises the other way. The lower section ends after 40 feet. The upper section leads to a large room with a narrow crack leading off from it, which has been pushed a ways. The cave was discovered on a Chattanooga Grotto trip in 1973. (Ray Lewis, 1975)



Q 96 CAVE MN525

Bangor Limestone – 36 foot pit

The entrance pit is 15 feet in diameter and 36 feet deep. Beyond that, a passage slopes downhill for 15 vertical feet to a tricky 8-foot climbdown. This is immediately followed by two parallel 8-foot climbdowns, both of which are blind. No significant airflow. We dragged a tape measure from the lip of the entrance pit to the very lowest point of the cave and got 96 feet. Since Marion County needed a cave that started with the letter “Q”, we called it Q 96 Cave. (Andy Zellner, 1998)



RAULSTON PIT MN64

Bangor Limestone – 141 foot pit, 776 feet of passage (200 foot rope required for rigging). Located in Raulston Cove, just north of Kimball. The pit is in a gully, 50 feet past Little Raulston Pit (MN542). The entrance pit is 6 feet in diameter. It drops 79 feet to a major ledge, followed by a 62-foot pit for a total of 141 feet. By crawling down a 100-foot crawlway, you come to a stream. The cave makes a 300-foot loop and ends in a large and very unstable room. Stygobitic blind crayfish (*Cambarus hamulatus*) were observed in the cave. (Gerald Moni, 1972 & 2011)



Entrance photo of Raulston Pit, by Kelly Smallwood

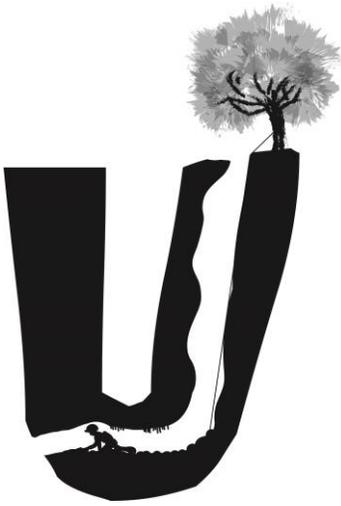


SOLUTION RIFT MN42

Bangor – St Louis Limestone – 5,350 feet long

Solution Rift is on the north side of Fiery Gizzard Cove on Speegle Point. The stream that flows out of Speegle Saltpetre Cave (MN46) flows into the sinkhole that contains the upper entrance of Solution Rift. The upper entrance (E1) is 5 feet wide and 10 feet high. Twenty feet inside, the water pours into a tight canyon. By straddling over the top of this wet canyon, a two-step (18-foot and 28-foot) dry set of bypass pits are encountered, followed by 190 feet of narrow, twisting, down-stepping passage to a wet 26-foot pit. The lower level below the wet 26-foot pit is quite large with the passage averaging 40 feet in width and a set of side leads that parallel this section of the cave and act as in-feeders for

surface precipitation. Only 40 feet downstream the passage turns to low hands and knees crawling. To the left is a nasty 250-foot crawl, part of which was dug out and is very greasy and muddy. The stream passage that parallels this 250-foot crawl starts out as a hands and knees crawl in the stream channel and then to a very tight belly crawl that had to be dug open. After the dugout crawl and stream passage reconnect, there is 1100 feet of hands/knees crawls, stooping, and walking passage with some formations to a wet 27-foot pit. Below this are the "Brrr Tubes," half-filled zigzagging water crawls, which get tight 25 feet from the next pit, 171-foot deep Confederate Well. This constriction in the crawl will flood during heavy rain and will trap anyone on the downstream side. At the edge of Confederate Well is a decorated, 20-foot high balcony. The pit is free-fall and 30 feet in diameter. Halfway down the water hits the climber. Fifty feet beyond the bottom of Confederate Well is a wet 26-foot pit. A short way beyond this is a 13-foot climb-down to short cascades to a sump pool. By not doing the 13-foot climb-down and continuing on that level above it (doing a step-across), a bypass is gained. This leads to another 13-foot climb-down (hand line recommended), plus short climbs and a wet 36-foot pit. Below this pit is 2000 feet of water filled passage which gets worse the further in one gets, including low airspaces, crawls, jagged limestone and a false chert floor. A high side lead is encountered 50 feet past the final pit; this area is a large chamber with several highly decorated side leads and a 19-foot pit, which is blind. Continuing past the high side lead in the lower stream channel, a low and wide pool 80 feet long is finally reached. At the end is a man-made dam 3.5 feet high (now smashed open). One hundred feet farther is the lower spring entrance (E2) at the valley floor. Stygobitic blind crayfish (*Cambarus hamulatus*) inhabit the lower cave stream. The cave was noted by Barr and Ron Zawislak in their publications, though early exploration efforts were all half-hearted. On December 1, 1979, Jim H. Smith, Jill Dorman, Gerald Moni and Marion O. Smith reached the top of the wet 27-foot pit. Jim and Gerald did most of the digging to get through. On December 15, 1979, Jim Smith, Marion O. Smith, Dan and Stella Twilley pushed down the 27-foot pit, and both Smiths got as far as the top of the 36-foot pit (both Twilleys had trouble trying to pass two knots in Confederate Well and never got to its bottom). On December 16, 1979 Jim Smith and Marion O. Smith and Brad Neff pushed the cave to the low, wide pool. Technically, the connection of the spring entrance to the rest of the cave was accomplished by Buddy Lane and Sandy Montgomery on July 20 when they, without knowing it, overlapped the December penetration. On August 2, 1980, Gerald Moni, Marion O. Smith and G. Will Chamberlin made the first throughtrip out the spring entrance. The entire cave was surveyed by the Sewanee Mountain Grotto from July 2009 and May-September, 2010, with three of the original surveyors (Gerald Moni, Marion O. Smith, and Dan Twilley) participating on the survey. The pit depths are 18, 28, 26, 27, 171, 26, 13, and 36 feet; an additional 19-foot pit is not required to explore the main section of the cave, as it is located in a high side lead area below the 36-foot pit. The ropes needed are 40, 50, 40, 50, 190, 50, 40 and 60 feet. For a pull down 3 ropes are needed, 100, 190, and 190 feet. All of the drops in the main passage were re-bolted in 2010, thus webbing slings are no longer needed. (Marion O. Smith, 1979; Gerald Moni, 1986; Julie E. Schenck Brown, 2011)



UTOPIA CAVERNS MN261

Bangor Limestone – 94 foot broken pit, 1,200 feet of passage
Utopia Caverns is located south of Kelly Cove, on the eastern end of the land bridge which separates the two coves, and is 30 feet to the north of a major ravine. A 94-foot (broken) entrance drop leads to a narrow canyon passage that goes for 500 feet. This drops into a stream crawl and then opens into a large dome. Another crawl leads to a small climbdown and to a long (300-foot) stream crawl and to a 50-foot pit. This pit was not bottomed. (Rick Buice, 1979) The unbottomed pit was visited in the summer of 1997 by Andy Zellner and Terry Bigioni, and turned out to be only 20 feet deep. The pit was not virgin. A tall canyon passage 8 feet wide led another 20 feet, then closed back down

to crawling size and went around two quick 90-degree bends. There is good airflow and water going into the crawl, but it is currently impassable. (Andy Zellner, 1998)



VOUDY WELL MN633

Bangor Limestone – 71 foot pit
Located near Cagle Chasm (MN5), on the hillside just past a ravine which has Voudy Skinny Pit (MN632) on the opposite side. The pit is 25 vertical feet above Voudy Well and 150 feet uphill (north) from it. It is essentially the same elevation as Cagle Chasm. The pit entrance is 4.5 feet by 4.5 feet. The top 11 feet dips steeply to a 39-foot freefall pit to a ledge, up to 10 feet wide. The pit continues on one side as 2 more steps, 6 feet and 8 feet. The bottom is 20 feet long, up to 10 feet wide, which leads to a supertight crack which drops 10 feet and continues horizontally 20 more feet. However, only tiny people can access the true bottom. No airflow. The

pit is a stair-stepping 71-footer. Voudy Well was found and done by Tony Voudy of Georgia "several" years ago. (Marion O. Smith, 2005)



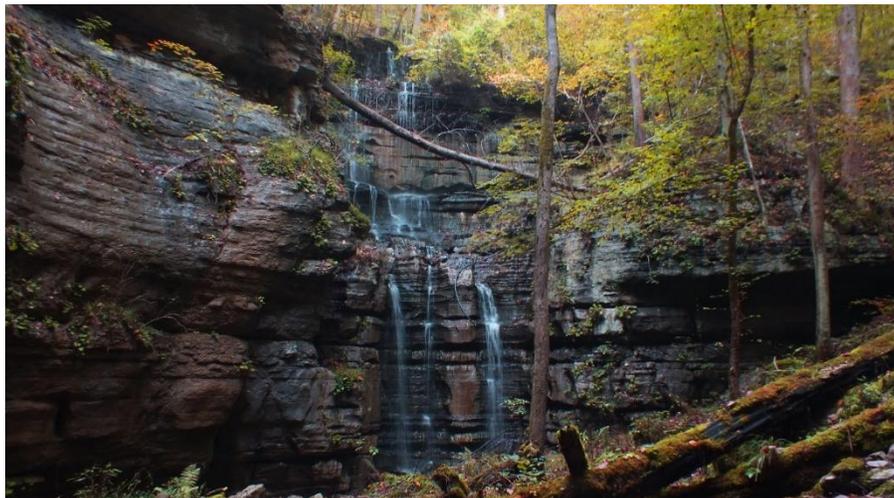
WATERWORKS CAVE MN52

Bangor Limestone – 12 and 47 foot pits, 3,843 feet of passage
Waterworks Cave is located near 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 used to get its water from the spring above the cave, hence the name (a past drought forced the residents to connect to the municipal water grid). A short walk to the sink reveals a spectacular waterfall. Depending on the time of year, this water can run into the cave and down the first

pit, but most of the time it just disappears into the ground. To the left of the falls is the primary entrance to Waterworks. 50 feet to its right, slightly up the breakdown slope, is the Indian Trace entrance to Waterworks Cave. This was believed to be a separate cave, the name provided by the current landowner after discovery of some artifacts in this entrance. From the main entrance, about 40' of passage leads to a 12' pit. Parallel to this, to the right, is a 22' pit that leads to the same canyon passage as the 12' pit. The canyon passage extends about 100' to an offset 47' pit into a large chamber. The bottom of this chamber features large, round cobbles on the floor of an old trunk passage partly filled with breakdown. Climbing up the breakdown the chamber continues about 100' eventually terminating in breakdown. Directly under the 47' offset drop, passage starts as a hands and knees crawl which splits. To the left, the passage goes a few hundred feet and

opens up to a room that has a waterfall running over breakdown into the floor. To the right, more hands and knees stream passage turns into a tall room which has water coming down from the ceiling rolling down a breakdown slope and disappearing into the ground. Climbing the breakdown slope to the source of the water, there is a 12' very wet climb up to the Indian Trace connection. At the bottom of the 47-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. In the middle of this section of borehole is a dome which yielded no continuing passage. Before the tricky traverse, above the white flowstone formation is a passage that leads over a large rimstone dam, filled with water and curves back into a passage that transitions from a stoopwalk to a belly crawl on a series of rimstone dams filled with water. At the end of the rimstone series, the passage takes a hard right and gets larger until it terminates in a dome room. In the dome, it's possible to do a 20' free climb to a passage that continually gets smaller until it's too tight to proceed.

The Indian Trace entrance proceeds horizontally for a few feet then drops down a breakdown slope into a small room. To the right, a 6' climb up leads to an area with 4 pits. The first three are down climbable and interconnect at the bottom. The last, a very wet 32' pit, drops into a large breakdown room. At the back of the room is a snug crawl that opens into an 18' pit. To the left, is an opening in the breakdown that leads down to Elliot's Totem Room. There are many possible paths through this breakdown area. The room contains a large breakdown slope and includes a few nice formations at the back. Back at the small entrance room in the Indian Trace entrance, passage to the left goes 50' and terminates in breakdown. Proceeding straight, leads to a tight crawl to a junction. To the right, is a small wet dome. Straight, is a narrow crawl out to a small ledge above Waterboarded Well. To the left, is a crawl that leads to the small room above the 31' Waterboarded Well. The back of this room sits almost under the surface waterfall. Water flows through the room and down the pit fanning off of the ledge and hitting the back wall. At the bottom, there is a wet squeeze under a large breakdown block into a series of drippy/wet areas down toward the bottom of Waterworks. The first crossover trip was done on February 9, 2014 in celebration of the end of the survey. (Alan Grosse #58114) with excerpts from (Mark Wolinsky, 1970), (Marion O. Smith, 1993), and (Andy Zellner, 1998)



Waterworks Cave.
Photo by Kelly
Smallwood

WATERWORKS CAVE

MARION COUNTY, TENNESSEE ~ TCS # MN-52

Grade 5 survey, April 2013 - December 2013 by:

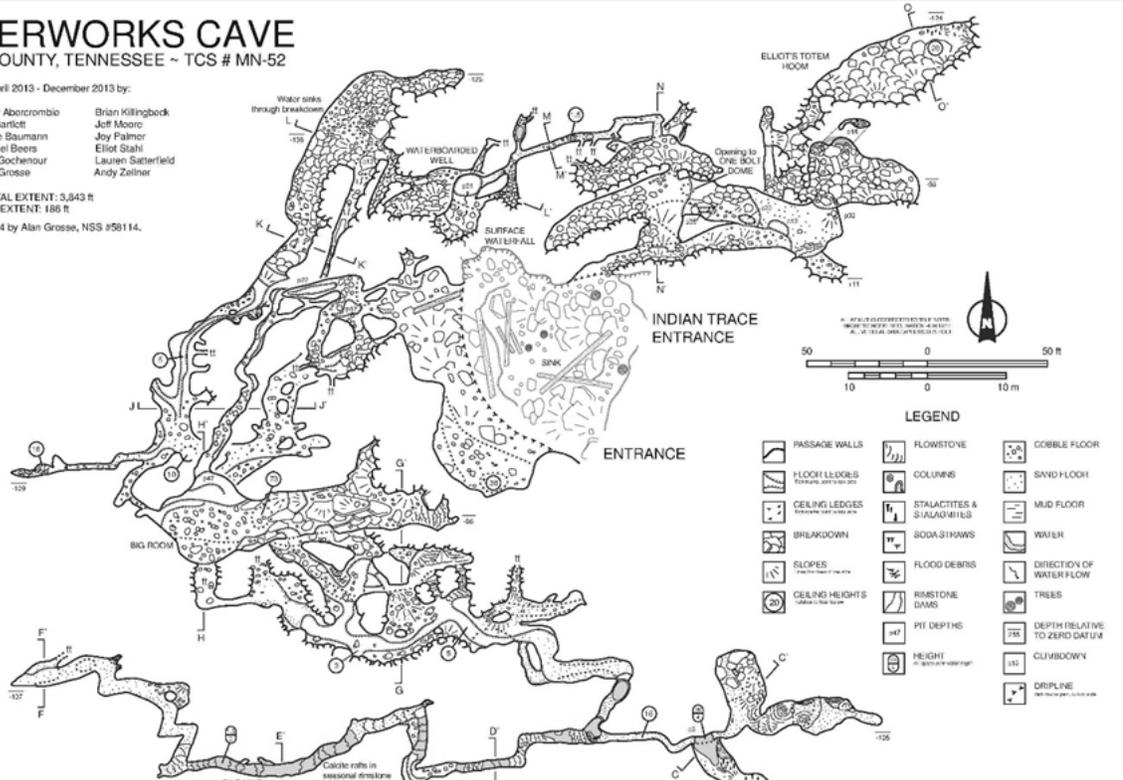
Marty Abercrombie
 Jeff Barlett
 Grace Baumann
 Manuel Beers
 Kyle Gochenour
 Alan Grosse

Brian Killingbeck
 Jeff Moore
 Joy Palmer
 Elliot Stahl
 Lauren Satterfield
 Andy Zellner

TOTAL HORIZONTAL EXTENT: 3,943 ft
 TOTAL VERTICAL EXTENT: 188 ft

Cartography ©2014 by Alan Grosse, NSS #58114.

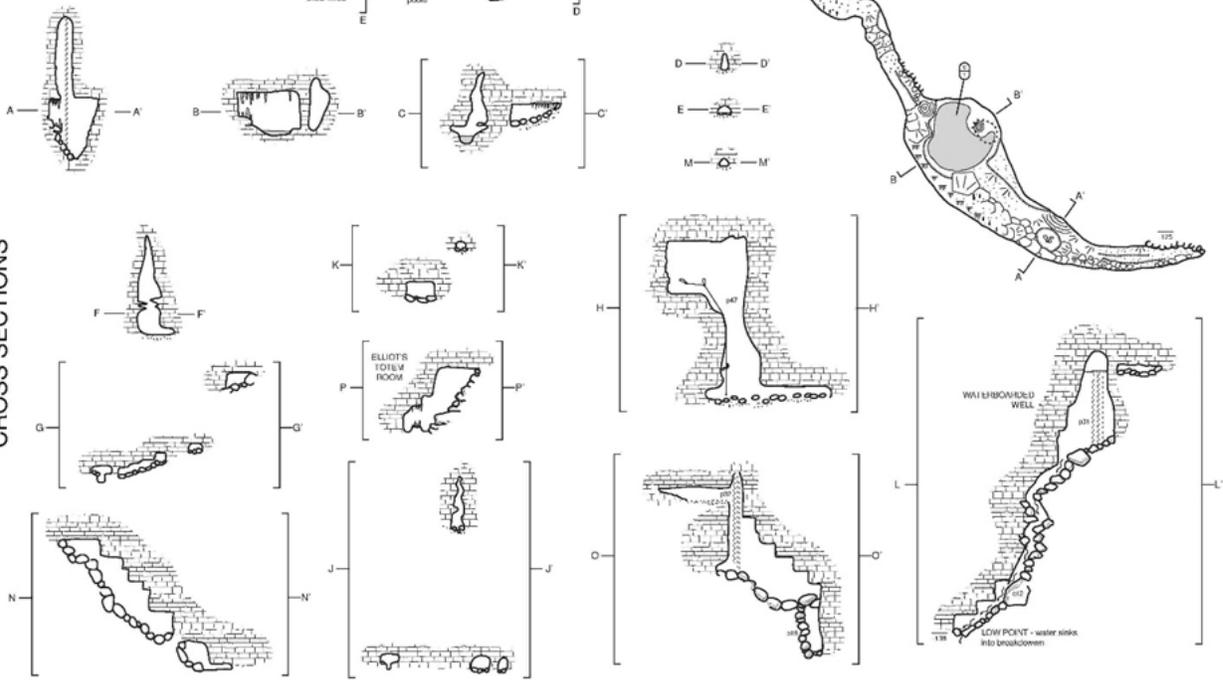
PLAN VIEW



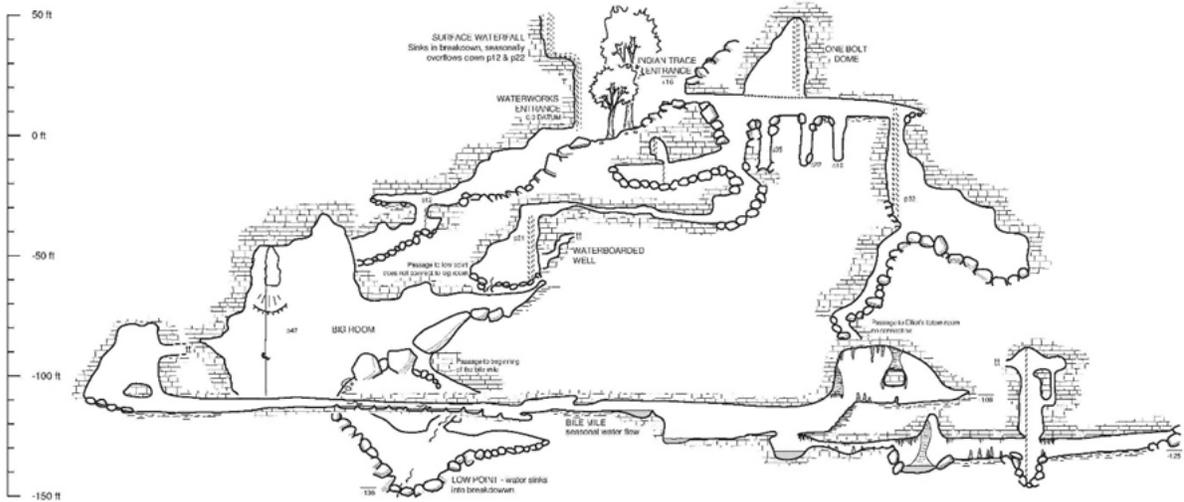
LEGEND

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| PASSAGE WALLS | FLOWSTONE | COBBLE FLOOR |
| FLOOR LEDGES | COLUMNS | SAND FLOOR |
| CEILING LEDGES | STALACTITES & STALAGMITES | MUD FLOOR |
| BREAKDOWN | SODA STRAWS | WATER |
| SLOPES | FLOOD DEBRIS | DIRECTION OF WATER FLOW |
| CEILING HEIGHTS | ROASTSTONE DAMS | TREES |
| PIT DEPTHS | HEIGHT | DEPTH RELATIVE TO ZERO DATUM |
| HEIGHT | CLIFFDOWN | DRIPLINE |

CROSS SECTIONS



SIMPLIFIED PROFILE
 PROJECTION FACING NORTHWARD





XERIC CAVE MN_ _

Pennington Formation - 140 foot of passage

Xeric Cave was found in the spring of 2014 by Jason Hardy & Kelly Smallwood's dog, Roxy. It has a scenic entrance located beside a seasonal waterfall, which forms a plunge pool at the bottom in the creek bed. The cave has a stooping entrance and quickly turns into a hands and knees crawl in a tube passage. Despite the seasonal waterfall next to the cave, it remains dry, hence the name.



Left: Roxy at the entrance to Xeric Cave. Right: Roxy in front of the waterfall next to Xeric Cave. Photos by Kelly Smallwood



YEAST CAVE MN244

Bangor Limestone – 51, 38, & 48 foot pits, 800 feet of passage

The entrance is a series tight squeezes and climbs for 40 vertical feet to a bolted 51-foot sometimes-wet pit, followed by a 38-foot pit, then after 30 tight horizontal feet, by a 48-foot pit. Seven hundred feet of passage is at the bottom, with a stream. A side passage leads up to a couple of sizeable (40-foot plus diameter) chambers. The cave was found by John Reid in 1977 and entered by him and Lin Guy on one occasion, and just himself on another occasion. On March 5, 1978 John attempted to descend the 51-foot pit (which he thought was 20 feet deep) but his rope was too short. Marilyn Hall, Alan Reid and Marion

O. Smith were in the cave. On March 11, 1978 John Reid and Marion O. Smith did the 51-foot pit. On a later day, John and Alan Reid descended the 38-footer but were stopped at the top of the 48-footer. On May 13, 1978 John Reid and Marilyn Hall got to the top of the 51-foot drop and found that rats had chewed the rope. John set a second bolt, then they left. On July 16, 1978 John Reid and Marion O. Smith descended the 48-foot pit and explored 700 feet of passage to the end and shot seven survey shots to the bottom of the 48-foot drop. (Marion O. Smith, 1978)



ZACHARY MARTIN CAVE MN84

Bangor Limestone – 15 & 30 foot pits, 368 foot of passage

Located behind the Richard City Quarry, in a 100-foot diameter sink a few hundred yards to the west of Devils Den (MN11). Zachary Martin Cave is the entrance in the floor near the bluff overhang. On October 23, 1972, David Stidham, Alan Johnson, Jim Youmans and I "found" this cave. Only Alan entered it. He saw on the walls an old name "Zachary Martin" and a date some time in the 1800s. Gerald Moni has been in it and says 200 feet after the entrance

there is a 15-foot drop, then several hundred more feet of passage, then a 30-foot drop. Moni didn't report it because he felt it would be quarried away. (Marion O. Smith, 1972)



SCCi Leases Varnedoe Cave

July 17, 2014 By SCCi

The SCCi is pleased to announce a new lease agreement of Varnedoe Cave. This fine cave is located within the city limits of Huntsville, Alabama and is one of the more popular multi-drop caves in the southeast. Both entrances to Varnedoe Cave can be rigged all the way to the Fox Skeleton Room where the register is located. Entrance 1 has a pit series of 73', 15', 41', 72' and Entrance 2 has a pit series of 115', 12', and 69' with the latter entrance route dropping near the waterfall in the Fox Skeleton Room. Beyond the Fox Skeleton Room are meandering passages that lead to tall dome complexes and a formation area. Access to Varnedoe Cave requires a permit. Contact the Varnedoe Cave Access Coordinator Julie Schenck Brown at varnedoe@scci.org at least three days before you would like to visit the cave.



Julie Schenck Brown at the third drop in Varnedoe Cave. Photo by Kelly Smallwood

Thank you to all of the vendors who have donated to this years auction!

