

DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTTO



ANYA CRANE CUTTING STEEL

VOL. #26

ISS. #4

APR

2011

#37



SUBSCRIBING MEMBERSHIP-\$12.00 (Non-Voting)
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP -----\$2.00/FAMILY
(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:

JERRY BOWEN, TREASURER
 TRI-STATE GROTTTO of the NSS
 17817 STONE VALLEY CR.
 HAGERSTOWN, MD 21740
 301-790-0476

E-MAIL: bookmaker-jb@myactv.net

For MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION contact:

BOB BENNETT, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
 TRI-STATE GROTTTO of the NSS
 464 HUCKLEBERRY DR.
 GERRARDSTOWN, WV 25420-0211
 304-579-4304

E-MAIL: gimpycaver@comcast.net

*** The photo on the cover was taken by John Di Carlo at the Baker Quarry Gating Project. It shows Anya Crane using a cutting torch.

**** 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:
SECRETARY
PROGRAM CHAIR
MEMBER at LARGE
PLEASE GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!



The DEAD DOG DISPATCH is a publication of the TRI-STATE GROTTTO of the NSS. The OPINIONS expressed herein are not necessarily those of the EDITOR, the GROTTTO, nor the NSS. Material that is unsigned may be attributed to the EDITOR. Material contained within this PUBLICATION may be reproduced by the NSS and its GROTTOS, provided that PROPER CREDIT is given to the DEAD DOG DISPATCH and the AUTHOR.

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.

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

TRI-STATE GROTTTO OFFICERS

CHAIR ----- John DiCarlo ----- 301-432-2323
 V-CHAIR ----- Bob Bennett ----- 304-579-4304
 TREASURER--- Jerry Bowen ----- 301-790-0476
 SECRETARY ----
 Member At Large ----
 Membership Chair --- Bob Bennett ---304-579-4304
 Newsletter Editor --- Bob Bennett ---304-579-4304
 Conservation Chair--Corey Hackley --301-432-2257
 P R Chair ----- JC Fisher ----- 304-258-4974
 Safety Chair ----- Carl Amundson ----540-955-0611
 Program Dir -----
 Funding ----- Paulette Bennett -----304-579-4304
 Equip. Chair ----Bob Bennett ----- 304-579-4304

TRI-STATE GROTTTO MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

FULL MEMBERSHIP -----\$10.00 (Must be NSS)
 ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP---\$12.00 (Non-NSS)

CAVING EVENTS

2011

- APR 1 ----- ALL FOOL'S DAY
- APR 13 ----- TSG Grotto meeting – 7pm
- APR 15 ----- TAX DAY
- APR 16 ----- Crystal Grottoes Dig – 10am
- APR 17-23 --- VA Cave Week
- APR 22 ----- GOOD FRIDAY
- APR 22 ----- EARTH DAY
- APR 23-24 --- Grand Caverns Easter Restoration
- APR 24 ----- EASTER
- APR 29 ----- ARBOR DAY
- APR 29 – MAY 1 – SPRING VAR @ Durbin, WV –
Sponsored by FRG
- MAY 5 ----- CINCO de MAYO
- MAY 5 ----- DAY OF PRAYER
- MAY 7 ----- Adam Stephen day – 9am
- MAY 8 ----- Jones Quarry Cave – 9am – see Bob
- MAY 8 ----- MOTHER'S DAY
- MAY 11 ----- TSG meeting – 7pm
- MAY 12-15 --- Spring MAR – Shade Camp, PA
- MAY 21 ----- ARMED FORCES DAY
- MAY 27-30 --- Speleofest, KY
- MAY 30 ----- MEMORIAL DAY
- JUN 8 ----- TSG meeting – 7pm
- JUN 10-12 --- Bubble weekend
- JUN 14 ----- FLAG DAY
- JUN 15 ----- NSS Convention Pre-registration Discount
Ends
- JUN 16-20 --- SERA Cave Carnival – Monteagle, TN
- JUN 19 ----- FATHER'S DAY
- JUN 20 ----- WV DAY
- JUN 21 ----- SUMMER SOLSTICE
- JUN 24-26 --- Indiana Cave Capers
- JUL 4 ----- INDEPENDENCE DAY
- JUL 13 ----- TSG meeting – 7pm
- JUL 16 ----- Annual Grotto Picnic
- JUL 18-22 --- NSS Convention, Glenwood Springs,
CO
- JUL 24 ----- PARENT'S DAY
- JUL 31 ----- TRA Deadline
- AUG 10 ----- TSG meeting – 7pm
- SEP 1-5 ----- **PTR!!!!**
- SEP 5 ----- LABOR DAY

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 March ----- \$14.00

TOTAL TO DATE: --- \$4947.00

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/
- White Nose Syndrome -----
<http://www.caves.org/grotto/dcg/wns-notice-to-cavers.pdf>
- WV Caver ----- <http://wvcaver.speleo.us>
- WNS -----
<http://www.caves.org/WNS/WNS%20Info.htm>
- Containment Procedures -----
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/whitenosemessage.html/>
- Crystal Grottoes Caverns -----
www.crystalgrottoescaverns.com

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

V. #26

I. #3

MAR

2011

#39



MONTH OF APRIL

Jeff Hajenga, Lauren McCoy, Ann Shepard



Tri-State Grotto meeting
Feb 9, 2011

John Di Carlo called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

Jerry gave the Treasurer's Report.

There were 2 new people at the meeting. They were asked to introduce themselves.

Old Business:
Adam Stephen dig – Sat, Mar 12 at 9 am

Crystal Grottoes dig – Sat, Apr 16 at 10 am

Spring VAR – Sat, Apr 30 & Sun, May 1 in Durbin, WV. Ft Royal Grotto is sponsoring the VAR.

Adam Stephen Day – Sat, May 7 – 10am-5pm

New Business:
Corey has been working on broken formations in Crystal Grottoes

Corey also wants to resurvey Crystal Grottoes but Jerry does not want a map published.

Trips-Bob & Brent went to Baker, WV to survey cave entrances for WNS.

Cave Bucks: \$14

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm

Submitted by Paulette Bennett (Acting Secretary)

Tri-State Grotto meeting
Mar 9, 2011

John called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm

Jerry gave the Treasurer's Report

Old Business:
Adam Stephen Dig – Mar 12 at 9 am

Crystal Grotto dig in April.

New Business:
Russ Kennedy was at the meeting. He is Chairman of the NSS Convention for 2013. He was asking for volunteers to help out. He needs 30-40 people for help.

A local canoe club (Mid-River Club?) donated a canoe to be put inside the quarry at Baker.

Brent is looking for people to help with a house at Baker, WV near Baker Quarry. Paint the roof & outside & mend the fence around the yard in exchange for using the house when in the area caving.

Jerry gave John the 'Official' gavel for the meetings.

Cave Bucks: \$20

The meeting was adjourned & Ed Devine gave a slide show on Carols Crack Cave and the gating of Baker Quarry.

Brand-New Caver in Tri-State

Bill Vis announced a new addition to his family: Eliza Marie Vis was born on 3/22/11. All are doing well!

Congratulations Bill! A job well done!

Folks,

As the Spring VAR draws near (April 29-May 1) in Durbin, W.Va., which is hosted by Front Royal Grotto, I am happy to announce that online registration of trips is now available.

<http://www.frontroyal.varegion.org/var.html>

Please Note:

Online registration for trips will be available to registered people only.

All lead trips will have a couple of open spaces to sign up at the VAR. So if you cannot decide which trip you want to go on, you may be able to sign up for one Friday night. But if you want to reserve a spot for a certain trip, it is suggested you sign up for one now.

WNS Decon:

There will be a station to decontaminate your gear after caving. Loaner gear will also be available.

On our organized trips, all trip leaders have the right to look over your caving gear to see if it is clean.

If you have dirty gear, you risk not getting underground. It is up to the discretion of the trip leaders, so please honor their decisions and decon your gear before the VAR.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Nikki Fox
FRG Spring VAR Cave Committee



Bob Bennett in Coral Cave, Dark Woods area, Berkeley Co, WV – photo taken by Jerry Bowen



Tight Passage in Coral Cave (Bowen)

TRIP REPORT

Adam Stephen Dig

Taking a shower

By John Di Carlo NSS 25744

Martinsburg, WV - On March 12, 2011 Tri-State Grotto met at the Adam Stephen House to continue our dig. We are still hoping to reopen the tunnels there.

As we set up we looked down into the tunnel to see if we had water in there. It had been raining the past week. We haven't had water in the tunnel since new gutters were put on the house.



Bob Bennett hands a bucket off to John Roche

With just the light from the room above we couldn't see any water. Jeff Marcum put on his helmet and turned the light on. As he moved around the opening he said he thought he could see water. His moving around caused some dirt to roll down the slope. We could hear it splashing into a pool. We had our milk jug bailer from before and Jeff went down and started sending buckets of water up. As the first one came up he commented that it had leaks in it and was getting a shower. We set that bucket aside until we were ready for the dirt. We sent a second bucket down and Jeff cried out that he could see light through the bucket. Again, he received a shower as that bucket full of water was pulled up. That bucket was set aside too. We sent a third bucket down and it didn't leak. We pulled up 13 buckets of water.



John Roche Taking out a bucket

Now we started on the dirt. As fast as a bucket was pulled up and another sent back down, Jeff had one ready to take out. When Jeff was ready for a break he came out and I went down. We kept up the same fast pace as before. When we broke for lunch we were up to 55 buckets of dirt and the 13 buckets of water.



Keith Hammersla taking out a bucket

Keith had lunchmeat, rolls, all the fixings, soup, chips, dessert and drinks for us. After lunch Keith took 5 visitors and the people who had not seen the other end of the tunnel to the King St. entrance.

We started back up with Todd Zimmerman climbing down into the tunnel. Again the buckets of dirt came up at a fast pace. Keith told us that the record number of buckets was 150. We felt that we could beat that number.



Jeff Marcum and Bob Bennett starting to pull a bucket up

When Todd took a break Jeff climbed back down. We kept up the fast pace until we stopped for the day.

We were taking out tan, sandy, rock free, dirt. The going direction is on the north side of the hole. All totaled we pulled out 163 buckets of dirt and 13 buckets of water for a grand total of 176 buckets for the day. We ran a tape down the hole and came up with a dept of 33 feet deep. At the bottom the space measured 7 ½ feet across.

Todd and I measured the ceiling joists so a metal bar between the joists can replace the nails that the pulley is on. Todd said he had the parts and would bring them to the next dig.



Jack Brawner taking a bucket out

Our helpers were; Bob Bennett, Paulette Bennett, Jeff Marcum, Jesse Thompson, Jack Brawner, John Roche, Todd Zimmerman, Keith Hammersla and John Di Carlo. Nine people donated 54 hours of work to the project.



What would you do if you saw this sign?

IN THE MEDIA

TRISTATE BY 8/23/10 MAIL HERALD MAIL

Area man helps keep an eye out for bats

By RICHARD F. STILNER
rstilner@heraldmail.com

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va. — Unless something is done soon, bats will go the way of the passenger pigeon.

This time it won't be shotgun causing their possible demise, but a nasty fungus called White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) that is killing bats by the millions, mostly in the caves where they hibernate, scientists say.

The same fungus from a white powder that ends up on the muzzles of the animals.

The source of the disease is still unknown, scientists said.

Volunteers, mostly in eastern West Virginia, including the Eastern Panhandle, conducted acoustical surveys in an effort to estimate bat populations. The surveys were done from mid-July through Aug. 31.

"Bat," a publication of Bat Conservation International (BCI), an advocacy group, noted in its summer 2010 edition, "that more than a million bats have been killed by WNS, that entire populations have been wiped out, that extinctions are likely if solutions are not found."

Said Nyles Dayton, emergency response coordinator for BCI, "To watch these bats die in your yard that is hard to describe."

Larry Dean of Shepherdstown was one of the volunteers who took part in the surveys. His job was to drive slowly, about 20 mph, along 20- to 25-mile pre-established routes that follow known bat habitats, usually over sparsely traveled rural roads. At times, it was easy to get lost, even with a detailed map and GPS system, he said.

"I was getting pretty good at navigating these roads at night," Dean said.

His routes have taken him to Morgan, Berkeley, Jefferson, Hancock, Hardy and Mineral counties, he said. He begins a half-hour after sunset and drives for about an hour-and-a-half.

A device called a detector, which looks much like a plumbline fixture, is attached to the roof Dean's car by a magnet. Capable of picking up ultra-high frequencies well beyond what humans can hear, it picks up the sounds of flying bats and transfers them to a voice image on a laptop computer in his car.

"Some areas, there are a lot of bats and some, there are only a few. In some areas, there are no bats and sometimes I see them flying in front of the headlights, but they're too low to be picked up by the equipment," Dean said.

The fungus was first discovered in 2006 in caves near Albany, N.Y. It has since spread into New England, the Tri-State area and contiguous states, and is moving south and west.

"There's nothing the bats can do in their own defense," Craig Stiller, an endangered species biologist with the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources in Elkins, W.Va., said during a recent phone interview.

The disease was first discovered in West Virginia in four caves in Pendleton County in January and February 2008, Stiller said.

Estimates on the number of bats killed in the state over the last year run as high as 30,000.

Contrary to popular belief, bats eat few mosquitoes, Stiller said. They have to eat about half their body weight in a night, which means they must consume larger than mosquitoes.

Little brown bats, the most prevalent species in West Virginia, often find the sites at dusk in search of food.

See B&E, B3

Photo by Richard F. Stilner

Larry Dean of Shepherdstown, W.Va., was a volunteer participant in acoustical surveys in an effort to estimate bat populations. Dean used the device pictured to pick up the sounds of flying bats.

BATS

Continued from B1

Stiller said.

Federal and state wildlife agencies are closing caves to the public in an effort to protect bat habitats.

A follow-up acoustical survey next summer will compare numbers with this year's count to determine the extent of devastation from WNS on the state's bat populations, Stiller said.

This year, he hopes the volunteers will cover up to 1,000 miles.

"We expect to get good data in 2011," he said. "This will be a concentrated effort over the next three to five years. We don't need a count every year to get a trend."

According to a recent New York Times editorial on WNS, the Obama administration has approved \$1.9 million for research on the disease, an amount that tends to be increased sharply, the newspaper said.

HERALD MAIL B3

The Herald Mail, Tristate, Mon, Aug 24, 2010, pp B1 & B3 (Paulette Bennett)

'(\$' '2* ',63\$7&+ 9

, DSU