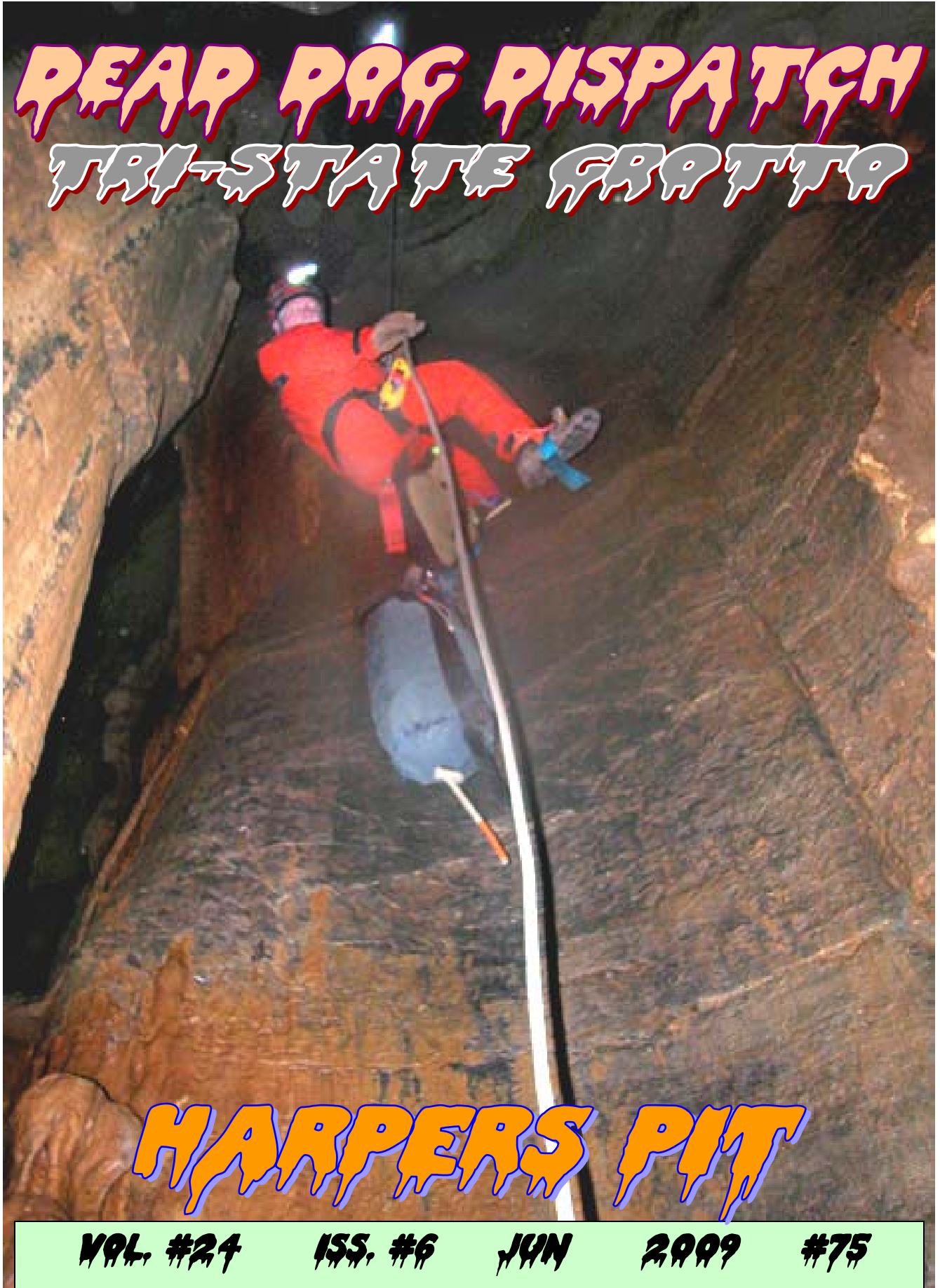
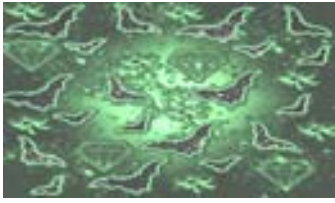


DEAR DAG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



HARPERS PIT

VOL. #24 ISS. #6 JUN 2009 #75



(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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The **DEAD DOG DISPATCH** is a NON-PROFIT monthly newsletter published by the TRI-STATE GROTTTO of the NSS. SUBSCRIPTION RATES are \$12.00 per year to SUBSCRIBING MEMBERS, and FREE with FULL and ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS to the TRI-STATE GROTTTO.

*** The photo on the cover shows a lava tube in California. It's name, of course, is Lava Tube...
The photo was taken by Ehren Gieske.

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

**** 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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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!

TRI-STATE GROTTTO MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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



CAVING EVENTS

2009

- JUN 5-7 ----- Bubble Weekend
- JUN 10 ----- Grotto Meeting – 7pm
- JUN 14 ----- FLAG DAY**
- JUN 20 ----- WV Day**
- JUN 21 ----- FATHER’S DAY**
- JUN 21 ----- SUMMER SOLSTICE**
- JUN 25-28 -- Karst-O-Rama – Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve - KY
- JUL 4 ----- INDEPENDENCE DAY**
- JUL 8 ----- Grotto Meeting – 7pm
- JUL 11 ----- Grotto Picnic – Crystal Grottoes – 12pm
- JUL 19-26 --- NSS Convention, Kerryville, TX**
- AUG 12 ----- Grotto Meeting – 7 PM
- AUG 14-16-- Indiana Cave Capers – Camp Riverdale, Mitchell, IN
- SEP 3-7 ----- OTR!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**
- SEP 5 ----- POLYESTER POWER HOUR
- SEP 5 ----- DOO DAH PARADE
- SEP 7 ----- LABOR DAY**
- SEP 9 ----- GROTTO MEETING – 7PM
- SEP 11 ----- PATRIOT DAY**
- SEP 22 ----- AUTUMN EQUINOX**
- SEP 25-27 --- Fall VAR at Battle of Cedar Creek Campground – Middletown, VA – Sponsored by BATS & DINGO**
- OCT 12 ----- COLUMBUS DAY**
- OCT 14 ----- GROTTO MEETING – 7PM**
- OCT 17 ----- BRIDGE DAY**
- OCT 31 ----- ALL HALLOWS DAY**

2010

- MAY 21-23 --- Spring VAR sponsored by Bubble Cave LLC**
- JUL 12-17 ----- NSS Convention, Essex Jnctn, VT**

2011

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

2012

- JUN 25-30 -----NSS Convention, Lewisburg, WV**

***** 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 May----- **\$20.00**

TOTAL TO DATE: --- \$4547.00

Keep It Coming!

GROTTO LINKS

- Tri-State Grotto website ----- www.wobey.net/TSG
- VAR website ----- www.varegion.org
- NSS website ----- www.caves.org
- NSS Convention 2009 ----- <http://www.ics2009.us/>
- 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
- Bob’s Web Site ----- www.wobey.net/TSG/Bob/
- 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/
- 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
- WNS -- <http://www.caves.org/WNS/WNS%20Info.htm>
- Containment Procedures -----
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/whitenosemessage.html>

GROTTO BIRTHDAYS

MONTH OF JUNE

Bob Bennett, Gordon Birkhimer, Andrew Celmer, Anya Crane, Mike Eppley, Vik Garg, Stephen Jefferson, Jimmy Kackley, Miranda Kackley, Joey Reeves, Chuck Stanley, Bill Vis, Bernie Wootten, Jonathan Wootten

It seems that June 6th is a very popular day with 4 birthdays!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

CAVING NEWS

WNS!!!

WNS!!!

Of course, everything is WNS related right now. There are many links and articles on the web right now stating facts and what to do.

Here are a few links the read up on WNS and keep up on the developing news:

NSS Page

<http://www.caves.org/WNS/index.htm>

WNS Donation Page

http://www.caves.org/WNS/Rapid_Response.shtml

US Forest Caves Closure

http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/docs/apr_2009_caves_closed/closure_order.pdf

US Fish & Wildlife Advisory

http://www.caves.org/WNS/USFWS-WNS_cave_advisory_news_rls_2009-03-26_final-1.pdf

WNS Research

<http://www.caves.org/WNS/WNS2009research.pdf>

D-Con Procedures

<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/whitenosemessage.html>

The testimony on WNS before the joint sub-committee video

http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/index.php?option=com_jcalpro&Itemid=27&extmode=view&extid=259

Subcommittee on WNS hearing NSS web page

<http://caves.org/WNS/Hearing%20on%20WNS.htm>

Pa. orders all rescued bats to be destroyed

Inquirer Harrisburg Bureau

Posted on Mon, Jun. 8, 2009

Seeking to halt the spread of a disease ravaging bat populations in the Northeast, the Pennsylvania Game Commission laid down the law: All bats collected by wildlife rescuers - regardless of whether they were sick or injured - would have to be euthanized.

The order, issued in response to white-nose syndrome, a highly contagious fungal disease, came just before the busy spring season when baby bats take flight. It has angered bat advocates, who consider the Game Commission's response extreme.

"It's a draconian approach," said Laura Flandreau, a volunteer from Chestnut Hill who launched a petition drive urging Gov. Rendell to persuade the commission to lift the ban. She says none of the other eight states where the disease has been found has banned rescue and release efforts. In New Jersey, she said, efforts are under way to treat infected bats in a research facility.

But Game Commission officials say they issued the bat-release ban to protect thousands of bats from the fatal and, so far, untreatable disorder.

"Given that white-nose syndrome has claimed thousands of bats, if a sick or injured bat is

released, it would be adding to the problem," commission spokesman Jerry Feaser said.

Concern about the economic and health costs of this fast-spreading disease prompted congressional hearings Thursday to explore the public-health, environmental, and economic implications of white-nose syndrome. The disease, which so far is found only in cave bats, has turned up in states from New Hampshire to West Virginia, decimating colonies in some areas.

Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D., Guam), a member of the House subcommittee on national parks, forests and public lands, said Thursday that, left unchecked, white-nose syndrome could bring economic and ecological disaster, given the vital role hungry bats play in curbing disease-carrying insects.

"Bats are nature's best control of insect populations, as a single bat can eat its entire weight in insects in one night," Bordallo said in a statement. "Their decline will likely have far-reaching ramifications for both agriculture and public health."

<http://www.printthis.clickability.com/pt/cpt?action=cpt&title=Pa.+orders+all+rescued+bats...>
6/8/2009

Lisa Williams, a Game Commission biologist, said the reasons for the Pennsylvania order were many: The disease is difficult to recognize; there are no test, no treatment, and no cure; and it has spread from one bat species to another.

"We are trying to slow the spreading of a disease that has been leapfrogging down the Appalachian range," she said.

The disease is still confined in Pennsylvania to four counties: Lackawanna, Luzerne, Centre, and Mifflin.

In New Jersey, volunteers are being sought to count the state's bats this summer. The Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey, which is

organizing the census, says the count is crucial to determine how many bats have died from the disease.

Pennsylvania and New Jersey are among 12 states that will share in \$1.4 million from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to study the disease, which has killed record numbers of bats in New England since 2006, in some cases wiping out 90 percent of the population colonies. The first bats tested positive for white-nose syndrome in Pennsylvania in January, and a month later dead bats were turning up by the hundreds in Lackawanna County. The goal of the research, say Game Commission officials, is to find the cause, and determine how it spreads and whether it can be contained.

Members of the small bat rehabilitation community - eight people in all, licensed through the Game Commission - say the commission's euthanasia order does not consider differences in species or the threat that killing the animals could pose. Tree bats, for instance, are not known to have the disease, and other species, such as the Indiana bat, are endangered.

"I don't think it's a good idea," said Deb Welter, a licensed bat rehabilitator who runs the Diamond Rock Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic in Malvern. "We are the bats' best chance, and the bats we take in are not implicated in white-nose."

Game Commission officials, who have instructed the rehabilitators to euthanize the bats and ship them to Harrisburg for study, say some bats will have to be sacrificed to help find a cure.

Contact staff writer Amy Worden at 717-783-2584 or aworden@phillynews.com.

Find this article at:

http://www.philly.com/inquirer/local/pa/20090608_Pa_orders_all_rescued_bats_to_be_destroyed.html

Pink Helectite Cave

Entrance Sinkhole Clean Up and Cookout

Subject: (GVKS) - Sinkhole Cleanup during OTR

Date: Tuesday, June 2, 2009, 9:15 AM

Looking for something productive and satisfying to do during OTR to fill the void left by voluntary and mandatory cave closures due to white nose syndrome? The Mountain State Grotto offers a worthy event: Pink Helectite Cave entrance sinkhole clean-up and cookout!

Please join us on Friday September 4th, 2009, from 9 am until 4 pm. We'll meet at the OTR site entrance gate at 9 am, and caravan for the 45-minute trip to the site in northern Pocahontas County, a few miles northwest of Durbin. Pink Helectite Cave is located on State secondary route 250/1, about two miles north of U.S. Route 250, west outside of Durbin.

Trash bags, gloves, a delicious lunch and drinks will be provided. Wear sturdy shoes, and bring your best bag that trash enthusiasm!

Pink Helectite Cave has its entrance at the base of sinkhole adjacent to route 250/1. It had been used as a dump for many years. Water enters the cave from a spring that pours over the limestone cliff on one side of the sinkhole, and an overland run off that passes through the household trash-laden sinkhole, carrying pollutants into the area's karst groundwater system. The objective is to remove this source of groundwater pollution.

The Mountain State Grotto identified the trash problem and worked with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's Land Restoration group, and many tons of the largest and most obnoxious trash was removed via a contractor. Members of the Grotto found, however, that much household trash remained buried in the sinkhole, probably by sediment carried into the sinkhole during the many years that the secondary road ditch led into the sinkhole. The road ditch and easy vehicular

access to the sinkhole were cut off, and Mountain State Grotto members commenced to finish the clean up.

Four trash pick-up sessions removing more than 2.5 tons of garbage have gotten the bulk of the remaining trash, but to rid the sinkhole of the source of groundwater pollution, more trash removal is necessary. With the help of many hands, we hope to reach clean, natural ground soon.

If you want more information, or want to help, contact Linda Tracy at 304-636-1800, extension. 275 (daytime), or 304-636-8328 (evenings).





SAVIN CALENDAR

JUNE 7TH - JULY 18TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jun 7 Bubble Weekend	Jun 8	Jun 9	Jun 10  Grotto meeting 7pm	Jun 11 GEPKS see Bob	Jun 12	Jun 13
Jun 14  FLAG DAY	Jun 15	Jun 16	Jun 17	Jun 18	Jun 19	Jun 20 WV DAY
Jun 21 FATHER'S DAY	Jun 22	Jun 23	Jun 24 GEPKS see Bob	Jun 25 Karst-O-Rama Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve, KY	Jun 26 Karst-O-Rama	Jun 27 Karst-O-Rama
Jun 28  SOLSTICE Karst-O-Rama	Jun 29	Jun 30	Jul 1	Jul 2	Jul 3	Jul 4  INDEPENDENCE DAY
Jul 5	Jul 6	Jul 7	Jul 8  Grotto meeting 7pm	Jul 9 GEPKS see Bob	Jul 10	Jul 11 Annual Grotto Picnic 12pm
Jul 12	Jul 13	Jul 14	Jul 15	Jul 16	Jul 17	Jul 18

DEAD DOG DISPATCH



WNS in Greeley Mine, PA

1- WNS WNS WNS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

2- PA ORDERS ALL RESCUED BATS DESTROYED!!!!

3- PINK HELECTITE GAVE SINKHOLE CLEANUP AT OTR

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

TRI-STATE GROTTO OF THE NSS

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