

DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



**POOR FARM CAVE
POCAHONTAS CO. WV**

VOL. #26

ISS. #6

JUNE

2011

#59



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

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*** The photo on the cover was taken by Ken Leipert in Poor Farm Cave, Pocahontas Co, WV

**** 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!



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CAVING EVENTS

2011

2012

JUN 4 ----- Adam Stephen dig – 9am
 JUN 8 ----- TSG meeting – 7pm
 JUN 10-12 ---- Bubble weekend
 JUN 10-12 ---- SERA Cave Carnival – Sewanee, TN
 JUN 14 ----- FLAG DAY
 JUN 15 ----- NSS Convention Pre-registration Discount Ends
JUN 19 ----- FATHER'S DAY
 JUN 20 ----- WV DAY
JUN 21 ----- SUMMER SOLSTICE
JUL 4 ----- INDEPENDENCE DAY
 JUL 9 ----- TSG picnic @ Crystal Grottoes – 12 noon
 JUL 13 ----- TSG meeting – 7pm
JUL 18-22 ----- NSS Convention, Glenwood Springs, CO
 JUL 23 ----- Crystal Grottoes dig – 10am
 JUL 24 ----- PARENT'S DAY
 JUL 31 ----- TRA Deadline
 AUG 1 ----- OTR Pre-Registration Deadline
 AUG 10 ----- TSG meeting – 7pm
 AUG 12-14 --- Indiana Cave Capers – Camp Rivervale, Mitchell, IN
SEP 1-5 ----- PTR!!!!
 SEP 3 ----- DOO Dah Parade – 10am
 SEP 3 ----- Polyester Power Hour
SEP 5 ----- LABOR DAY
 SEP 11 ----- PATRIOT'S DAY
 SEP 11 ----- GRAND PARENT'S DAY
 SEP 14 ----- TSG meeting – 7pm
SEP 23 ----- AUTUMNAL EQUINOX
 OCT 6-9 ----- Fall TAG Cave-In
 OCT 10 ----- COLUMBUS DAY
 OCT 12 ----- TSG meeting – 7pm
 OCT 15 ----- Bridge Day
 OCT 31 ----- All Hallow Eve (HALLOWEEN)
 NOV 6 ----- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS
 NOV 8 ----- Election Day
 NOV 9 ----- TSG Grotto meeting – 7pm – Nominations
 NOV 11 ----- VETERAN'S DAY
 NOV 12 ----- Sadie Hawkin's Day
NOV 24 ----- THANKSGIVING DAY
 NOV 25 ----- BLACK FRIDAY
 DEC 14 ----- TSG meeting – 7pm – Elections
 DEC 17 ----- Annual TSG Xmas Celebration – 6pm
 DEC 18 ----- Xmas caving
DEC 22 ----- WINTER SOLSTICE
DEC 24 ----- XMAS EVE
DEC 25 ----- XMAS DAY
DEC 31 ----- NEW YEAR'S EVE

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 ----- **\$28.00**

TOTAL TO DATE: --- \$4993.00

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



MONTH OF JUNE

Alexandra Beaulieu, Bob Bennett,
Gordon Birkhimer, Andy Celmer, Sawyer
Gardenhour, Vik Garg, Stephen Jefferson,
Bill Vis, Bernadette Wootten, & Jonathan
Wootten

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Minutes of the May meeting

Tri-State Grotto Meeting
May 11, 2011

John called the meeting together at 7:00 pm

Jerry gave the Treasurer's report.

OLD BUSINESS:

John gave a report on the Crystal Grottoes dig.

Bob gave a report on Spring VAR – 250+
attended tours.

Adam Stephen Day – Russell & Bob gave
reports.

While on tours, 2 people asked about
membership.

Bob gave a report on caves near a cemetery in
south Martinsburg.

NEW BUSINESS:

VAR 2012 – TSG will be sponsoring the VAR at
Alderson, WV(?)

Adam Stephen dig on June 4 at 9am.

TSG picnic on Jul 9 at Crystal Grottoes.

Crystal Grottoes dig on July 23 at 10am.

Keith & Russell gave reports on someone who
wants to do a video on the Adam Stephen digs.

Brent gave a report on the “old” video on the
Adam Stephen dig.

Brent wants pictures of past Adam Stephen digs
for a report.

Bob, John, Jerry, & Jeff gave reports on their
trips at VAR.

Brent has a Boy Scout trip to Dyers on May 21.

CAVE BUCKS:

We collected \$28 toward Cave Bucks to be
donated to WVCC.

Bob made a motion to send \$200 to ACC.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

Respectfully submitted by:
Paulette Bennett, Secretary
Tri-State Grotto of the NSS

Subject: Fwd: "This Old Cave Video"

Here's a YouTube version of the Adam Stephen dig...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M2bp15fi-GM>

Brent Jefferson

Scientific community unites to save bats

December 7, 2010

By Carolyn Beeler

Ask a Question. It is absolutely a race against time...my biggest fear is that basically we're just documenting an extinction.

-DeeAnn Reeder

White nose syndrome continues devastating march west

Greg Turner is deep in an old mine near Allentown, Pennsylvania, wearing a yellow protective jumpsuit and a miner's lamp on his head. He is standing in a large chamber where the mine's floor slopes to meet the ceiling, an arm stretched high above his head.

"We need to collect these now, before they start flying," he whispers. "Once they wake up and start flying around we'll not be able to get our hands on them again."

He is plucking little brown bats from their perches on the ceiling and dropping them into cloth bags, which he tucks into his own suit to keep them warm.

Turner, a specialist on endangered mammals with the Pennsylvania Game

Commission, says when he was in this mine last year there were swaths 5 feet long of bats in this chamber. Now, he sees clumps of two to three, maybe a dozen here or there.

"Before white nose this was one of the main concentration areas, and there would be about 2,000 bats in this room," Turner says. Now he estimates that he sees a few hundred.

White nose syndrome was first discovered in New York State in the winter of 2006-2007. Since then it has caused the deaths of well over a million bats in the Eastern United States. It killed 95 percent of bats in some affected caves in Eastern Pennsylvania last winter, and scientists expect it to do the same in the western part of the state this year.

Pennsylvania is at the center of white nose research this winter. Most of the state's bats are likely affected. But, unlike in some other states farther east, some are still alive. Scientists are scrambling this winter to find out what is causing the fungus and what, if anything, they can do to stop it.

Scientists struggling with unknowns

White nose syndrome got its name from the fungus associated with the die-off. It causes a white fuzz to grow on the ears, noses and wings of cave-hibernating bat species. Scientists don't know where the fungus comes from, but they guess it may have been transplanted from Europe and has been passed from bat to bat since.

Scientists still don't know exactly how the fungus kills bats. They hypothesize it somehow arouses bats more often than normal during hibernation. That means they have to raise their body temperatures from ambient temperature, around 40 or 50 degrees, to nearly 100 degrees more times during the winter. That uses up a lot of energy and depletes fat stores, according to Hazel Barton, a cave microbiologist from Northern Kentucky University who is doing research in the mine.

"If you have a bat that keeps getting woken up by this fungus it's going to use up those fat reserves and it's going to be starving before spring comes and the insects are around," Barton said. But, like much of what is suspected about the fungus, this is still just a hypothesis. Barton is in the mine with Turner, conducting experiments into what she calls a "Band-Aid" – a treatment for white nose syndrome. With 2-by-4's and wire mesh, she's building wooden cages where she'll place the bats to hibernate for the winter. Under each cage is a bottle of a different type of compound that laboratory tests have shown to stop the growth of the white nose fungus. The compounds will evaporate onto the bats, resting above, and, Barton hopes, keep them alive. "We'll know in April when we come to back to look at these cages," Barton said. "If they're all lying on the ground then it didn't protect them. And if they're all hanging on to the edge of the cage, then they've been protected." If it works, Barton hopes the compound can be used as a targeted treatment for at-risk bats next year, especially in caves that house endangered species.

Scientific community unites in quest for answers Barton's is just one of many theories the scientific community is testing this winter in a nationwide race to prevent extinction among some cave-hibernating bat species. Some of the bats Greg Turner collected earlier will go into Barton's test cages. But some will travel the hundred or so miles to Bucknell University, and one of the country's centers of white nose research: the labs of DeeAnn Reeder. Reeder was the first to discover white nose in Pennsylvania, and now the biologist is running a dozen or so experiments trying to determine exactly what the connection is between this white fuzz and massive deaths.

Reeder says a few years ago, collaborations like the ones she's formed with Barton and Turner didn't really exist.

"To a certain degree we've had a paradigm shift in the way that many of us work," Reeder said. "We typically hold our results pretty close to us, but really this has opened up new up new collaborations and data sharing because we just don't have a choice. This is how we need to operate when stakes are so high."

The ecosystem-wide effects of the massive bat die-offs are hard to predict, but Reeder guesses they might be significant. Bats eat an enormous amount of insects every night. A female big brown bat, for example, when nursing her pups, will eat 110 percent of her body weight in insects every night. "That's like be eating 500 quarter-pounders every night," Reeder says. Fewer bats would mean more insects, including mosquitoes, which spread diseases like West Nile, and moths, which are crop pests.



Cemetery Caves

Crews work to rescue injured man from Tennessee cave

CNN.com May 30, 2011 11:22 a.m. EDT
STORY HIGHLIGHTS

A man injured during a Tennessee cave expedition Sunday is still trapped

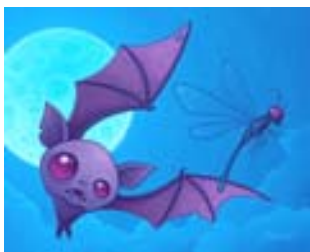
Rescuers have to pass through an 8 inch by 14 inch crawlspace

(CNN) -- Emergency crews were working Monday to rescue an injured caver who fell during a difficult expedition through a remote Franklin County, Tennessee, cave, a county spokesman and a representative of the cave's leaseholder said. The man fell Sunday afternoon on the seventh of eight vertical descents, or drops, inside of the Sinking Cove Cave in southern Tennessee, not far from the Tennessee-Alabama border, according to Brian Krebs with the Southeastern Cave Conservancy, which holds the lease on the cave.

The expedition being attempted by the man, who is an experienced caver according to Krebs, would rate about a 9.5 on a difficulty scale of ten, he said.

Extracting the injured man from the cave will be a challenge, said Krebs. Not only must he be lifted through the seven drops, but must also pass through a small crawl space that is about eight inches high and 14 inches wide, Krebs said. The nature of the man's injuries was unclear, according to county spokesman Chris Guess.

The rescue is being complicated by the lack of cell service and the remote location, Krebs said. The site is "about as far back in the wilderness as you can go."
CNN's Aaron Cooper contributed to this report.



YouTube - Vietnam's Mammoth Cavern Photos . Hang Son Đoòng

Vietnam's Mammoth Cavern - For decades, geologists have known that Vietnam is home to some of the world's most spectacular caves, many of them largely unexplored. Now husband-and-wife cavers have documented perhaps the world's largest: Hang Son Doong, big enough in places to accommodate a New York City block of skyscrapers.

The cave in the Annamite Mountains contains a river and jungle (its name translates to "mountain river cave") and even its own thin clouds, and its end remains out of sight. It's part of a network of about 150 caves in central Vietnam near the Laotian border.

Howard and Deb Limbert of England led the first expedition to enter Hang Son Doong in 2009, but they were stopped a couple of miles in by a huge calcite wall. The team returned recently to climb the wall, take measurements and try to find the cavern's end.

Many more photographs taken in Hang Son Doong and other newly explored caves have been published in the January issue of National Geographic and on its website, where you can view larger images. The site also has an interactive graphic of the river cave's path...8th Miracle

<http://www.sport.gr/default.asp?pid=4&aid=83473>

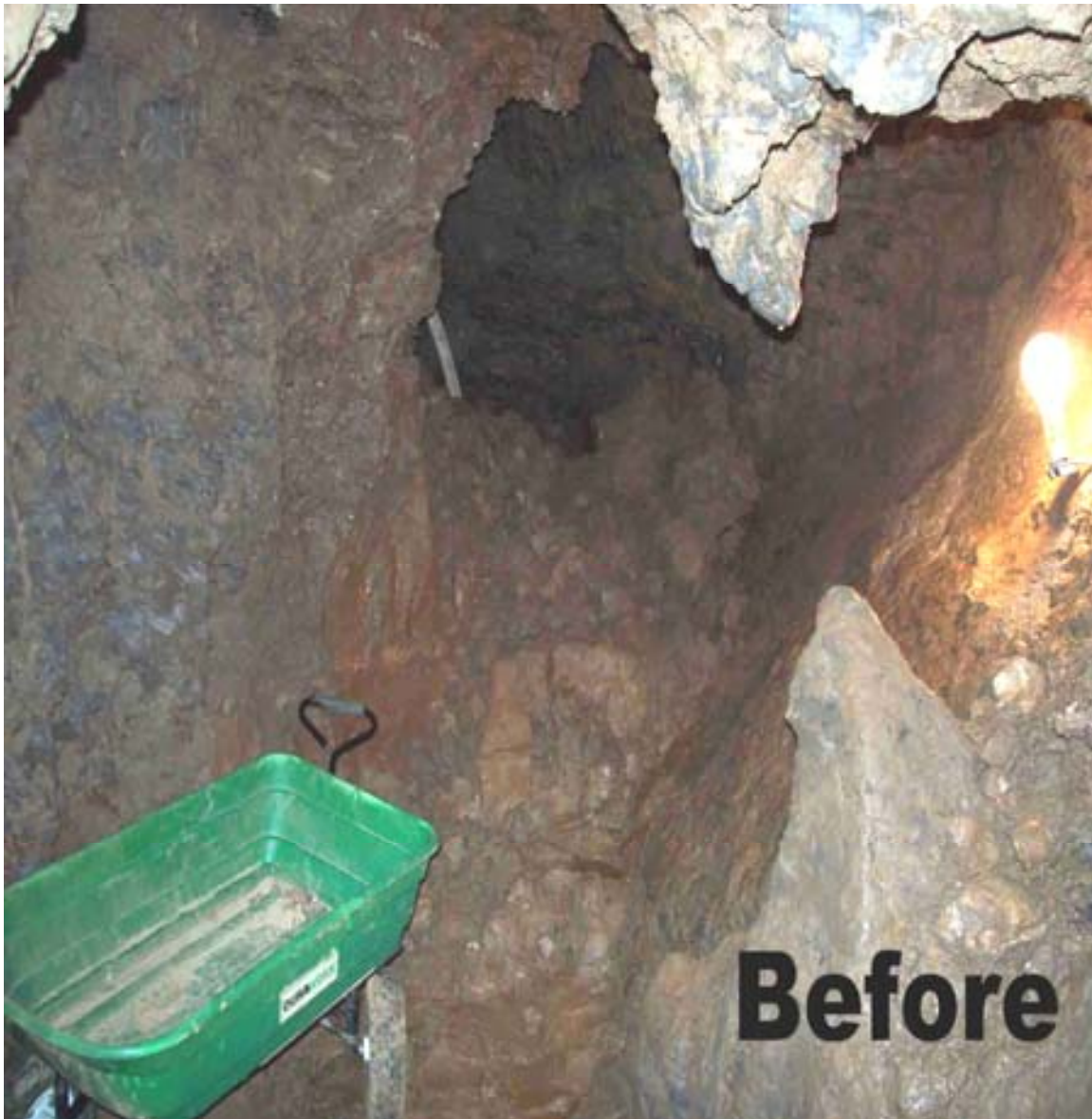


Crystal Grottoes Caverns

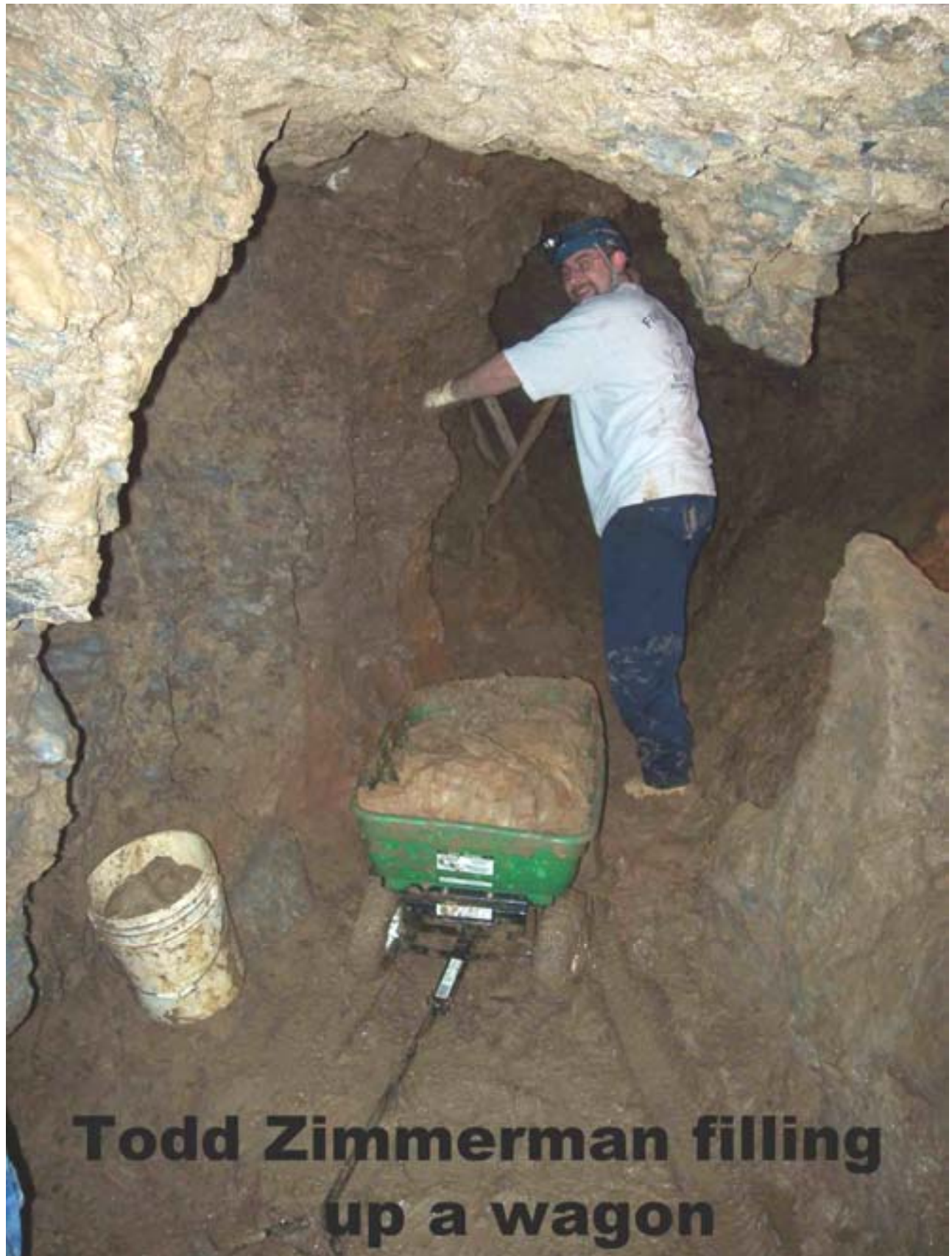
Digging on a Rainy Day

By John Di Carlo, NSS 25744

Boonsboro, MD - On April 16, 2011 Tri-State Grotto returned to Crystal Grottoes Caverns to dig on the Tri-State Grotto Passage.



As I arrived, Crystal Grottoes was opening up for the day. Guide Dave Hackley came out of the cave saying that water had pooled in the Father Time passage and that it was too deep to take visitors through. Jerry Downs had Sonny Floyd get the tractor and bring over a load of gravel. Visitors were arriving and Dave had to take them on the tour. I filled up four buckets of gravel and carried them down in two trips. Dave had already taken down a bucket. I spread my four buckets out and raised the floor enough to keep everyone out of the pool. I was told that the tours would go out the back door. I then took two buckets to a pool at the Pig Ears.



Now it was time to start digging. Sonny and I lined up the wagons and started filling them. When they were full, we pulled them out the back door. As more people arrived, they helped with the wagons.



**Tyler pushing a wagon
up the back passage**

The spot where we had dug before had a bank of clay collapse there. We dug into it and removed it. The clay was really tacky and hard to get off the shovel. It was easier to pick up the clay hunks with your hands. The shovel was more for sinking it into the clay and prying larger hunks out. While we were digging, we came across pieces of calcite and

formations. We did save what we found.

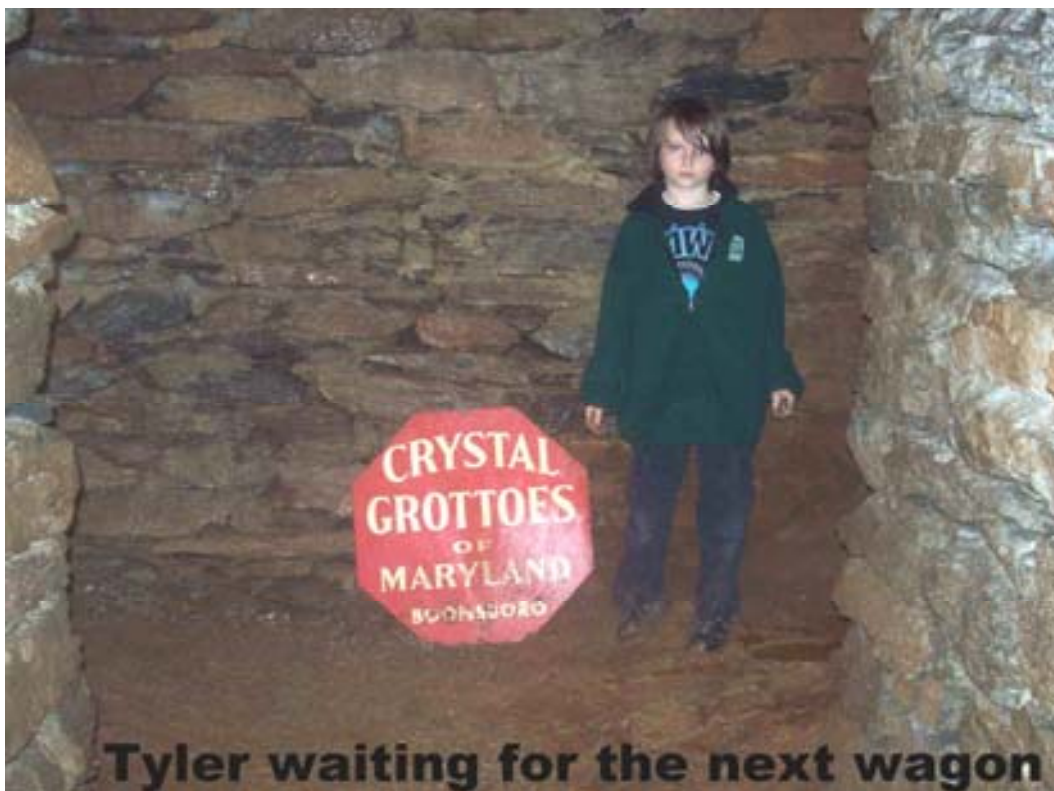


Cory Hackley had, a day or two before, run new electric lights into the Tri-State Grotto Passage. It lit up the dig site, which made the excavation easier. We are now using just the wagons to haul clay. The buckets were only used to hold the formations we pulled out. They were also used as a seat.

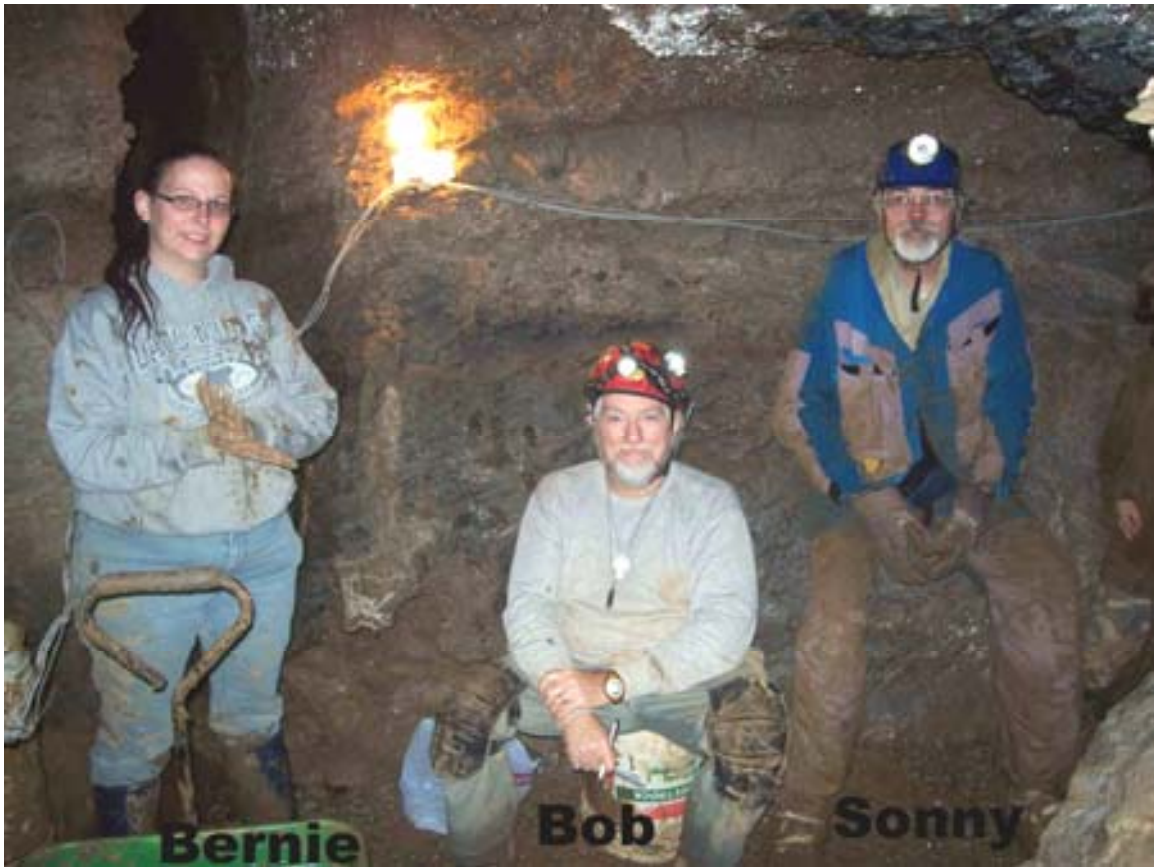
The digging continued until someone walked in with two boxes of pizza. We retreated to the Blanket Room and had lunch there.



Returning to our project after lunch, Todd Zimmerman took over the position of digger from me. He kept the wagons full and the rest of us kept them moving. After some digging around, there was a large rock uncovered in the floor. We thought it was bedrock. As Todd dug down he got it to move then worked it out. When he was done we could pull a wagon into the space with room to spare.



Taylor Wootten stayed at the bottom of the back door ramp and helped push the wagons up the slope.



It was on and off raining all day. It was warm outside and we were not outside long enough to get wet. Through the day we did watch the creek rise up. It never came close to rising out of its banks while we were there.



There was only one bat there that day, a pip. The guides said that they had seen three previously. I looked at it and saw no sign of WNS.

Our helpers were: Sonny Floyd, Bob Bennett, Todd Zimmerman, Bernie Wootten, Sean Wootten, Abby Wootten, Jonathan Wootten, Chris Wootten, Tyler Wootten, and John Di Carlo.



We removed 38 wagons, equal to 152 buckets, of wet clay. Also, 7 buckets of gravel were brought in. Ten people put in a total of 47 volunteer hours.

DEAD DOG DISPATCH **V.#6** **I.#6** **JUNE** **2011** **#72**



SAVIN CALENDAR

JUNE 5TH - JULY 16TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jun 5	Jun 6	Jun 7	Jun 8  Meeting 7pm	Jun 9 SERA CAVE CARNIVAL - Sewanee, TN	Jun 10 SERA Bubble Weekend	Jun 11 SERA Bubble Weekend
Jun 12 SERA Bubble Weekend	Jun 13	Jun 14  FLAG DAY	Jun 15 NSS Convention Pre Registration Discount ends	Jun 16 SERA Cave Carnival TN	Jun 17 SERA	Jun 18 SERA
Jun 19 FATHER'S DAY	Jun 20 WV DAY	Jun 21  SOLSTICE	Jun 22	Jun 23	Jun 24	Jun 25
Jun 26	Jun 27	Jun 28	Jun 29	Jun 30	Jul 1	Jul 2
Jul 3	Jul 4 	Jul 5	Jul 6	Jul 7	Jul 8	Jul 9 TSG Picnic at Crystal Grottoes - 12 noon
Jul 10	Jul 11	Jul 12	Jul 13  meeting 7pm	Jul 14	Jul 15	Jul 16

1- CRYSTAL GROTTOES DIG
2- TN CAVE RESCUE



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