

A photograph of a cave interior featuring numerous stalactites hanging from a rocky ceiling. The rock surface is textured and brownish, with some areas showing more crystalline structures. The lighting is somewhat dim, highlighting the textures of the cave walls and the hanging formations.

DEAR DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GRATTO

NEW CAVE IN GRANT CO, WV

VOL. #25

ISS. #3

MAR

2010

#29



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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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*** The photo on the cover was taken Bob Bennett in a new cave in Grant Co.

**** 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)

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

MAR 10 ----- TSG Grotto Meeting 7pm
MAR 13-14 - Carter Caves Restoration Camp
MAR 14 ----- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS
MAR 17 ----- ST PATRICK'S DAY
MAR 20 ----- SPRING EQUINOX
MAR 22 ----- WORLD WATER DAY
MAR 25 ----- MD DAY
MAR 27 ----- Check cave entrances-see Bob or Brent
APR 1 ----- ALL FOOL'S DAY
APR 2 ----- GOOD FRIDAY
APR 2-3 ---- Grand Caverns Restoration – Contact
Meredith Hall Weberg
APR 4 ----- EASTER
APR 14 ----- TSG Grotto Meeting 7pm
APR 15 ----- TAX DAY
APR 22 ----- EARTH DAY
APR 23----- ARBOR DAY
MAY 5 ----- CINCO de MAYO
MAY 6 ----- NATIONAL DAY of PRAYER
MAY 9 ----- MOTHER'S DAY
MAY 12 ---- TSG Grotto Meeting 7pm
MAY 15 ----- ARMED FORCES DAY
**MAY 21-23 - Spring VAR sponsored by Bubble
Cave LLC**
MAY 28-31 – Speleofest - KY
MAY 31 ---- MEMORIAL DAY
JUN 4-6 ---- BUBBLE CAVE WEEKEND
JUN 9 ----- TSG Grotto Meeting 7pm
JUN 14 ----- FLAG DAY
JUN 17-20 – SERA Cave Carnival, Monteagle, TN
JUN 20 ----- FATHER'S DAY
JUN 20 ----- WV DAY
JUN 21 ----- SUMMER SOLSTICE
JUL 4 ----- INDEPENDENCE DAY
JUL 17 ---- Annual Grotto Picnic – 12pm
JUL 14 ---- TSG Grotto Meeting 7pm
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 ----- PATRIOT'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 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 ---- ALLUAL 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

2011

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 February ----- \$25.00

TOTAL TO DATE: --- \$4648.00

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 -----

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----- <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/
 Nikki Fox -----
 ---- <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/>
 Crystal Grottoes Caverns -----
www.crystalgrottoescaverns.com



MONTH OF MARCH

Ehren Gieske, Allison Hazen, Ken
 Tayman, Sean 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

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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>



From: varlist Discussion List

[VARLIST@listserv.vt.edu] on behalf of Dave
 West [d270@BELLATLANTIC.NET]

Sent: Saturday, February 20, 2010 7:40 PM

To: VARLIST@LISTSERV.VT.EDU

Subject:[Fwd: Re: [DCG] Leesburg: Final vote
 expected on restrictions in limestone area]

Steve Stokowski

NSS 14425

Fellow, NSS

<<http://www.loudountimes.com/news/local/>>

By Crystal Owens

<<http://www.loudountimes.com/columnists/crystal-owens/>>

Source: Loudoun Times-Mirror

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 2010

For updates on this story, visit
www.loudountimes.com or see the Feb. 24 print
edition of the Loudoun Times-Mirror.

Loudoun County supervisors on Feb. 17 voted
to establish a Limestone Overlay
District in the northeastern portion of the county,
but vowed to continue talks on how to solve the
water problems associated with the area.

The purpose of establishing the district – which
includes 14,000 acres and about 1,200 property
owners – is to protect residents from sinkholes
and groundwater contamination caused by
limestone, according to county leaders.

The land is an area that's made up of porous
limestone that can cause sinkholes, under-ground
streams and caverns, according to county
documents.

Supervisors Eugene Delgaudio (R-Sterling) and
Lori Waters (R-Broad Run) voted against
establishing the district.

Delgaudio unsuccessfully attempted to get the
board to postpone the vote until an U.S.
Environmental Protection Agency study could be
completed that would provide information on the
water system in the Raspberry Falls subdivision.

Residents of Raspberry Falls, a community
located north of Leesburg in the Route 15
corridor, have called on the county to replace
their communal well system. The system,
residents said, is failing because of limestone
deterioration.

The regulations supervisors approved in
establishing the Limestone Overlay District do
not include plans to bring a central water line to
homes within the Raspberry Falls community, or
the district as a whole.

Waters said she was confident the board would
have to deal with the issue again.

“At some point the board is going to deal with
water and sewer in this area. More problems are
going to occur in Raspberry Falls,” she said.* *

The regulations the board approved also include
restrictions on homeowners from constructing
new structures -- such as swimming pools, spare
rooms or barns -- without first paying for a
geological survey to prove the stability on their
land.

In addition, developers looking to build
subdivisions within the Limestone
Overlay District would be required to undergo
more detailed evaluation before they could
receive approval to build.

The regulations would not apply to wells and
sewage disposal systems approved for use before
the board's final vote.

Supervisors who voted against Delgaudio's
request to postpone Wednesday's vote said the
issue of water accessibility and contamination
was separate from what the board was trying to
accomplish at the present time.

“I do believe that we do have a serious public
health issue and the establishment of the LOD is
a good first step in dealing with the issues out
there,” said Vice Chair Susan Kilmek Buckley
(D-Sugarland Run).

“However, this does not solve the problem of
water quality in Raspberry Falls. This merely
reduces the risk of contamination of water. It
should a top priority of this board to find a
solution to the problem of water quality in
Raspberry Falls.”

from:[http://www.loudountimes.com/news/2010/feb/17/board-establishes-limestone-
overlay-district/](http://www.loudountimes.com/news/2010/feb/17/board-establishes-limestone-overlay-district/)

White-nose bat disease found in another W.Va. cave - News - The Charleston Gazette - West Virginia News and Sports March 7, 2010 at 9:34 pm

March 7, 2010

White-nose bat disease found in another W.Va. cave

Advertiser

By Emily Corio

West Virginia Public Broadcasting
MORGANTOWN -- An expedition into Hellhole cave in Pendleton County last month revealed that bats in one of the largest and most important bat hibernation caves in the state are infected with white-nose syndrome. The cave has been off limits to people for a few years, and now, with the recent discovery that some bats in Hellhole Cave have white-nose syndrome, it's part of a field study into the deadly disease. West Virginia Division of Natural Resources biologist Craig Stihler has a lead role in tracking and studying white-nose syndrome in West Virginia. "What we've seen is that the most hard hit bats are probably the little brown bat; it's our most common bat in the state. They tend to hibernate in areas that are fairly damp and the fungus seems to grow very well there," said Stihler.

"We've had a constant stream of bats just flying out of the cave during the day, during snow, so they're obviously very distressed and fleeing the site," he added. Stihler says the disease was probably initially transmitted to West Virginia bats by a caver. It's believed that the disease can live on cavers' equipment. But Stihler thinks the bats have spread it to other caves in the state. "Last year we were estimating we had maybe 200 to 300 bats that have died. When we were at Hellhole this year we were seeing a stream of up to 40 bats an hour just leaving the cave, flying out. I'm sure most of those bats just died on the landscape," said Stihler.

Peter Youngbaer was among a group of cavers and biologists who went into Hellhole Cave last month to conduct a bat survey.

Youngbaer is the white-nose syndrome liaison for the National Speleological Society. He says some good news to come out of the survey is that the endangered Virginia Big Eared bats do not appear to have white-nose syndrome. "Half the known population in the world of that species lives in Hellhole, so we were terrified that if we saw this in the Virginia Big Eared bat, the species might be gone," said Youngbaer. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is trying to establish a breeding colony for the Virginia Big Eared bats in case the disease infects the population.

Seth Perlman, who lives in New York, accompanied Youngbaer into Hellhole Cave. He hopes white-nose syndrome does not have the same effect in West Virginia that it's had in the Northeast. "We've seen up to 90 percent mortality in some of the bats and it's manifested in caves where there are just piles of dead bats," Perlman said.

Perlman says not being able to cave in certain areas where white-nose syndrome is present or could possibly be spread is a small price to pay to try to save bats from this disease, which eventually causes them to starve to death. "I think it would be selfish of us who enjoy caving as a recreation to feel like we've gotten the short end of the stick, because certainly we're not dying off in mass numbers like the bats are and knowing that the bats are an important part of the ecosystem."

Bats help keep the number of insects down, so Stihler says it will be interesting to see what the insect population is like this summer where white-nose syndrome has been found. There is no cure or treatment for white-nose syndrome. Stihler says anyone who sees a number of bats flying around in the daytime this winter should contact the DNR.

By Emily Corio

West Virginia Public Broadcasting

TWRA Confirms First Cases of White Nose Syndrome in Tennessee Bats | TN.gov
Newsroom Home
TWRA Confirms First Cases of White Nose Syndrome in Tennessee Bats
Released on Tue, Feb 16, 2010 - 12:48 pm under Wildlife Resources

NASHVILLE --- The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) has received confirmation that two bats have tested positive for White Nose Syndrome (WNS), a white fungus that is responsible for the deaths of thousands of bats in the Eastern United States.

This is the first record of White Nose Syndrome in Tennessee. The bats were hibernating in Worley's cave in Sullivan County. Three tri-colored bats were collected by the TWRA and submitted to the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) in Madison, Wis. for testing last week.

Last spring the state of Tennessee, National Park Service, and USDA Forest Service and Tennessee Valley Authority closed caves on public lands in Tennessee in an attempt to slow the spread of the fungus. The Nature Conservancy also closed caves located on their lands in Tennessee.

Scientists are trying to determine the cause of WNS and its effects. Once a colony is affected, the fungus spreads rapidly and has killed at least 95 percent of bats at one New York hibernation site in two years. Other northeastern U.S. monitored bat colonies affected by WNS are experiencing similar large fatalities. There have been no reported human illnesses attributed to WNS and there is currently no evidence to suggest that WNS is harmful to humans or other organisms.

Preliminary research results recently released by the United States Geological Survey indicates that the potential exists for WNS to be transmitted between bat hibernation caves as an unwanted hitch-hiker upon humans, their clothing, or other caving gear.

"Temporarily staying out of caves and mines is the one thing we can do right now to slow the transmission of White Nose Syndrome," said Cory Holliday, Cave and Karst Manager for The Nature Conservancy in Tennessee. "We knew the bat deaths in the Eastern United States were large. Here in Tennessee we stand to lose the last stronghold of bats like the endangered Indiana and grays. We have hundreds of thousands of bats hibernating in our caves each winter. With a 95 percent mortality rate the loss is catastrophic."

Biologists are concerned that WNS could devastate populations of endangered Indiana and gray bats. Bats play a key role in keeping insects such as agricultural pests, mosquitoes and forest pests under control.

"Bats provide a tremendous public service in terms of pest control, said Richard Kirk, Nongame and Endangered Species Coordinator for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. If we lose 500,000 bats, we'll lose the benefits from that service and millions of pounds of insects will still be flying around our neighborhoods, agricultural fields and forests."

The disease causes bats to use up their fat reserves rapidly during hibernation. This causes the bats to fly out of caves during the winter in a desperate attempt to find food, but since the insects they eat are also seasonally dormant, the bats soon die of starvation.

State and federal agency biologists and non-governmental organizations are currently surveying caves in east Tennessee and other portions of the state. These surveys are being conducted as annual bat population surveys and to monitor for WNS.

Links to more information -

http://www.fws.gov/northeast/white_nose.html

Jones Quarry Cave

By John DiCarlo NSS # 25744

Falling Waters, WV - Sarah Baker, my daughter, wanted to go to Jones Quarry Cave for her Birthday. A few days before her birthday, on Saturday January 2, 2010, we went to Jones Quarry Cave.

We picked up the key on the way to the cave. Driving in we laid new tracks in the snow. We walked up to the bottom of the trail to the opening. Someone had installed a rope from there to the entrance. It made it really easy to climb up the slope.



Sarah on rope at the gate

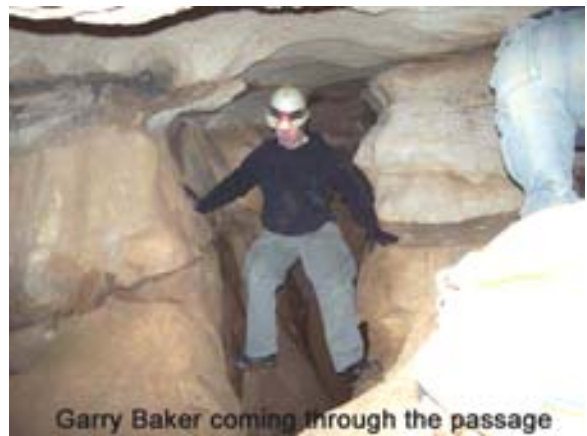
As we gathered in the entrance passage we checked our lights. We replaced a bunch of batteries and continued on. Everyone had a helmet with a light on it and two lights in their pocket.

We climbed down into the big room. Looking around it we went left to the upper room. Everyone made their way up there and we took a group picture.



Group shot in the Upper Room

Dropping back down the passage we made our way into the Mudroom. With the cold temperatures outside and all the entrances into the cave, the mud had frozen. It made it easier as we didn't have to deal with the mud. We climbed up the wall to the next passage. Caving ahead we made our way to the "T". Turning left, we climbed through the hole to the large room in the back. Our group stopped here to let people explore around.



Garry Baker coming through the passage

Turning right we climbed through the hardest part of the trip. As we gathered in the room beyond we took some more pictures of people with the columns.



Continuing on we traveled behind the columns in the room with the floor sloping to our left. Ducking to the right, we popped into the room with the domes. We took a few pictures here before moving on. We did note that one of the entrances from this room had been sealed up with masonry. Some bats were seen in this area. They did not show signs of WNS.



Going behind the domes we entered the balcony. We could look down to the bottom of the big room. Everyone was told to look over the edge as they came through.

Everyone crossed over the bottomless pit and peaked down from another balcony and collected in the next little room.



From here was the 15-foot belly crawl back to the "T" intersection. Coming in from the right of the "T" we turned left and came down the stem. Weaving around we climbed back down the wall to the Mudroom. We gathered in this room as everyone climbed down.



From the Mudroom we followed the passage back to the big room. As people gathered here, we started them up the rope to the Entrance Passage. Everyone made it up the rope. We took a last look around and headed out the gate.





Two nice Columns.



Several nice Formations.

I had a hard time relocking the lock. If anyone goes there after reading this, bring some WD-40 for it.

We re-assembled back at my truck for the final pictures.



Who's got the dirtiest butt?

Our caving group consisted of Sarah Baker, Gary Baker, Kaci Baker, Dustin Swope, Brandon Sweeney, Amanda Sweeney, Nick Conner, Jesse

Conner, Marshall Shanaberger, Lynn Di Carlo, and John Di Carlo.



Our group shot with the smile.

I had to take the group shot twice. On the first shot one of the girls said, I wasn't smiling, you have to take it again.

Old clipping furnished by David Hackley

Newly Discovered Virginia Caverns

[From the Baltimore American]
The whole country lying between the Blue Ridge and the Alleghenies in Virginia, comprising the Page and Shenandoah Valleys, which are separated by the Massanutten range, appears to be honeycombed with caverns. Since the discovery of the great Luray cavern, which has been described at length in the columns of *The American*, an extensive cavern has been explored on the land of Mr. Reuben Zerkle, about six miles from New Market Station, in the foot hills of Massanutten range. A wooden stairway affords a descent of about thirty feet into a roomy chamber, about 100 feet long, with a ceiling 12 or 15 feet high, which is studded with pure white stalactites. There are chambers that can be entered in succession, 100, 300 and 500 long, interspersed with arched passages and smaller apartments. A chamber, which is 225 feet long, 50 wide and 40 or 50 high, is called the diamond room, from the brilliant incrustations on the walls, while the ceiling is level. The explorations have so far terminated in a gallery formed in a perfect circle, 300 or 400 feet in circumference, with a floor as level as that of a ball room, and a ceiling 6 or 8 feet high, arched with utmost accuracy. At a point nearly opposite the entrance are two wells, with perpendicular walls, leading to a lower level, and here explorations in this direction has stopped. From the bottom of the pit before mentioned a narrow crevice leads to a series of low chambers 100 feet below the gallery, which have not yet been investigated. The formations in this cave comprise all of those which are common to other caves of Virginia. The resemblances to statuary are numerous. In one of the chambers is a stalactite, brown in color, with a figure in pure white of the exact form of a mouse upon it. The characteristic feature is the presence of a vast quantity of fine, perfectly limpid crystals, covering large sections of the walls and floor.



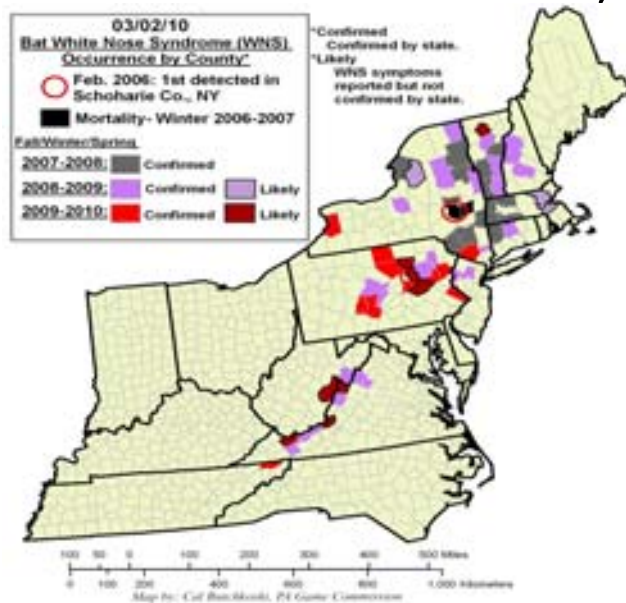
CAVING CALENDAR

MARCH 7TH - APRIL 17TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mar 7	Mar 8	Mar 9	Mar 10  Meeting 7pm	Mar 11	Mar 12	Mar 13 Carter Caves Restoration Camp
Mar 14 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS Carter Caves Restoration Camp	Mar 15	Mar 16	Mar 17  ST. PATRICK'S DAY	Mar 18	Mar 19	Mar 20  EQUINOX
Mar 21	Mar 22 WORLD WATER DAY	Mar 23 MD DAY	Mar 24	Mar 25	Mar 26	Mar 27 Check cave entrances - see Bob or Brent MD Karst Survey - see Corey
Mar 28	Mar 29	Mar 30	Mar 31	Apr 1 ALL FOOL'S DAY	Apr 2 Grand Caverns Restoration	Apr 3 Grand Caverns Restoration
Apr 4  EASTER	Apr 5	Apr 6	Apr 7	Apr 8	Apr 9	Apr 10
Apr 11	Apr 12	Apr 13	Apr 14  meeting 7pm	Apr 15 TAX DAY	Apr 16	Apr 17

DEAD DOG DISPATCH



Updated WNS Map 3/2/10

1- WNS IN HELLHOLE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

2- SARAH'S CAVING TRIP



DEAD DOG DISPATCH

TRI-STATE GROTO OF THE NSS

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TO:

