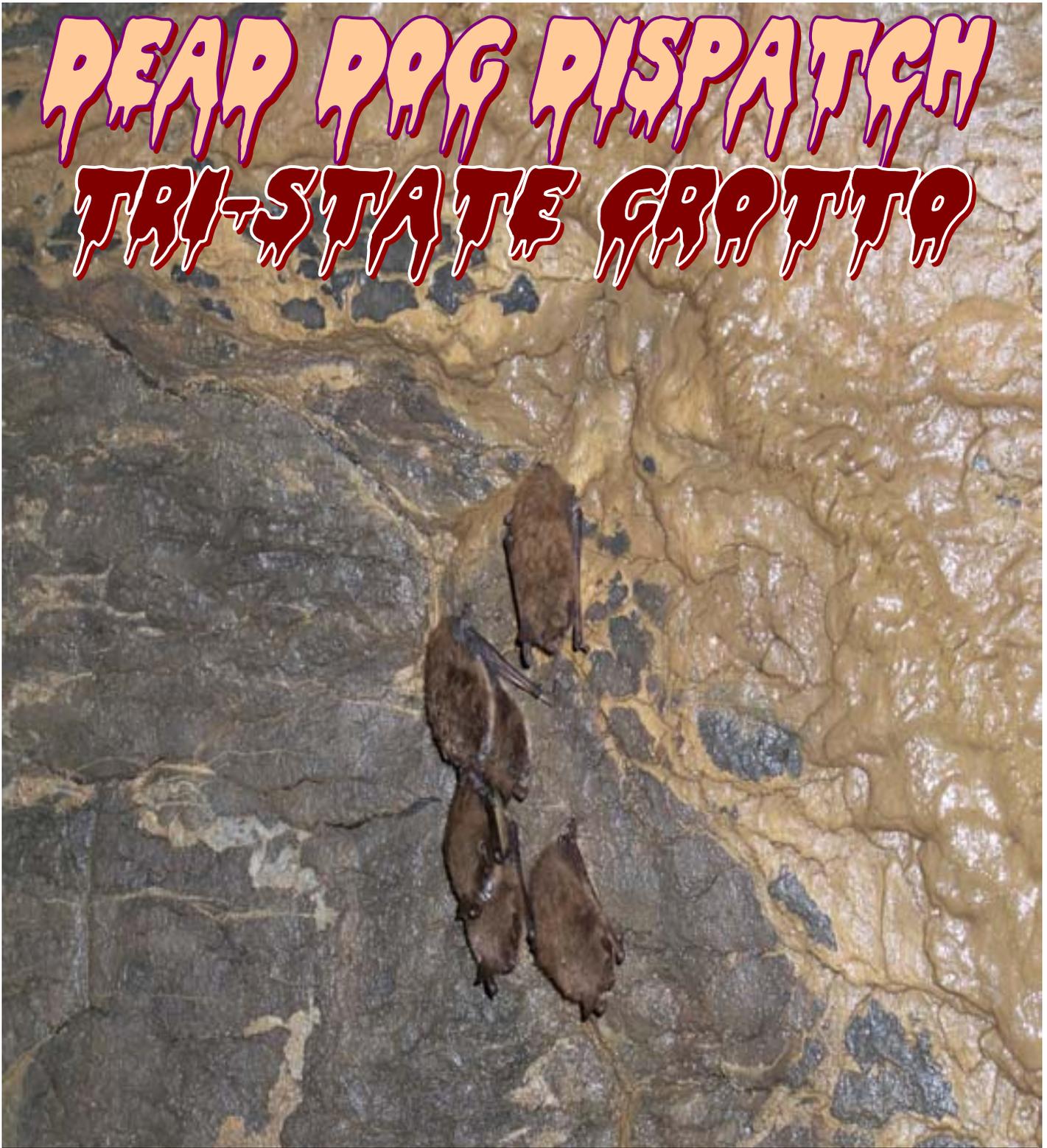


DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



DYERS CAVE, HARDY CO, WV

VOL. #26

ISS. #3

MAR

2011

#27



ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP---\$12.00 (Non-NSS)
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Payment of DUES can be made at MONTHLY MEETINGS
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*** The photo on the cover was taken by Bob Bennett just inside the entrance of Dyers Cave, Hardy Co, WV. Picture shows evidence of WNS!

**** 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!



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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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TRI-STATE GROTTTO MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

FULL MEMBERSHIP -----\$10.00 (Must be NSS)

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

V.#26

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CAVING EVENTS

2011

MAR 9 ----- TSG Grotto meeting – 7pm
MAR 12 ----- Adam Stephen dig – 9am
MAR 13 ----- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS
MAR 17 ----- ST PATRICK'S DAY
MAR 20 ----- SPRING EQUINOX
MAR 22 ----- WORLD WATER DAY
MAR 25 ----- MD DAY
APR 1 ----- ALL FOOL'S DAY
APR 13 ----- TSG Grotto meeting – 7pm
APR 15 ----- TAX DAY
APR 16 ----- Crystal Grottoes Dig – 10am
APR 22 ----- GOOD FRIDAY
APR 22 ----- EARTH DAY
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 ----- 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 ----- **PTA!!!!**
SEP 5 ----- LABOR DAY

2012

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

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

TOTAL TO DATE: --- \$4933.00

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

GROTTO BIRTHDAYS

MONTH OF MARCH

Ken Tayman

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

GROTTO NEWS

2 found dead in Ellison Cave's in Walker County | Chattanooga Times Free PressSITE

Walker County investigators have confirmed two students from Florida have died in Ellison's Cave. Sheriff Steve Wilson said emergency crews are trying to retrieve the bodies of two people who were rappelling in the cave and fell.

Walker Coroner Dewayne Wilson said the two were among a group of 10 students who came to the cave off Georgia Highway 193 to go rappelling. He said members of the group notified rescuers in mid-afternoon Saturday that two of them had gotten in trouble in the cave.

Ellisons' cave has the largest vertical drop of any cave in the United States at more than 600 feet.

2 University of Florida students die after rappelling in Walker County cave

Chattanooga Times Free PressSITE

Two University of Florida students were found dead in a Walker County cave Saturday night after friends called authorities asking for help. The two males were rappelling in Ellison's Cave with eight friends -- three other males and five females -- when one called up for help after jumping down a drop, authorities said. "The second one went down, they didn't hear any noise, so the others went for help,"

Walker County Coroner Dewayne Wilson said. "Looks like there was water down there, and they died of hypothermia." The other eight contacted authorities about 2:30 p.m.

The official cause of death will be released after autopsies are performed, officials said. Wilson said he is familiar with the more than 600-foot-deep cave, as people have been injured there before.

The cave is in the Crockford-Pigeon Mountain Wildlife Management Area off of Georgia Highway 193 and is open to the public. Ellison's is the 12th deepest cave in the U.S., and Walker County is among the top 10 caving destinations in the country.

Contact Carey O'Neil

Strange disease is killing Virginia's bats Richmond Times-Dispatch

Credit: P. KEVIN MORLEY/TIMES-DISPATCH

A dead Eastern Small-Footed Bat with evidence of White Nose Syndrome at the entrance of a cave in Bland County. Death showed its face right away.

As scientists approached Hamilton Cave to check on the bats inside, they found the body of one wedged in a crack outside the cave's mouth.

The bat's nose was white, as if the thumb-sized animal had poked its gargoyle face into flour.

"The first white-nose victim at Hamilton Cave," geologist Wil Orndorff said somberly. "Ever," added colleague Chris Hobson, a zoologist. That white gunk was a fungus believed to cause a torturous disease in bats called white-nose syndrome.

In 2009, when scientists last checked Hamilton Cave in far Southwest Virginia, all the bats looked fine. But the mysterious fungus, new to science when it appeared in New York in 2006, is spreading quickly. White-nose has killed more than 1 million bats from New Hampshire to Tennessee, including thousands in Virginia. At some Northeast caves, it has wiped out more than 90 percent of the bats, leaving behind little brown bones like pine needles.

"This is like the Great Plague for bats," said Orndorff, who works with Hobson for the state Natural Heritage Program, a conservation office. The disease has caused "the most precipitous decline of North American wildlife in recorded history" and could make entire species of bats go extinct, experts said in a 2009 statement.

Scientists are comparing this onslaught to the devastation of the buffalo, the passenger pigeon and the American chestnut tree. And all the bats want to do is eat the mosquitoes that make us miserable and the bugs that damage our crops and gardens.

The white-nose fungus gets not only on bats' faces but also on their ears and wings. Stricken bats come out of hibernation early, possibly because the fungus irritates their skin. Burning up fat they need to survive their deep sleep, the bats often flee their caves in midwinter, searching in vain for insects to eat in the bitter cold. Scientists have found dying bats crawling through snow. Dehydrated bats with wings like crumpled tissue paper. Bats with wings damaged by the flesh-killing fungus.

The bats appear to be starving or freezing to death. "You're just sick at heart," said Susi von Oettingen, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist. "No animal should suffer like that. Nothing should have such a slow and horrible demise."

Bats are social, and they communicate. Some healthy bats fly from infected caves, toward almost certain death in the cold, possibly because they sense something is wrong, von Oettingen said.

On the rock wall outside a Vermont cave, von Oettingen found a living bat surrounded by dead ones. "He was actually nudging the dead bodies around him (as if asking) 'What's up? What's going on?'"

The fungus probably is spread by bats themselves and possibly by cave explorers. It seems to be harmless to people.

The fungus also has been found in Europe, where bats aren't dying. Experts believe the fungus made its way, perhaps on a caver's equipment, to the U.S., where bats have not evolved natural defenses. The white-nose disease is extraordinarily menacing in its killing ability and its speed in spreading. "We've never seen anything like it," said von Oettingen. "Ever."

White-nose was first found in Virginia in February 2009, in Breathing Cave in Bath County. Today, it's in at least 11 western counties and spreading.

Virginia has more than 4,000 caves, and any cave with bats will probably be infected eventually, said Rick Reynolds, a state Department of Game and Inland Fisheries biologist.

"Basically, we're surrounded" by the disease, Reynolds said. All cave bats appear to be at risk, but the one that has suffered most is the aptly named little brown bat, which hibernates in tight

clusters — a trait that might help the disease spread. Other victims have included the endangered Indiana bat. Our state bat, the Virginia big-eared bat, has not yet been stricken.

Virginia scientists check the bats in about 20 key caves every other year. The 2011 count began last month, and the numbers are bleak. At Coon Cave in Bland County, for example, the number of little brown bats fell from nearly 1,300 in pre-white-nose times to 94 — a 93 percent drop. People in the Richmond area often spot little brown bats and others that hibernate in mountain caves.

"If you are used to seeing bats flying around in the evening in the summertime," Reynolds said, "you may be seeing a lot fewer, if any." Outside Hamilton Cave in Bland, geologist Orndorff said, "I haven't been in a cave without white-nose" this winter. That's about a dozen caves.

Inside the cave, Orndorff, Hobson and two others followed the beams of their helmet lights, finding some bats hibernating in plain sight and others partially hidden in cracks. It was like hunting for Easter eggs, without the laughs. Most of the bats looked healthy. But the searchers found just 274 bats — a 23 percent drop from 2009, including a 63 percent drop in little brown bats. And this was a cave in which white-nose was just getting started.

Bats have long been the subject of vampire legends and other myths. For the record:

- They are not rodents. (They are bats. There is nothing like them.)
 - They don't get in your hair.
- Very few carry rabies — well below 1 percent, experts say.

For people who know bats, their attraction is obvious.

"It's the only flying mammal," said Ann Froschauer, a spokeswoman for the Fish and

Wildlife Service. "It takes care of its young. It's a fierce predator. It does all these really cool things. It hangs upside down. It's just an interesting and unique creature." And one can eat hundreds — if not thousands — of insects at night.

In October, Froschauer visited Vermont's Mount Aeolus Cave, which harbored an estimated 300,000-plus bats before white-nose struck. Now only a tiny fraction remain. "It was grim," she said. "There were just little bodies everywhere, and bones and carcasses." When Froschauer got home, she found tiny bat bones in the treads of her boots.

"I sat down on the floor of my basement, and I just started crying. ... That was like a genocide, basically. That whole world of life was wiped out in a very short period of time, and there was nobody really there to mourn it."

Precisely how white-nose works is unclear. Aided by more than \$4 million in federal money over the past three years, scientists nationally are looking for ways to fight the disease. New research shows that the white fungus eats into bats' wings, leaving scars and holes. Bats need their wings not only to fly but to regulate hydration and other functions. The bats could be dying of thirst.

"It is very rare" for a fungus that attacks the surface of the skin to kill a mammal, said Anne Ballman, a disease specialist with the National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, Wis. That's why people with athlete's foot don't have to worry about making out wills.

Most cave bats produce just one pup a year. Even if a few bats survive white-nose, it could take decades for them to rebuild their numbers. Mollie Matteson, a conservation advocate for the Center for Biological Diversity, a national environmental group, said the federal government needs to move more quickly and put up more money to fight white-nose.

"Four million dollars over a number of years is really pretty peanuts," she said.

Some bats migrate to warm locales for winter. But most of the 45 U.S. bat species spend their winters hibernating in places such as caves and old mines. These cold, damp lairs seem to provide perfect conditions for the white-nose fungus.

Hibernating bats lower their temperatures, making their bodies attractive to the fungus, and they turn back their immune systems to save energy. "They are a perfect target because they are helpless," said von Oettingen, the biologist. In the South, winters are shorter, so bats are exposed in their caves for less time. Perhaps that, or other natural factors, will slow the disease. Or, perhaps, white-nose syndrome will continue to spread and kill off bats across North America. "This is a tragedy unfolding," von Oettingen said. "I would hope that people can understand that no species deserves to be obliterated like this. Nothing."

Some of you may already know but Bob Handley, a world renoun caver & local legend to some, passed away recently. Below is info on his passing.

ROBERT HALL HANDLEY
Robert Hall Handley, 82, of Renick, W.Va., died Saturday, January 15, 2011.

He was born April 21, 1928, in Thomasville, Ga., and was a son of the late Charles Overton Sr. and Nelle Hall Handley.

Bob was driven by his interest in preserving a clean environment for future generations and he supported this interest in many ways. He was the president of The Greenbrier River Watershed Association and held a director position with the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy. He was a life member of the Greenbrier Historical Society,

where he followed a family interest in maintaining local history. He is most noted for exploring the underground and spent most of his life helping others share his passion. He was a founding member of the West Virginia Association for Cave Studies and the West Virginia Cave Conservancy. He is the oldest person, at 81, to rappel the New River Bridge on Bridge Day. He retired from Union Carbide, Institute, W.Va., as a senior engineer.

Survivors include, one brother, John Handley and his wife, Julie, of Jacksonville Fla.; two sons and their spouses, Scott and Meri Handley of Vancouver, Wash., and Todd and Julie Handley of Parkersburg; four grandchildren, Meghan, Quinn, McKellam and Austin.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one brother, Charles Overton Handley Jr.

A celebration of life will be on Saturday, May 28, at Lost World Caverns.

The family requests that memorial contributions be made to any of the following interests in the name of Bob Handley c/o Todd Handley 116 Brentwood Heights, Parkersburg WV 26104: WV Cave Conservancy, Greenbrier River Watershed Association, Greenbrier Historical Society Inc., or WV Highlands Conservancy.

Another notable caver has also passed away recently.

To: VARLIST@LISTSERV.VT.EDU
Subject: More on Evelyn Bradshaw

This from Evelyn's daughter, Martha Adams. Evelyn W. Bradshaw, 95, passed away on January 29, 2011, at St. Mary's Hospital in

Richmond, VA. Until being diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2006, she had lived a very active life as a member of the National Speleological Society, the Battlefield Sierra Club, Fredericksburg PC Users Group, and a member of the Society of Friends (Quakers). She was also a Girl Scout leader, a Democrat, and a member of the League of Women Voters, AAUW, an astronomy club, and the ACLU. After graduating cum laude from Radcliffe in 1937, she worked for the American Friends Service Committee during WWII and, after the war, for the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Agency in China, where she met and married John C. Bradshaw, Jr., who died in 1962.

She discovered caving as a Girl Scout leader (her two daughters were in her troop). Annie Whittemore introduced her to OTR. Evelyn "realized cavers were fun people to do things with and she joined the NSS." She was in on the formation of the Virginia Cave Commission, later the Virginia Cave Board. At the annual convention of the National Speleological Society she received the Outstanding Service Award of the Society. The D.C. Grotto chairman persuaded her to run for a seat on the NSS Board of Governors. To her surprise, she won and during the next six years traveled and got to know cavers from all over the U.S. As chair of the NSS Search Committee.

ISRO finds cave on moon; can be used as an outpost

Indiatimes|The Times of India|The Economic Times

NEW DELHI: ISRO scientists have discovered a giant underground chamber on the moon, which could be used as a lunar base by astronauts for inter-planetary missions.

Scientists at the Space Applications Centre (SAC), using data gathered from Chandrayaan-I's Terrain Mapping Camera and Hyper Spectral Imager (HySI) payloads, found a 1.2 km long buried, uncollapsed and near horizontal lava tube.

The hollow cave situated just above the lunar equator on the nearside of moon, can accommodate a large number of astronauts and scientific instruments, and also protect them from hostile lunar environment.

"Such a lava tube could be a potential site for future human habitability on the Moon for future human missions and scientific explorations, providing a safe environment from hazardous radiations, micro-meteoritic impacts, extreme temperatures and dust storms," a team of scientists led by A S Arya of SAC, Ahmedabad said reporting the findings in 'Current Science'.

Scientists said identifying sites for permanent base for human settlements on the moon is important for further exploration.

The scientists said the lava tubes offer a dust-free environment and adapting them for human use requires minimal construction.

The structures also shield its occupants as after 6 meters depth, no effects of radiation due to or induced by galactic cosmic rays were observed in simulation, they said.





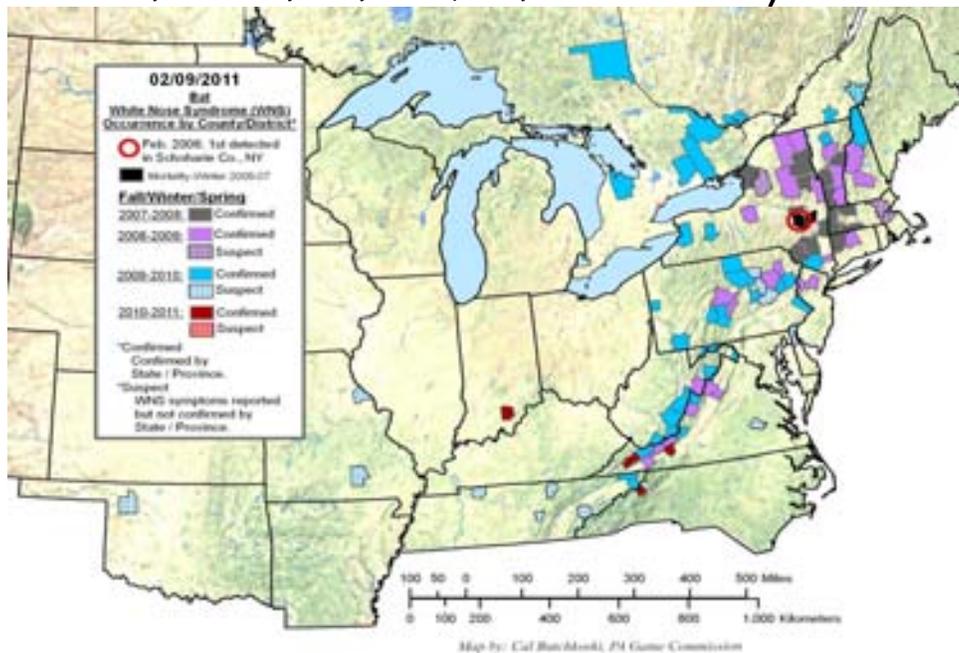
SAVIN CALENDAR

MARCH 6TH - APRIL 16TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mar 6	Mar 7	Mar 8	 Meeting 7pm	Mar 10	Mar 11	 Adam Stephen Dig 9am
Mar 13 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS	Mar 14	Mar 15	Mar 16	 ST PATRICK'S DAY	Mar 18	Mar 19
 EQUINOX	Mar 21	Mar 22 WORLD WATER DAY	Mar 23	Mar 24	Mar 25 MD DAY	Mar 26
Mar 27	Mar 28	Mar 29	Mar 30	Mar 31	 April Fools!	Apr 2
Apr 3	Apr 4	Apr 5	Apr 6	Apr 7	Apr 8	Apr 9
Apr 10	Apr 11	Apr 12	 Meeting 7pm	Apr 14	Apr 15 TAX DAY	 Crystal Grottoes Dig 10 am

DEAD DOG DISPATCH



- 1- CAVE FOUND ON THE MOON
- 2- RECENT OBITUARIES

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

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TO:

