

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

TRI-STATE CRYSTAL OF THE NSS



DOGTOTH SPAR IN PAXTONS CAVE

VOL. #23

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MAY

2008

#67



(FULL FAMILY-must be NSS)(Voting rights if over 16)
(FAMILY ASSOCIATE-non NSS)(Voting over 16)

Payment of DUES can be made at MONTHLY MEETINGS
or can be SENT TO:

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All material for inclusion in the **DEAD DOG DISPATCH** must be sent to the EDITOR NO LATER THAN THE **25TH** OF EACH MONTH.

*** The Picture of the dogtooth spar was taken in Paxtons Cave, Allegheny Co, VA.

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**** Don't forget, the **JONES QUARRY BOOKLET** is **STILL** available at a reasonable price **\$6.00**. If you don't have it in your library, then YOU MUST GET IT. It is PACKED with info about the QUARRY, the CAVE, the INDIAN BONES, and of course the **MAP!** If you are interested in purchasing the BOOKLET, contact **BOB BENNETT** [304-579-4304(H) or 304-725-3481 ext 491(W)](E-MAIL at gimpycaver@comcast.net or **JUDY FISHER** [304-258-4974(H) or 304-258-1822(W)](E-MAIL at jcf@access.mountain.net)

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FULL MEMBERSHIP ----- \$10.00 (Must be NSS)
ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP--- \$12.00 (Non-NSS)
SUBSCRIBING MEMBERSHIP- \$12.00 (Non-Voting)
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP ----- \$2.00/FAMILY

WE NEED EVERYONE TO KEEP THINKING ABOUT
VOLUNTEERING FOR AN OPEN POSITION. WE
STILL NEED SOMEONE FOR THE FOLLOWING
POSITION:
PROGRAM CHAIR
PLEASE GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT. WE NEED YOUR
SUPPORT!



CAMIN EVENTS

2008

MAY 5 ----- CINCO de MAYO
MAY 10 ----- Heritage Day (Adam Stephen Day)
MAY 11 ----- MOTHER'S DAY
MAY 14 ----- Grotto Meeting 7PM
MAY 16-18 -- Spring MAR – Pine Hill Campground,
Hazelton, WV
MAY 17 ----- ARMED FORCES DAY
MAY 22 ----- DAY of PRAYER
MAY 23-26 – KY SPELEOFEST – Lone Star Preserve
MAY 23-26 – Bubble Weekend
MAY 26 ----- MEMORIAL DAY
MAY 31 ----- Donaldson Cave Cleanup – 11AM
MAY 29-JUN 6 -- Carter Caves St Park – Gate Laurel
Cave
JUN 5-8 ----- SERA / VAR – Bristol, TN
JUN 11 ----- Grotto Meeting – 7PM
JUN 14 ----- FLAG DAY
JUN 15 ----- FATHER'S DAY
JUN 20 ----- WV DAY
JUN 20 ----- SUMMER SOLSTICE
JUN 20-22 --- 5th Annual Caving Jamboree, Lutz
Fieldstation, Pocahontas Co, WV
JUL 4 ----- INDEPENDENCE DAY
JUL 9 ----- Grotto Meeting – 7PM
JUL 12 ----- GROTTO PICNIC @ Crystal Grottoes
JUL 17-20 --- Karst-O-Rama – Great Saltpetre Cave
Preserve
JUL 27 ----- PARENT'S DAY
AUG 11-15 – NSS Convention, Lake City, FL
AUG 13 ----- Grotto Meeting – 7PM
AUG 28-31 – OTR
AUG 30 ----- DOO DAH
AUG 30 ----- 5th Annual POLYESTER POWER HOUR
SEP 1 ----- OTR
SEP 1 ----- LABOR DAY
SEP 7 ----- GRANDPARENT'S DAY
SEP 10 ----- Grotto Meeting – 7PM
SEP 19-21 --- FALL VAR – COVINGTON, VA
SEP 11 ----- PATRIOT'S DAY (9/11)
SEP 22 ----- AUTUMN EQUINOX
OCT 8 ----- Grotto Meeting – 7PM
OCT 10-12 – Fall MAR – Woodward, PA
OCT 13 ----- COLUMBUS DAY
OCT 31 ----- ALL HALLOWS EVE
NOV 4 ----- ELECTION DAY
NOV 8 ----- WVCC Banquet
NOV 11 ----- VETERAN'S DAY
NOV 12 ----- Grotto Meeting – 7PM – Elections
NOV 21 ----- THANKSGIVING DAY
NOV 22 ----- BLACK FRIDAY
DEC 10 ----- Wrap gifts for Red Cross – 6PM at

Martinsburg Mall
DEC 13 ----- GROTTO CHRISTMAS PARTY
DEC 14 ----- CAVING
DEC 21 ----- WINTER SOLSTICE
DEC 24 ----- CHRISTMAS EVE
DEC 25 ----- CHRISTMAS DAY
DEC 31 ----- NEW YEAR'S EVE

2009

JUL 19-26 ---- NSS Convention, Kerryville, TX

2010

JUL 12-17 ----- NSS Convention, Essex Jcnctn, VT

2011

AUG 1-5 ---- NSS Convention, Glenwood Springs, CO

***** **CAVE BUCKS** *****

CAVE BUCKS is a voluntary donation for cave purchases. The money is collected at each monthly meeting and sent to the organization of choice. The money **SHOULD NEVER** be kept past the week it is collected.

Month of Apr ----- **\$11.00**

TOTAL TO DATE: ---- \$4201.00

GROTTO LINKS

Tri-State Grotto website ----- www.wobey.net/TSG
VAR website ----- www.varegion.org
NSS website ----- www.caves.org
NSS Convention 2008 ----- www.nss2008.com/
OTR Website ----- www.otr.org
MAR Website ----- www.caves.org/region/mar/
WVCC ----- www.wvcc.net
Andy Celmer's Web Site ---- www.wobey.net/TSG/Andy/
Art Jr's Web Site ----- <http://photos.arthanson.net/>
Bob's Web Site ----- www.wobey.net/TSG/Bob/
Earl Suitor's Web Site -----
----- <http://mysite.verizon.net/wvcaver/>
Ehren Gieske's Web Site --- www.wobey.net/TSG/Ehren
Jerry's Cave Web Site ----- www.wobey.net/TSG/Jerry/
Vitas's Web Site ----- www.wobey.net/TSG/Vitas/
Tina Blaik's Web Site ----- www.kayakdream.com/

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David Hackley's Web Site -----
 ---- <http://s180.photobucket.com/albums/x307/clearsig/>
 Todd Robert's Web Site -----
 -- http://s63.photobucket.com/albums/h143/Todd_05/
 Bob Gulden's Web Page - www.caverbob.com/home.htm
 Nikki Fox's Web Site -----
 ----- <http://s231.photobucket.com/albums/ee8/cavefox1/>
 Rock Climbing Knots Friction -----
 -- www.chockstone.org/TechTips/prusik.htm#Bachman
 Tri-State Grotto MySpace -----
 ----- www.myspace.com/tristategrotto
 Animated Knots by Grog ----- www.animatedknots.com/
 White Nose Syndrome -----
<http://www.caves.org/grotto/dcg/wns-notice-to-cavers.pdf>
 NSS Online Cavers ----- www.onlinecavers.com



MONTH OF MAY

Carl Amundson, Sandy Amundson, Eric Berge, Mary Eidukevicius, JC Fisher, Matthew Jefferson, Jeff Marcum, Greg McCoy, Pat Minnick, Chelsea Pell, Steve Rexford, Chris Wootten

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Tri-State Grotto

4/9/08

Meeting

Bernie could not make the meeting. Jerry Bowen filled in and started the meeting at 7 pm. 15 people were present.

Chuck Stanley gave the treasurer's report. Jeff moved to accept it. Vitas seconded and the motion passed.

Jerry and Bob went to Mammoth Cave for the Easter cleanup.

We talked about spring 09 VAR.

Brent Jefferson talked about going to Dyers Cave. He said it was not going to be sold. It is closed for bats now. He also talked about CCC and that the owner would like it gated.

Terry went to Monroe County. It was supposed to be 100 ft drop. Terry was disappointed that it was only a 96 ft. drop. It had a complete black bear skeleton at the bottom of the drop. Of course the cave had to be named, Black Bear Plunge.

Jerry talked about Harpers Ferry Caverns.

John talked about The Crystal Grottoes project this weekend.

Jerry talked about Cave # 6 along the Potomac River at Hancock, MD. Someone has busted it back open.

Terry talked about Champagne Pit in VA it is the deepest pit in VA.

Jeff talked about going to Whittings Neck Cave on Wed. next week. They will drop the second entrance.

Trips:

MAR May 16-18

Harlannsburg Cave - April 19 in PA north of Pittsburg.

Memorial Day weekend - Jerry is going to Scott Hollow Fri May 23 in Monroe County.

Also Rehoboth Church Cave and Bubble Cave. June 5-8 - VAR

CaveBucks \$11 to SCCI

A motion was made to give Jon \$150 for the Karst Cave Conservative event.

Jerry adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Submitted by
John P. Di Carlo, Jr.
Secretary
Tri-State Grotto

Here is the full press release from the
Northeastern Cave Conservancy - re-opening
their caves May 15:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 30, 2008

**NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY
RE-OPENS CAVES -**

Cavers asked to continue decontamination of
gear

Contact: Robert Addis, President (518) 237-1165
or Peter Youngbaer, Vice President (802) 272-
3802 or Christa Hay, Publicity Chair (518) 786-
7518

Schoharie, New York –
The nine New York caves owned and managed
by the Northeastern Cave Conservancy will open
for summer visitation as scheduled on May 15.
Caves are open according to the normal
conditions, which may be found on the NCC
website: <http://www.necaveconservancy.org>.

These caves include the highly popular
Clarksville Cave and Knox Cave, used by many
youth groups. Also opening are Onesquethaw
Cave, Crossbones Cave, Ella Armstrong Cave,
Ladder Cave, Selleck's Cave, Cave 575, and
Levy's Cave.

Cavers are asked to continue the
decontamination of clothing and gear according
to the protocol advisory issued by the US Fish
and Wildlife Service. These may be found at
http://www.fws.gov/northeast/white_nose.html

The NCC caves had been closed since February
10, due to White Nose Syndrome, which is
responsible for the deaths of thousands of bats in
the Northeast. The NCC has been collaborating

with the NY Department of Environmental
Conservation and the US Fish and Wildlife
Service with investigations and bat surveys over
the winter.

May 15 marks the historical end of hibernation
in this region, and the bats will have gone to
their summer roosts.

There is no evidence that WNS is harmful to
humans. There is also no evidence at this point
that humans are responsible for spreading WNS,
but scientists are not ready to completely rule it
out, and continue to be extremely cautious about
the potential for WNS to spread beyond the
northeast region of the US.

There is general consensus that there is no reason
to restrict cave visitation in the NCC caves for
the summer, as long as decontamination
protocols are followed.

Detailed instructions on the proper sanitation of
various types of equipment are provided on the
USFWS web site (see above). Alternatively,
individuals should dedicate separate sets of
equipment for use in affected and non-affected
caves.

A letter is going out to more than 80 groups who
have historically used the caves to explain the
visitation process and decontamination
protocols.

Cavers and the public are advised that the caves
will remain open for the summer months,
provided no evidence is found that cave access
by humans during this time period is having a
negative effect on the bat populations.

While no decision has been made at this time, it
is possible that caves in the Northeast harboring
bats, which are usually open for visitation in
winter, may close this year by October 15th. This
is the accepted standard date for the beginning of
winter hibernation season in the northeast.

TRIP REPORTS

Greenbrier County By Danny Cumbo

On the evening of Friday, April 11, 2008, Todd Roberts and I headed south on I-81 to our destination of Greenbrier County, WV for a caving weekend with the Franklin County Grotto. We made a stop in Harrisonburg, VA and caught up with Pat Minnick, along with Tri-State members Jon Peterson and Ken Tayman at the local Mexican restaurant for dinner.

Jon, Ken, and Pat left a little bit before us and we were soon back on the road as well. After the interstate travel of I-81 and I-64, we had to slowly cut through the fog that had settled in the valley up 219 to Renick, WV to get to the Bubble Cave property. Thankfully, Gordy Ley put a huge reflective bat sign out beside the gate and we found Bubble very easily.

Once at the campsite, we were reunited with Ken, Pat, and Jon, as well as Gordy and Dane Wagle, who had driven down earlier in the day. We all set up camp pretty quickly and settled in for the night.

The next morning, we set out for John Pearson's home just down the road. John agreed to help us move a rock fall that was blocking the passage just past the Wildcat entrance to the Culverson Creek System so we could get our trip underway. After a stop at Carroll Bassett's to pick up some rock extraction supplies, we were quickly at our destination of the Wildcat entrance to Culverson Creek. John Pearson, Todd, & Dane went down the ladder and culvert and were able to easily move the rock simply by

pulling it out with some webbing rather than the more volatile methods planned.



John Pearson shows the results of doing battle with a passage-blocking boulder. - Photo by Ken Tayman

After a few unsuccessful pleas with John to give us a demonstration of Carol's blasting materials on one of the boulders on the surface, our trip was officially underway. Unfortunately, after just a few hundred feet, we found what was already in the back of our minds to be evident by a raging stream that was higher than normal. Everyone knew the water was most likely too high to do this trip, but we held out hope that it wouldn't be.

We had all anticipated getting wet, but not up to our necks in a potentially hazardous torrent we found. There had been some rain the night before and Culverson Creek is known as a cave system that takes water very easily and rapidly, but everyone thought we would be in the clear with as little rain as there was. So, a decision was

quickly made to abort and look for something else to get into.



We stopped for a group photo where the water stopped us in Wildcat. – Photo by Todd Roberts.

Fortunately, Bill Balfour lives nearby and after consulting with him, he showed us the SSS entrance to the Culverson Creek System. The SSS portion of the system has a great deal of passage above the base water level, so Bill was confident that we would have much more success in there than in the Wildcat section. After a few directions and some advice, we one by one traversed the low stream crawl into SSS.

The stream quickly breaks off and flows down into a canyon to the lower levels, so once we traversed that section, we were out of the water and into a 3.5 hour trip that showed us maybe only 30% of this portion of the system. Upon emerging, we went over to Bill Balfour's house where he was hosting a cookout in celebration of his birthday. After a few hours of good food, drink, and socializing in this who's who of the caving community, we filtered out a few at time back to the campsite. By the time Todd and I made it back, the rest of the guys had a nice campfire blazing. After some fire chat, we called it a night. The next morning, we broke camp and headed down to Lost World Caverns with the Grapevine entrance on our minds. Pat, Ken, & Jon, rigged the rope, and one by one we rappelled the 120' drop.

Pat dropped it first and served as our bottom belay. Dane and Gordy needed to get out on the road and home soonest, so they each went next. Todd loaded up his camera gear and dropped next to set up some photos. While we were waiting up top, Larry Fisher stopped by on his way home and decided to do the drop with us. I was up next. This was my first time rappelling Grapevine, as I opted not to on a trip here a couple of months back due to lack of vertical experience.



Pat Minnick and Jon Peterson add the final touches to our rigging. – Photo by Todd Roberts.

Since then, I had spent some time receiving some vertical instruction and practice with Pat & Ken on a couple of occasions, so I felt much better prepared this time around. I will say that this will certainly be one of my favorite and most memorable cave descents. Once you start down the tiny entrance opening, you immediately admire the beauty of this drop. You can peer down into the void and see the room on the commercial portion of the cave you are eventually going to enter as a tiny dot of red and yellow light. The crevice you are descending has a very sizable expanse on both sides of you and once you pass through the crevice into the ceiling of the commercial section, you are immediately greeted by all the magnificent formations that are illuminated with various colored lights.

It's certainly a rappel I will be eager to do again if the opportunity arises. Once at the bottom and off rope, I took Dane down to the edge of the commercial section to show him where the wild portion of the cave began. While doing that, Ken, Larry, & Jon all rappelled. A few of the guys climbed back up the rope while the rest of us opted to just climb the stairs out instead.

Many thanks go out to John Pearson for helping us coordinate and remove the rockfall. This assistance and willingness in lending his rock removal materials. And many thanks as well go to Bill Balfour for his expertise and hospitality in allowing us to crash his party. Without them, our Greenbrier weekend would not have been such a success.



Ken Tayman rappelling into Lost World Caverns. – Photo by Todd Roberts.

Crystal Grottoes Caverns

The Gravel Challenge

On April 12, 2008 Tri-State Grotto of the N.S.S. once again visited Crystal Grottoes Caverns for a conservation work session. Our project was to rebuild the pathways in the caverns. They have not had new gravel on them since 1979.

There were a lot of pools in the passageways. Some of them were quite deep. Where there wasn't a pool, the floor was slick and hard to walk on. I walked through the caverns taking pictures of the floor throughout the cave. We wanted before shots. I came out the back door and found that Jerry Downs had brought a scoop of gravel over from with a bobcat. Bob and Ehren had filled up buckets. We loaded three full ones on to the two-wheel truck and Bob headed into the cave with that. Ehren and I each grabbed two buckets and followed him. The weight on the two-wheel truck pulled Bob down the slope. He was sliding and grabbing the walls to try to slow down. He made it through and we headed to the worst spot in the cave. It was in the Lake room. The floor was slick and uneven. We dumped all our buckets there. It made a big difference right away. We headed out for refills. We started our bucket brigade. Bob was on the receiving end of the buckets. He directed the dumping of the buckets on the trails. We worked for a while before taking a break. The Wootten family arrived and the pace picked up. When the tour guides weren't taking tours they were helping out too. We even had Jerry shoveling gravel into buckets. Jerry also stayed busy going back and forth with the bobcat bringing us scoops of gravel. We used 11 loads.

At one point we reached so far into the cave from the back door, that we moved to the front door and started sending buckets in that way. We switched back and forth a couple more times depending on where we were working.



A before shot of the Blanket Room.
After the gravel was laid down.

We moved 10,000 pounds of gravel. It had rained hard the night before, so of course it was all wet and weighed even more. We covered all of the trails except for a few small places in the Lake Room. Jerry said we covered 900 ft. of passageway in the caverns. We also placed gravel outside from the back door up the slope to the top and in the area starting back to the Cave House. We started at 11:00 am. and finished at 7:00 pm. We greatly improved the safety of the visitors who walk through the cave.



Our Gang

Tri-State Grotto won the Gravel Change. Jerry ran out of gravel before we ran out of steam.

Our attendance included: Ehren Gieske, Bob Bennett, Chris Wootten, Tyler Wootten, Johnathan Wootten, Bernie Wootten, Sean Wootten, Abigail Wootten, Jerry Downs, Josh Norris, Mike Callaway and me, John DiCarlo.

John DiCarlo, N.S.S. # 25744



Formations in Paxtons Cave

03/29/2008 Royston's Cave *Greg McCoy*

On Saturday March 29, 2008 Janet Tinkham, Nuch Songsason, Bob Grey, Jeff Jahn, Lauren Rexford, Marie Everhart and Greg McCoy visited Royston's Cave. Royston's entrance is a 40 foot vertical that can be free climbed with a belay. The intent of the trip was to see the large drapery that Royston's is famous for and to get a little vertical practice in the process.

The cave has many decorations including the small drapery in the front part of the cave and the massive drapery in the back, and deep rim stone dams. Marie and Lauren pushed a small lead on the right trending down from the drapery room. Above the flowstone ledge in the drapery room were two small clusters of little brown bats. Short trip, some vertical, lots of decorations and a massive drapery.

04/13/2008 Front Royal Caverns *Greg McCoy*

On Sunday April 13, 2008, Marie Everhart, Carol Tideman and Craig Hindman, Lauren Rexford and Greg McCoy joined Janet Tinkham and Keith Christensen do a bat count at Front Royal Caverns in preparation for the pending gate repairs. Keith was accompanied by his 6 year old son Connor. The bat count turned up 39 Eastern Pipistrell bats and 3 little brown bats. Connor had a great time caving and helping Marie, Greg, Lauren, Janet and Carol check out every little cranny for bats. Keith tested the temperature at various locations to determine if Front Royal Caverns is a possible location to foster a large bat population. The outcome of the survey revealed two problems: The top part of the cave is too warm to support bat hibernation while the lower part of the cave where the temperatures are cooler is prone to flooding. With regard to the gate, we decided to repair and complete the gate to restrict human access with no additional action to make the gate more bat friendly. The gate repairs are expected to take less than a day to complete including an improved human gate allowing easier access and a hand rail along the slope into the sink below the gate. Warren County may use the cave for

cave / karst / groundwater education and the handrail will facilitate access into the sink. A clean up of the sink, cave and surrounding property will accompany the gating project scheduled for June 2008.

04/26/2008 Corkscrew Cave *Greg McCoy*

On April 26, 2008 Nikki Fox, Chris Coats, Kurt Waldren, Carl Amundson, Terry Mcclanathan, Brian Masney, Larry Hogston and Greg McCoy visited Corkscrew Cave in Tazewell County Virginia. The trip was a sport and photography trip. Corkscrew is home to Champaign Pit. We all arrived (most of us) at the meeting place on time and traveled to the cave. The land owner was gone on Farm Business and his wife greeted us then allowed us to drive across the property to a location near the cave.

We first went looking for Hidden Cave located on the same property but no luck renaming it "Found Cave." In the process of looking for Hidden Cave without directions Terry and Larry found a patch of Morel mushrooms. Terry picked some on his way back to the vehicles. We geared up for Corkscrew while Terry and Larry geared up for Morel mushroom hunting. Terry told us that he would follow us into the cave after he picked mushrooms. We caved through the Easy Upper Series to the main pit and rigged the rope. Terry was with us when we were ready to descend. We staged up at the bottom and prepared to tandem out while Brian Masney set up the camera to photograph the pit. Carl and Kurt went out first followed by Nikki and Chris. Nikki carried the flash unit and intermittently lit the pit during the climb out. Next Brian took all the camera gear and ascended the pit to set up the camera on the top looking down. Next Terry and Greg climbed out carrying a flash unit to provide intermittent light on the way out. Great Pit, Good Team, Lots of Fun.





SAVIN CALENDAR

MAY 11TH - JUNE 21ST



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 11 	May 12	May 13	May 14 Grotto Meeting 7pm	May 15	May 16 Spring MAR - Hazelton, WV	May 17 MAR ARMED FORCES DAY
May 18	May 19	May 20	May 21	May 22 DAY OF PRAYER	May 23 KY SPELEOFEST LONE STAR PRESERVE BUBBLE WEEKEND Scott Hollow - see Jerry	May 24 BUBBLE WEEKEND KY SPELEOFEST
May 25 KY SPELEOFEST BUBBLE WEEKEND	May 26 MEMORIAL DAY BUBBLE WEEKEND KY SPELEOFEST	May 27	May 28	May 29	May 30	May 31 DONALDSON CAVE CLEANUP 11AM
Jun 1	Jun 2	Jun 3	Jun 4	Jun 5 SERA / VAR BRISTOL, TN	Jun 6 SERA / VAR	Jun 7 SERA / VAR
Jun 8 SERA / VAR	Jun 9	Jun 10	Jun 11 GROTTTO MEETING 7PM	Jun 12	Jun 13	Jun 14 FLAG DAY
Jun 15 FATHER'S DAY	Jun 16	Jun 17	Jun 18	Jun 19	Jun 20 WW DAY 	Jun 21

DEAD DOG DISPATCH



Gypsum in Paxtons

1- GREENBRIER CO

2- THE GRAVEL CHALLENGE

3- NE CAVE CONSERVANCY RE-OPENS GAVES

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TRI-STATE GROTTO OF THE NSS

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