

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

TRI-STATE GRABTA



SALAMANDER IN SITES CAVE, WV

VOL. #25

ISS. #6

JUN

2010

#69



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

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or can be SENT TO:

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*** The photo on the cover was taken by Nikki Fox
in Sites Cave, Pendleton Co, WV..

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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.

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DEAD DOG DISPATCH **V.#25**

I.#6

JUN

2019

79

**** 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**
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WE NEED EVERYONE TO KEEP THINKING ABOUT
VOLUNTEERING FOR AN OPEN POSITION. WE
STILL NEED SOMEONE FOR THE FOLLOWING
POSITIONS:

PROGRAM CHAIR
MEMBER at LARGE

PLEASE GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT. WE NEED YOUR
SUPPORT!



CAVING EVENTS

2010

2011

JUN 9 ----- TSG Grotto Meeting 7pm
 JUN 11-13 - BUBBLE CAVE WEEKEND
 JUN 14 ----- FLAG DAY
 JUN 15 ----- Deadline for registration discount for NSS Convention
 JUN 17-20 - SERA Cave Carnival, Monteagle, TN
 JUN 19 ----- Adam Stephen Dig - 9am
JUN 20 ----- FATHER'S DAY
 JUN 20 ----- WV DAY
 JUN 20 ----- Ft Royal Grotto Picnic
JUN 21 ----- SUMMER SOLSTICE
 JUN 25-27 -- Indiana Cave Capers
JUL 4 ----- INDEPENDENCE DAY
 JUL 14 ----- TSG Grotto Meeting 7pm
 JUL 17 ----- Annual Grotto Picnic at Crystal Grottoes - 12pm
 JUL 25 ----- PARENT'S DAY
AUG 2-6 -- NSS Convention, Essex Jcnctn, VT
 AUG 11 ---- TSG Grotto Meeting 7pm

SEP 2-6 ---- OTR

SEP 6 ----- LABOR DAY
 SEP 8 ----- TSG Grotto Meeting 7pm
SEP 11 ----- Fall Bash at Fisher's Landing
SEP 11 ----- PATRIOT'S DAY
 SEP 12 ----- Grand Parent's Day
SEP 23 ----- AUTUMN EQUINOX
 OCT 7-10 - Fall TAG Cave-In, Lookout Mt, TN
 OCT 11 ---- COLUMBUS DAY
 OCT 13 ---- TSG Grotto Meeting 7pm
 OCT 15-17 - Youth Restoration Camp - see Bob
 OCT 16 ----- Bridge Day
OCT 31 ----- ALL HALLOW EVE
 NOV 2 ----- ELECTION DAY
NOV 7 ----- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS
 NOV 10 ---- TSG Grotto Meeting 7pm
 NOV 11 ---- VETERAN'S DAY
 NOV 13 ---- SADIE HAWKIN'S DAY
NOV 25 ---- THANKSGIVING
NOV 26 ---- BLACK FRIDAY
 DEC 8 ----- Wrap Presents for Red Cross 6pm
DEC 11 ---- ANNUAL TSG CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION at Bob & Paulette's home 6pm
 DEC 12 ----- Christmas caving
DEC 21 ---- WINTER SOLSTICE
DEC 24 ---- CHRISTMAS EVE
DEC 25 ---- CHRISTMAS DAY
DEC 31 ---- NEW YEAR'S EVE

AUG 2-6 ---- 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 ----- **\$14.00**

TOTAL TO DATE: --- \$4766.00

Keep It Coming!

WEBSITE & CAVING LINKS

Tri-State Grotto ----- www.tristategrotto.net/
 VAR ----- www.varegion.org/
 NSS ----- www.caves.org/
 NSS Convention 2010 ----- <http://www.ics2009.us/>
 OTR ----- www.otr.org/
 MAR ----- www.caves.org/region/mar/
 WVCC ----- www.wvcc.net/
 Andy Celmer ----- www.tristategrotto.net/Andy/
 Bob's Web Site ----- www.tristategrotto.net/Bob/
 Ehren Gieske ----- www.tristategrotto.net/Ehren/
 Jerry's Cave Web Site ----- <http://www.caves.org/member/jerry/>
 Vitas Eidukevicius ---- www.tristategrotto.net/Vitas/
 David Hackley's Web Site ----- <http://s180.photobucket.com/albums/x307/clearsig/>
 Todd Roberts ----- http://s63.photobucket.com/albums/h143/Todd_05/
 Bob Gulden ----- www.caverbob.com/home.htm/
 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/

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

V. #25

I. #6

JUN

2010

71

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/>
Crystal Grottoes Caverns -----
www.crystalgrottoescaverns.com



MONTH OF JUNE

Alexandra Bealieu, Bob Bennett, Andrew Celmer, Mike Eppley, Stephen Jefferson, Ryan Schulz, Bill Vis, Bernie Wootten, Jonathan Wootten

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



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_closure/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>
Geomyces in cave sediments
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/whitenose/PDF/WHB2009-03WNSFinal.pdf>
Geomyces in France
http://www.fws.gov/northeast/white_nose.html
WNS in Hell Hole
<http://wvgazette.com/News/201003070443>

Tri-State Grotto Meeting 5-12-2010

Chair Bernie Wootten started the meeting at 7:00 pm. 15 people were present.

Jerry Bowen gave the treasurer's report. It was moved, seconded and passed.

SCC thanked us for our **Cave Bucks** donation.

The minutes were moved, seconded and passed.

John talked about the T-Shirt order.

New business.

Jerry Bowen talked about and showed us the guidebook for the **VAR**. Lots of maps were passed around. 223 people pre-registered for **VAR**.

Bob Bennett talked about the **Adam Stephen Tunnel** tours.

Cory Hackley talked about a dig in **Crystal Grottoes Caverns** near the back door. Also, he talked about another dig in a sinkhole.

There was a discussion on **NSS** membership.

Jerry Bowen talked about a trip to **Jones Quarry Cave**.

Bernie talked about going to **Whitings Neck Cave**. The ladder had already been changed and they pulled out the old ladder and cleaned graffiti.

Bernie talked about Ryan's funeral.

Cory talked about a trip to **Scott Hollow**.

Bob talked about the closing of **Scherr Crystal Cave**. He also spoke about **Cassel Pit**, **Carpenters Pit** and some other caves.

We talked about **WNS**.

The Saturday dig at McDonalds Farm this weekend has been postponed.

Bubble weekend will be the 11-12-13 of June.

July 17 – Tri-State Grotto picnic at **Crystal Grottoes Caverns**.

The weekend after OTR, September 11, will be the Fall Bash.

\$14 was collected for Cave Bucks and will be sent to **WVCC**.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm

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

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

V. #25

I. #6

JUN

2010

73

TAG'S Newest Hundred Footer and Other Adventures

Terry McClanathan

While historically TAG has been synonymous with deep pits, things have been pretty quiet down there over the past decade. I don't think there have been a dozen new hundred footers found in that span. At least six of the new ones have been through the efforts of perennial vertical U. S. caving guru, Marion O. Smith. By contrast, within the same time frame, West Virginia's Germany Valley caves have seen a rash of exploration yielding many miles of new survey and over twenty new pits or domes in excess of a hundred feet deep or high. And, another big plus, only a three hour drive and all short walks to the entrances.

Still, when TAG beckons, I answer. Around Easter Marion called to tell me he and some others had just found a new hundred footer by traversing around a pit in a known cave. I was interested, of course, but at the time had other caving plans in West Virginia. About a month after that Marion called again to inform me that he had just found a virgin cave with a thirtyish foot pit inside. There was a deeper pit beyond this which would require some bolting to assure a safe descent. He wanted to know if I'd set some bolts for him in the new cave. As incentive, the new hundred footer was not far away, so he could take me there. Well, dangling the new hundred footer pretty much sealed the deal, so on the night of April 23rd I soloed the 600 miles to his house, arriving around daybreak on the 24th.

Since his retirement a few years ago from his position as historical researcher for the University of Tennessee, Marion has been scouring the hills daily around his home in cave-rich central Tennessee for new caves. He lives within twenty miles of almost two thousand known caves covering a three county area, but he still manages to make many new discoveries. He

told me he had recently turned in about 200 additions to the TCS that he'd found in the last few years. Not surprisingly, many of these had been digs. He said he averages one "real" cave for every fifty nerd-holes. Make no mistake, many of Marion's "nerd-holes" would be considered decent finds in Pennsylvania or Maryland.

Marion informed me that we would be accessing three different caves from our one parking spot, with a total hike of about two miles. Our first objective would be the cave he had just found. He called it Larry Gerlock Cave. He's been naming his most recent discoveries alphabetically after folks who were in his high school graduation class (yes, most of us would not remember after nearly fifty years, but Marion is a meticulous record keeper). On his earlier trip Marion had dropped the shallow pit that was just inside the entrance. We used a long rope tied outside the entrance as a safety line to traverse around this pit. Beyond this, breakdown continued steeply upslope to the unplumbed pit. Rock drops suggested perhaps something in the sixty foot range, but some of the tosses seemed to go deeper. Contact caves are notorious for breakdown, and of course, breakdown in virgin cave always requires extra caution. Things just tend to move around a lot with those first boot prints.

The soon to be conquered pit was actually sizable at the top, but a car sized slab of sloping breakdown spanned much of its diameter. A crack just large enough to allow a caver to slip between the wall and the slab provided the only feasible rig point. A waterfall could be heard whispering from the depths below.

Hartselle contact caves are also known for bad rock. Here the Hartselle consisted of friable sandstone. The first good rock was actually in the aforementioned crack. Setting bolts was laborious due to minimal swing room for the hammer and an awkward position where I'd attached myself to the end of the belay line as a

safety while working over top of the drop. I took over half an hour to set two bolts which I then rigged with a Y-hang. We also tied into the belay line as a back-up. Marion even had a brand new rope for the occasion. It made for a nice rappel. After a couple of ledges which I cleared near the top, the drop was free. We taped it at 67', and it ranged from 10-15 feet in cross-section. About half way down it intersected a large canyon. A waterfall was cascading from the wall of the canyon into a second pit. Beyond this was a breakdown bridge and what appeared to be a third pit. The cave was getting interesting.

A climb down, followed by a steep slope covered with small loose boulders, led to the second pit. We used the excess from Marion's new rope to traverse around the left wall. From the top, this pit appeared to be dead bottom. Our immediate goal became the third pit past the breakdown bridge. The lip of this pit was also well guarded with breakdown, so I chimneyed up to place a bolt high above the scary stuff. We backed up by tying into the end of Marion's 150. The third pit was not very deep. We taped it at 29'. It dropped into a large deepened end of the canyon. A small waterfall issued from the far end of this and drained into a meandering fissure passage. A second lead near the rope landing proved to be a climb down into a small dome room perhaps twelve feet high with no passable outlet. While I looked at this, Marion started into the fissure passage, staying high where it was possible to traverse along on ledges. The bottom of the fissure was tight for about thirty feet but then it opened up. The stream was about 15 feet below. The walls belled somewhat with no handy ledges for purchase. Marion was not comfortable with the climb down, and even less sure of the climb back out if he did get down.

Beyond the wide spot the top of the canyon appeared to be blocked by small breakdown. The drop to the stream appeared to be pretty dicey, but when I checked it out I found that the walls were kind of velcro-like, making for a not too difficult friction chimney. The main fissure

pinched off almost immediately, but the stream took a left turn under a low ledge. I maneuvered my way into this and could stay on chert ledges for a couple of body lengths before things got nasty. The passage seemed to continue around a bend, but further progress would require a complete soaking in the constricted stream crawl. I could detect a minimum of airflow. Neither Marion nor I were dressed for this type of caving. Outside it was stormy and cool and we still had a lot of hiking and two other caves to visit. I did not relish spending the rest of the day soaking wet and cold. I suggested that Marion return with some young thin stalwarts to push the wet lead. We dropped the middle pit which we had already traversed around. It also taped at 29 feet, and, as predicted, was dead bottom. Except for taping the three drops, we did no actual survey and exited the cave after five hours of exploration.

Once back outside we took a circuitous route to our next objective about a mile away. We dodged in and out of thunderstorms, and after some floundering on the hillside Marion located the entrance to a long known pit called Well of Souls. It taped at 89' and was pretty nice. Our last stop was the promised new hundred footer. It is in a known cave called Earth Day. It has a large scenic entrance backed up at the edge of a big sink. It was originally thought to end a little beyond the drip line in a semi-pit of about 30 feet when Marion went there the month before. At that time he was accompanied by Andy Zellner and Philip Rykwald. Andy led a traverse over high ledges, bypassing the 30 foot pit, to discover going cave at the top. A breakdown filled passage led to the top of the deep pit. Marion said they had already taped the drop at 100.1 feet but he wanted to re-check it since he wasn't exactly sure where Andy had placed the tape at the top. I suggested we let it go as originally taped(I certainly did not want a repeat of Ross Reason, which is a long-known Tennessee hundred footer that Marion had recently re-measured at 95', forcing me to lose a hundred footer and re-adjust my master list).

Marion prevailed, though, and our second taping turned out to be 100.2' so all was well. It was a shear clean drop, averaging about 10-20 feet in elongated profile. Not a bad pit at all for #543 on my personal hundred foot pit list.

There wasn't much else to the cave. We each bounced a 33 footer which we had to traverse around to reach the deep pit. It was about dark by the time we made it back to Marion's truck. Next day we spent in a cave I'd been two years before, with Marion giving me a tour of some of the internal pits. Finally the 600 mile drive back to MD on Sunday evening. A few nice pits, some virgin cave, and a new hundred footer..... All in all a productive weekend. As always, many thanks to Marion and Sharon for their hospitality.

Spring 2010 VAR

By John Di Carlo

Lewisburg, WV - I went to the Spring 2010 VAR, May 21-22-23, in Lewisburg, WV. The VAR was at the WV State Fairgrounds. It was easy to find and we had a lot of room. I had pre-registered so check-in went fast. I quickly found Bob Bennett and Jerry Bowen. I set up camp by parking my van. Bob and Jerry set up a Tri-State Grotto Banner. As they checked in, other Tri-State Grotto members joined us.

Right before 10:00 pm we headed up to the dining tent to see what trips we could get in on. At 10:00 John Pearson came up and asked everyone to pick up their cups and other things off the tables. Of course everyone did. John pulled the tablecloths off the tables and there were the trip sign up sheets taped to the tables. There was a mad scramble as people tried to find the trips they wanted and get signed up for them. The trip Bob Bennett led to Poorfarm Cave filled up the fastest. Alex Beaulieu, Tanner Haid and I had signed up to go to Scott Hollow.

At 9:00 am on Saturday, we meet up with Sally Chappel, Wes Chappel and Ellen Hofler. After getting several directions to the cave we set off. As we went over a mountaintop we ran into rain. What did we care, we were going underground!

As we suited up we were joined by John ? and another lady who seemed to have a connection to the cave. Our guide was Mike ? Not Mike Dorn the owner of the cave.

Suiting up we went into the building. A round section was pulled out of the floor exposing a 50-foot metal drainage pipe standing on its end. It had rebar treaded through holes for steps. It almost reached the bottom of the drop. As you exited it you had to climb down the rest of the way on rock. We waited here as the rest of our party climbed down. Regrouping we followed Mike down the slope.



We were going downhill steadily. Traveling through nice size passage, we were walking most of the time. There were climb-downs and climb-ups. We had a small stream in the passage with us, Mastodon River. It did get bigger the deeper we went.

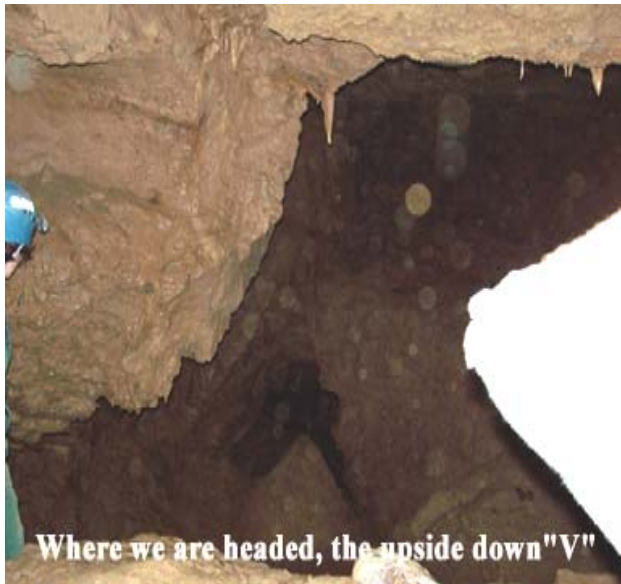


Somewhere at this point I slipped and laid down in it. As I returned to my feet, my back was soaked. Tanner offered me a dry shirt. I declined. A few minutes before I had said that I was hot, and this felt good. I had expected to come out of the cave soaked.



At one point there was a choice: crawl for 120 feet, or the choice some of us took, which was bypass it and climb up a rope that had foot-holds, slide along an exposed ledge, then climb up a tight pit. Turning right we followed through portholes and larger passage.

We climbed up out of a hole to a flat rock and looked down stream to an upside down V, which is where we were headed.



Two hours of climbing downhill and we popped out into Mystic River at the bottom. Here Mike said, "This is not a large room but the River passage." It had 80 to 100 foot ceilings. It was sixty feet wide and more at places.

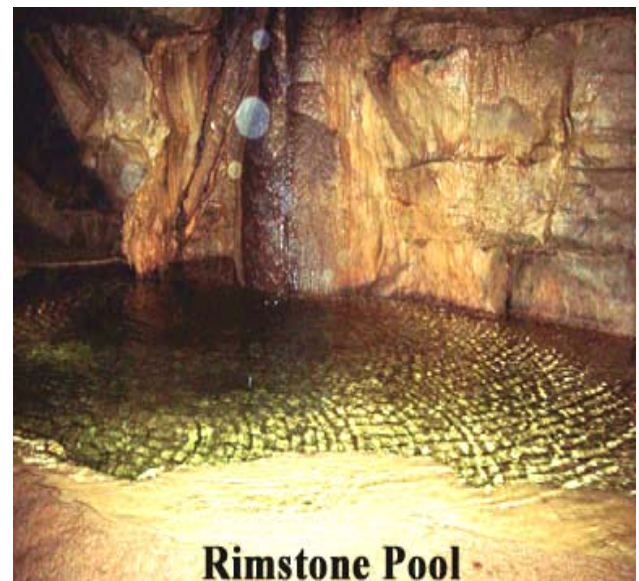


Here we met back up with Alex and Tanner. They had chosen the 120-foot crawl instead of the climb-over.

We crossed over Mystic River several times on our trip. We had to watch where we were going, as there were deep spots and we could go in over our heads.

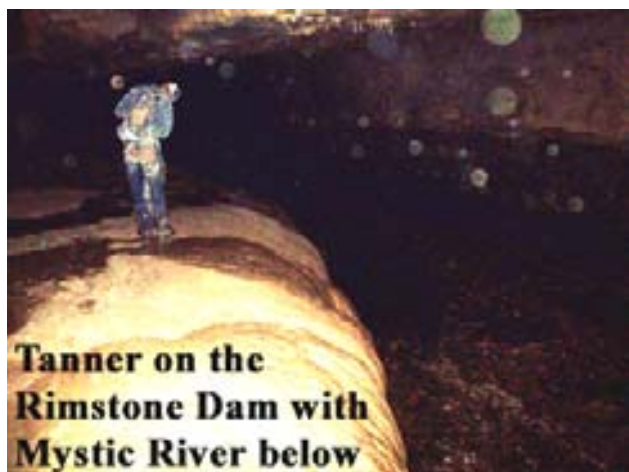


We came upon my favorite feature in the cave, at least on this trip. It was a waterfall on the left wall. It had a huge pool and even larger Rimstone dam. The water ran down the wall and had built out a round column there. It hit the pool and sent waves out in a circular pattern. It was beautiful.



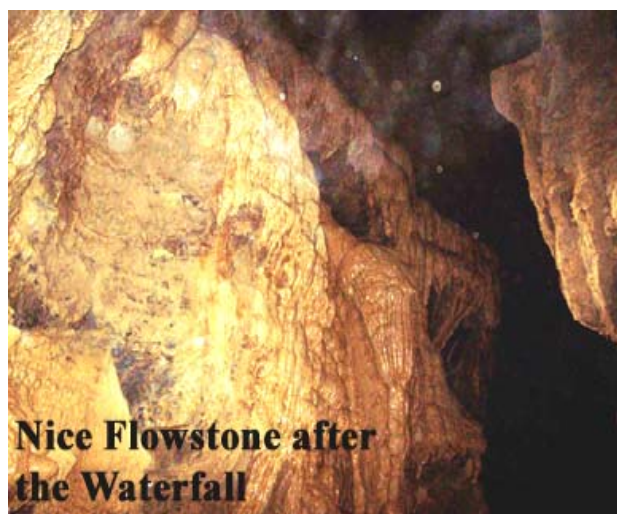


Looking into the Rimstone Pool



Tanner on the Rimstone Dam with Mystic River below

After taking several pictures here our group continued downstream. We came to some nice flowstone on the left wall.

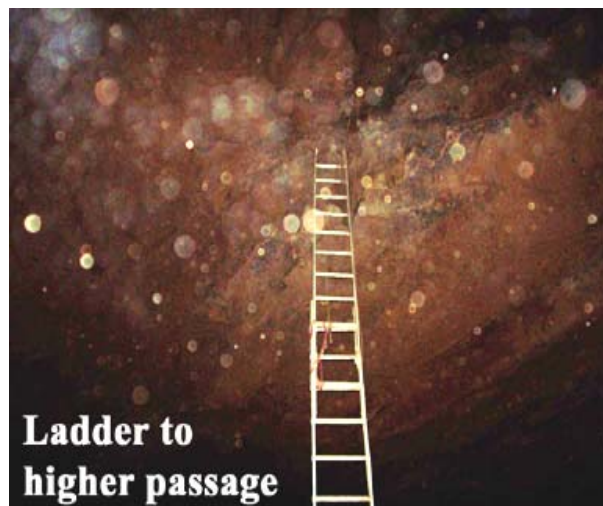


Nice Flowstone after the Waterfall

Next we came upon the ladder. It had a stone and mortar base to try to get a longer reach with the ladder. They were trying to improve the access to a hole up in the ceiling. Even with the ladder you still have to climb some rope at the top. Mike told us that was the longest ladder they could get into the cave. They had to bend a rung a little to get it through the bottom of the pipe. We did not go up the ladder on this trip.



Ellen Hoßler next to the cement & stone ladder base



Ladder to higher passage

We did go downstream from here. We stopped at the sump. It had a large pool that was still. Mike said that at certain times of the year, frogs and turtles would group on a sandbar in the middle of the pool.



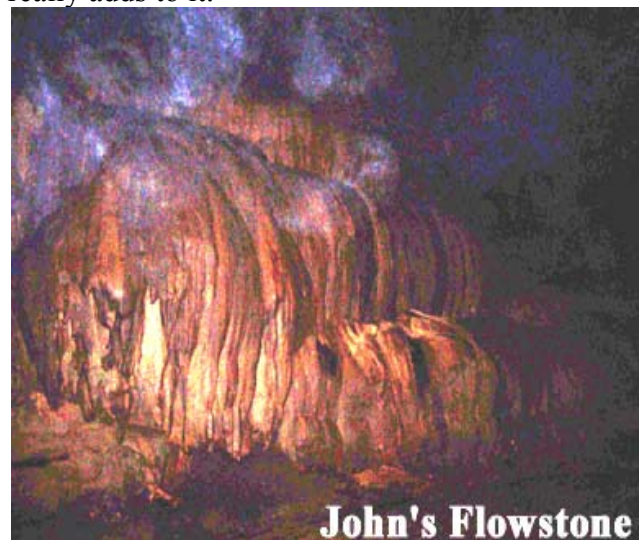
Our tour turned here and headed back upstream. We passed the ladder and we passed the waterfall. As we reached the intersection of Mastodon and Mystic Rivers, we stopped to give our group a rest. Several people took the opportunity to change the batteries in their helmets.



Now heading upstream we were in and out of Mystic River. We were climbing over things and ducking under things. There was a spot where we had to walk knee deep in the river. The river bottom here was covered in soft clay. It was very slick. We could see a drop off under water, and that we were beside a deep pool. The bottom was full of pits that we would slide down into. Of course the first person stirred up the bottom so we could not see through the water. We climbed up a slick bank and went through a hole.



Finally, we came to John's Flowstone. It was massive. There were several terraces over 10 feet high. In some places it was 35 feet from the top of the flowstone to the floor. It looked great. We stopped here and took a lot of pictures. If you are reading this in black and white, go online and look at the Dead Dog Dispatch in color. It really adds to it.



This was our turn around point. After everyone was finished looking, our group headed back downstream. When we were crossing through the water where the slick clay was, my foot slid down into one of the deep holes and I fell to my hands and knees. I popped back up quick. I had my camera in a non-waterproof case under my shirt. I was hoping that it wouldn't get wet. When I checked it, there wasn't a drop on the camera. The case did get wet, so I got lucky here. Making it back to the intersection of

Mastodon and Mystic Rivers, we headed back up.



This time all of us did the 120-foot crawl. We popped out and kept going. We turned into Paddy Lane and went up Drag Ass Hill. It was a good climb.



Part way up we ran into Mike Dorn, the owner of Scott Hollow Cave. We stopped to thank him for letting us into his cave. Really, it was a welcome break.



There was another group at the bottom of the pipe at the entrance. We had to wait while they climbed up. This is where our muscles started cramping. When it was my turn, I climbed out and saw that the sun was shining and the sky was blue. We caved the rain away.

People always ask, "Did you see or find anything in there?" Yes, besides all the formations, we saw a fish that Mike said was probably a bass, two bats – Pips with no sign of WNS, springtails, lots of black salamanders lying under the water, a crayfish, and some kind of fly-like insect flying around along Mystic River. Previously, Mike had found a Mastodon tooth in Mystic River. There had been others found there too. In the state of West Virginia, most of the Mastodon teeth that had been found were found in Scott Hollow Cave.

Heading back to camp we stopped at the decontamination building. Everyone was asked to dip their things and hose them off.

At 6:00 pm Tri-State Grotto headed over to dinner. We found out dinner was at 6:30. Well, we were there so we just started the line and sat there in our chairs waiting. One by one our chairs were set up across the road in the grass. We went right through the line and ate dinner as we watched everyone we knew make their way through the dinner line. The food was excellent. A big "Thank You" to Bob's Big Beef out of Berkeley Springs, WV for the meal. There was pulled pork, sliced beef and chicken. The next table down had all the trimmings, cole slaw, potato salad, toppings, desert and drinks. There was even a veggie dinner for those who are not meat-eaters. What more can you ask for?

Bubble Cave LLC did an outstanding job. This was a VAR to remember.



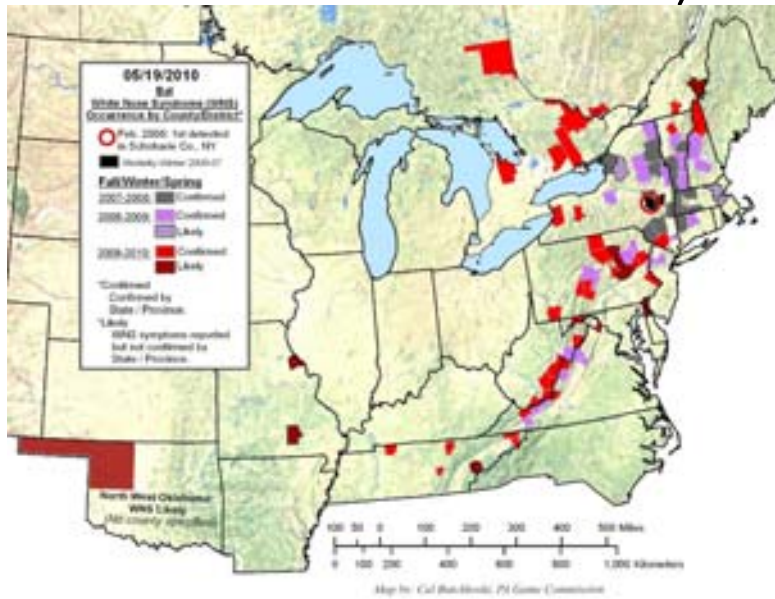
SAVVY CALENDAR

JUNE 6TH - JULY 17TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jun 6	Jun 7	Jun 8	Jun 9 Meeting 7pm	Jun 10	Jun 11 Bubble Weekend	Jun 12 Bubble Weekend
Jun 13 Bubble Weekend	Jun 14 FLAG DAY	Jun 15 Deadline for Registration for NSS Convention	Jun 16	Jun 17 SERA Cave Carnival Monteagle, TN	Jun 18 SERA Cave Carnival	Jun 19 SERA Cave Carnival Adam Stephen Dig 9am
Jun 20 FATHER'S DAY SERA Cave Carnival Ft Royal Grotto picnic 12pm	Jun 21 SOLSTICE	Jun 22	Jun 23	Jun 24	Jun 25 Indiana Cave Capers	Jun 26 Indiana Cave Capers
Jun 27 Indiana Cave Capers	Jun 28	Jun 29	Jun 30	Jul 1	Jul 2	Jul 3
Jul 4 Independence Day	Jul 5	Jul 6	Jul 7	Jul 8	Jul 9	Jul 10
Jul 11	Jul 12	Jul 13	Jul 14 Meeting 7pm	Jul 15	Jul 16	Jul 17 TSG Picnic 12 pm Crystal Grottoes Caverns

DEAD DOG DISPATCH



Updated WNS Map 5/10/10

1- NEW HUNDRED FOOTER!!!

2- SPRING VAR



DEAD DOG DISPATCH

TRI-STATE GROTTO OF THE NSS

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