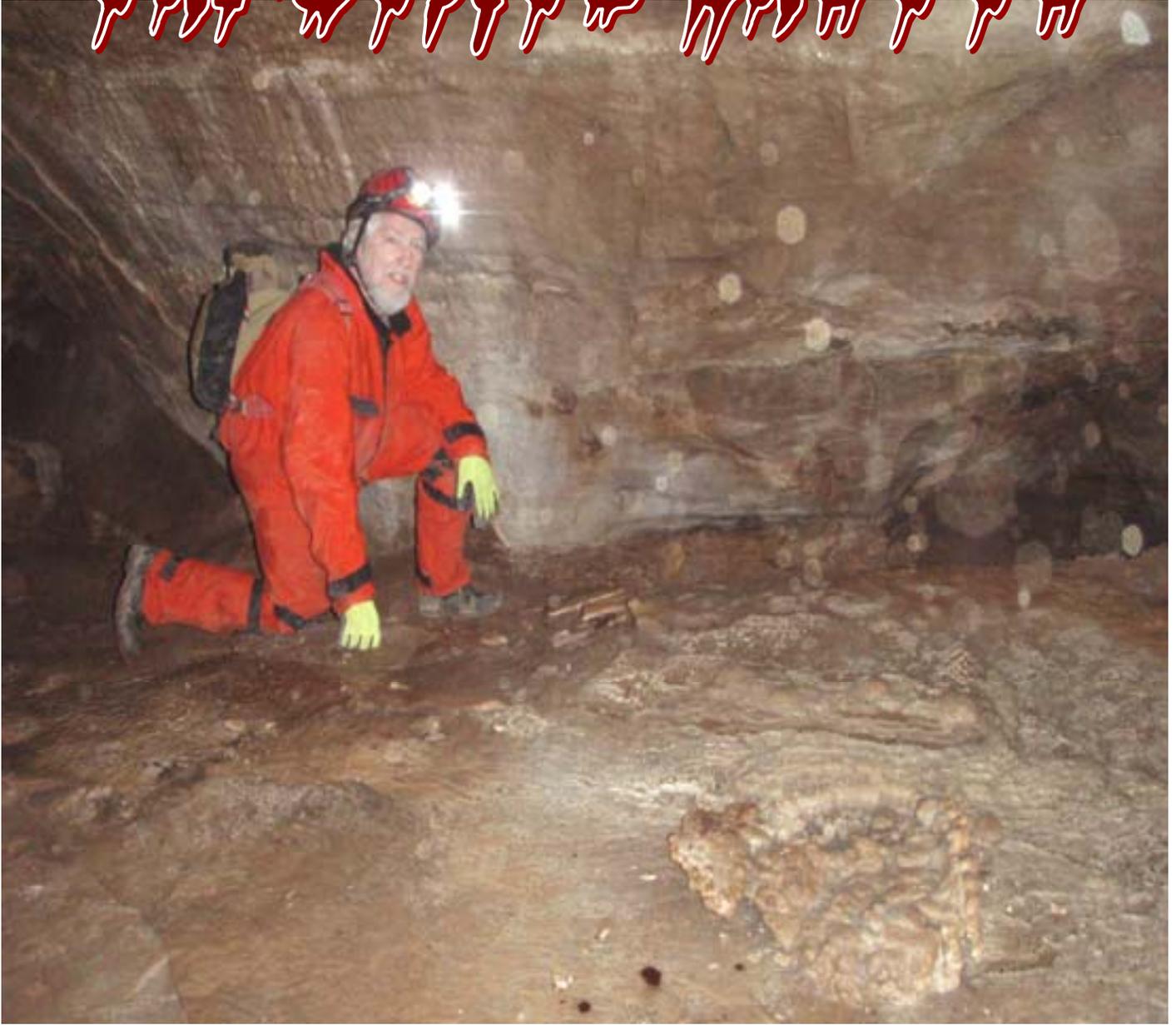


DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



**POOR FARM CAVE
POCAHONTAS CO. WV**

VOL. #26

ISS. #5

MAY

2011

#47



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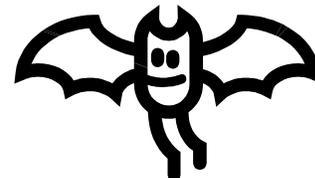
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*** The photo on the cover was taken by Bru
 Randall in Poor Farm Cave, Pocahontas Co, WV

**** 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
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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!



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DISPATCH must be sent to the EDITOR NO LATER
 THAN THE **25TH** OF EACH MONTH.

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DEAD DOG DISPATCH

V.#26

I.#5

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#48

CAVING EVENTS

2011

TOTAL TO DATE: --- **\$4965.00**
Keep It Coming!

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 21 ----- Trip to Dyers Cave – need trip leader
- 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

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

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 April ----- **\$18.00**

GROTTO BIRTHDAYS

MONTH OF MAY

Sandy Amundson, Eric Berge, John Dale,
JC Fisher, Lucas Hanson, Matthew

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

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Jefferson, Greg McCoy, Chelsea Pell,
Steve Rexford, Christopher Whootten

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

A Grim Outlook for WV Bat Population
West Virginia Outdoors News Saturday,
April 23 2011

Chris Lawrence - Elkins

Craig Stihler -- WV DNR on White Nose
Syndrome

The rare ailment impacting West Virginia bat populations continues to grow. White nose syndrome was first detected in West Virginia caves in 2009. The discovery came only a couple of years after the disease was found in New England. This year, the agency's annual bat survey found four more counties impacted.

"I hate to say it but every cave we went to doing bat work this year was white nose positive," said DNR Biologist Craig Stihler.

The fungal infection was detected in 2011 in new caves in Tucker, Randolph, and Grant Counties and in a mine portal in the New River Gorge in Fayette County. The National Park Service detected the samples in southern West Virginia.

The discovery crushes a fleeting hope the fungus would slow as it spread southward. "There's nothing slowing it down," said Stihler. "We had hopes as it moved south it maybe wouldn't spread as quickly and wouldn't be as devastating. We're finding it's spreading just as rapidly as it did up north and our mortalities are just as high."

Stihler says they returned to a pair of caves where the fungus was first discovered in 2009. The numbers of little brown bats, the most common in West Virginia, were down 97-

percent. The tri-colored bats were down 92-percent. "In two of our most common bat species we lost 90-percent of them," he said.

Ironically, the endangered Virginia Big Eared bats, which are among the rarest in the world, seem to be unaffected. Stihler says other bats are also showing a resistance. Big brown bats, commonly found roosting in barns and attics in the summertime, are less impacted and migratory bats such as Curry bats and red bats also seem to be immune.

"White nose only affects bats when they're hibernating," Stihler said. "It doesn't impact them when they're at their full body temperatures." The disease has two equally detrimental effects. It forces the bats to wake up and quickly burn off vital fat reserves well before spring. Secondly, researchers are finding the illness is impacting the bats' wings, which are critical to a host of biological functions besides erratic flight patterns.

Although research to find a cause and a solution to the problem has been underway for several years, scientists are no closer to coming up with the answer--and Stihler believes it may already be too late.

"I just hope at some point we find a solution, but I think for West Virginia it's too late," lamented Stihler. "We're seeing major die-offs in our bats and nothing we're going to find in the next two years is going to make any difference."

Stihler says his hope is they can help other states where the prevalence isn't as deep and help fuel a breakthrough and rebound in the population. Until then, West Virginia faces a future of fewer bats, possibly forever.

Kentucky Department of Fish and
Wildlife Resources - White-nose
Syndrome Confirmed In Kentucky Bat

FRANKFORT, Ky. – The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have detected the presence of white-nose syndrome in a bat residing in Trigg County, located in southwest Kentucky. A suspect little brown bat from a cave in Trigg County, about 30 miles southeast of Paducah, was submitted to the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) in Athens, Ga., which confirmed the disease.

White-nose syndrome was first detected in New York state in 2006. It has since killed more than one million cave-dwelling bats in eastern North America. Mortality rates of bats have reached almost 100 percent in multi-year infected caves. With confirmation of the syndrome in Kentucky, a total of 16 states - mostly in the eastern U.S. - and three Canadian provinces have now been confirmed infected.

“This is likely the most significant disease threat to wildlife Kentucky has ever seen”, said Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commissioner, Dr. Jonathan Gassett. “It would be professionally irresponsible to take no action to stop or slow this disease. Bats are an important part of our natural environment, acting as pollinators and consuming mosquitoes and other insect pests across the landscape. We plan to aggressively manage this threat as it occurs in Kentucky in order to protect and conserve our bat populations.”

Anticipating the arrival of white-nose syndrome (WNS) in Kentucky, biologists have taken exhaustive measures to limit its spread. “We have had a long-term partnership to address white-nose syndrome in Kentucky since it was first discovered in New York state,” said Mike Armstrong, USFWS Regional WNS Coordinator. “Now that it is confirmed here, we will continue to support the state in their research and management to limit the spread as much as we can.”

WNS is known to be transmitted primarily from bat to bat, but fungal spores may be inadvertently carried to caves by humans on clothing and caving gear. Both state and federal agencies took pro-active measures to limit potential human movement of the disease. These measures included increased education on decontamination procedures, surveillance, monitoring and cave closures on private, state and federal lands. All measures were included in the “Kentucky WNS Response Plan” developed in 2009.

Kentucky was the first state to develop a response plan to address WNS both before and after its arrival in the state.

Almost 100 hibernacula were checked throughout Kentucky during the winter. The Trigg County cave was one of five revisited by scientists upon confirmation of WNS in Ohio. These hibernacula were rechecked due to their known proximity to infected sites in adjacent states. The privately-owned Trigg County cave is used as a hibernaculum by six species, including the endangered Indiana bat, and is a summer roost for the endangered gray bats.

Surrounding caves were checked within a 16-mile radius; no additional infected sites were found. Measures were taken to limit the spread of WNS beyond the Trigg County cave that is regularly used as a hibernaculum by more than 2,000 bats. These included removing and euthanizing 60 highly suspect little brown bats and tri-colored bats, as they were not expected to survive.

Bats collected will be used to provide critical information to researchers. Under the direction of Kentucky Fish and Wildlife’s veterinarian, Dr. Aaron Hecht, staff from SCWDS collected samples from the bats.

“A better understanding of the disease process will enhance our ability to respond to outbreaks,” said Hecht.

Spores of *Geomyces destructans*, the fungus associated with WNS, are known to reside in the environment. Physical barriers were strategically affixed within the cave to prevent bats from roosting in areas known to harbor infected individuals. These barriers will not alter the climate or restrict passageways used by bats.

Scientists are attempting to reduce the possibility of other bats from coming in direct contact with the fungal spores and becoming infected. White-nose syndrome does not affect people.

Pest-control services provided by insect-eating bats in the United States likely save the U.S. agricultural industry at least \$3 billion a year, and yet insectivorous bats are among the most overlooked economically important, non-domesticated animals in North America, according to an analysis published in this week's Science magazine Policy Forum. (Source: USGS)

For more information about white-Nose syndrome, visit these websites: www.fw.ky.gov

www.fws.gov/WhiteNoseSyndrome

www.flickr.com/photos/usfwshq/sets/72157626485081164

www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=2743



JONES QUARRY CAVE

Recently a caver who previously was a member of Tri-State Grotto asked me if I would set up a trip into Jones Quarry Cave so that his kids could get the experience of one of the better local caves. This fellow and I used to do an awful lot of caving together so I more than glad to set this up. Of course I opened the trip up to the whole Grotto because we have a few new members who have not done the cave.

I set the trip up for Sunday, May 8th. Of course this was Mother's Day but everyone was in agreement that there would still be plenty of time to go see MOM and spend some quality time with her.

The trip included the following participants: Clint, Jesse, and Shawn Hogbin, Art Jr, Christal, Malakai, & Lucas Hanson, Bob Denton, Jesse Thompson, & me.

Of course as we were getting dressed for the trip, Clint, Bob D. and I talked a lot of shop since it had been years since Clint and I had gone caving together. Of course this didn't seem such a good idea to Kai because he was anxious to get started. He asked, "Were we going caving or were we just gonna talk about it?" Everyone laughed and up the hill to the gate we went.

Bob D, Jesse H, Shawn, Kai, Lucas, and Jesse T had not been in the cave so once inside we decided to start doing the 'routine tourist trip' route. We then headed down the steep slope to the central dome pit area. Right away you could see that the cave was going to be pretty muddy. Of course I doubt if all the rain recently had anything to do with all the mud!

Once at the bottom of the dome pit we headed left toward the Subway Passage. Since the passage was short only 2 (Bob D & Jesse T) decided to continue to the end of the passage while the rest of us continued to the 6' climb up the wall. Once up we headed through the uterus.

This brought us to the slope that leads to the bottom of Entrance 4. We decided to go up the slope which proved quite tricky since it was very slick due to all the rain.

Halfway up the slope we headed through the tight opening leading to the Bowl Room. Here we let the kids look and explore around We decided not to try the Hairy Traverse since the walls were quite wet and slick so back through the tight opening we went to the Slippery Slope. Once at the bottom we headed to the connection crawl that leads to Hogbins Addition. It just so happens that Clint was the major digger when we opened up the Hogbins Addition section!

Here we decided who wanted to do the crawling to get to the newer section. Bob D decided to go back out to get his camera to take pictures while we explored this section. Art Jr also decided not to go and would wait on us with Lukey.

The 1st crawl was previously known so we did not have to dig here when the section was opened up. This crawl starts out about 2' high and 4' wide. It also trends uphill. Being that the cave was quite muddy and damp the passage was quite tacky. This created problems trying to slide along the floor. Of course the 'larger' cavers were the only ones who seemed to have this problem (LOL). Three quarters of the way through the crawlway (at the tightest spot) you have to shift sideways to the left before finishing the crawl. At this point the passage is about 10" high and 2' wide.

Jesse T went through 1st followed by me, Jesse H, Kai, Christal, Shawn and then Clint. Here I must add something. When Clint and I used to do our caving together, he was 6' 1" and a beanpole. He has now filled out into a 'real' man and has probably added an additional 40 lbs to his stature. This created a lot of work for him to work his way through the crawl so he decided not to do the crawlway.

Once the rest of us were through the crawlway this put us in a small room 20' long and 3' to 4.5' high. The next crawl did not get any easier. This crawl starts out about 2' high and 2' wide, trends downward and immediately turns left. At this point the dimensions are 1.5' wide and 1' high. The total length is about 8'-10'. This crawl was the spot of the 1st major dig.

Here I'll add a little history.

When we 1st started this dig Clint would come here and dig while the rest of us were surveying the cave. We were surveying the cave once a week so this went on for a couple of weeks. On the night of the break-through Clint was not involved. He could not make it so 2 other people were digging while the rest of us surveyed. These 2 dug for a couple of hours then came to get me. They said that they were ready for a major breakthrough. I followed them to the dig and dove head first into the tight hole. Sure enough at the end of the dig I could see through into larger passage. Well adrenalin took over and it didn't take long for me to make short work of the remaining blockage.

The larger passage was only larger because it was no longer 1' x 2'. The room was about 40' long and 12' to 15' wide and 1.5' to 2' high. Also it was made challenging because the floor and ceiling was shaped like an arc. The left side of the room was 3' higher and the right side trended downward about 6' to 8'. The best spot to cross the room was to crawl through the middle which was about the level of the tight crawl. Also as you crawled the floor trended upward.

Now back to the story!

As each of us crossed the low room we had problems as we tried to pass by the series of formations near the end of the room. The ceiling is about 15" high here and you have to trend immediately upward and to the left. The floor

was slick here and all you could do was keep pawing until you made it past the formations.

At this point was the 2nd major dig. The passage goes left into a 6' tall stand-up area with several nice formations. It also goes on forward through a tight crawl. This passage starts out about 3' wide and 1.5' tall and at the end is about 1' tall and 1.5' wide. Did I mention that you were also crawling uphill on your belly! (LOL).

More history here!

I mentioned that Clint would dig every week while the rest of us would survey. Well this system would continue for another 6 weeks. On the 6th week we decided that there would be no surveying and we would concentrate on just digging since the dig was blowing air through the 3" to 4" airspace above the dirt. Clint and I along with Keith Schenk were the hearty souls who showed up for the dig. After about 20' Clint made a breakthrough but the passage made a tight left-hand turn. Since Clint was over 6' tall he had trouble getting his legs through the sharp left-hand turn. Oh by the way it then immediately made a sharp right-hand turn. The only advantage to this turn was that the passage started to enlarge. Once through the turn you could then set up and catch your breath.

More story!

About 4' into the crawl there is a small pool of water. The smaller people could arch themselves upward and not drag themselves through the water. The only advantage to getting wet at this point was that it made your coveralls slick. This allowed you to slide along a lot easier at least until you reached the tight turn. Here you are trending immediately upward just before the turn. The easiest way for me to make the turn is to curl my right leg up and slide sideways until my body is perpendicular with the turn (boy there are some advantages to being short). I then use my left foot against the wall and ceiling to push my way through the turn.

Once through the turn the passage gets gradually taller. There is some breakdown here so you have to raise/climb up about 4' through a small hole. Once through the hole the passage then gradually gets taller to allow standing. This series of events is called the Clint Hogbin Memorial Highway. Then you enter the Six Week Room. At this point your body and arms are very glad to be standing.

The Six Week Rom is one of the prettier rooms in the cave. There is a small arched bridge in the room. There are also stalactites and stalagmites here. But what catches your eye is the beautiful left-hand wall of flowstone adorned with white stalagmites. This room is 6' to 15' tall, averages 10' to 15' wide, and is about 50' long. This room also has a hand-shake connection to the H3 section.

Continuing through this room you then enter the Mud Room. This room is much muddier. There are also many formations found in this room. There are small columns, many stalactites, stalagmites, soda straws, flowstone along the left wall, and even some nice bacon. You have to be careful near the formations because at this point the room is only 3' to 5' high. This room is high to the left and trends downward to the right, Also the ceiling height gets higher down to the right. This room is very active (hence all the mud). The drainage from this room drains down to the right to two places.

Just inside this room along the right wall is an opening. Through this opening the floor immediately drops off about 5' to 6'. The floor here also trends downward to the right. This is the Dip-Shit Room. The room is 10' to 12' long. 6' to 10' high and is extremely muddy!!!!

Back in the Mud Room near the bottom (to the right) is the lowest point in the known cave. There is a 30' pit. You have to access the pit through some breakdown blocks. The bottom of

the pit has a small room and is also extremely muddy!

More history here!

Once Clint, Keith, & I had opened up the passage and found the Six Week Room we took many pictures. There was also a 2nd passage that led off to the left through a tight slot for another 75'.

As I said this was a Saturday. We decided to come back on Sunday with vertical gear to drop the pit. Keith could not make it so it was just Clint and I. So on Sunday Clint and I were slowly trudging through the tight crawls with a ton of equipment. We had 2 ropes, all of our vertical gear, a come-along to move breakdown blocks with, and only God can remember what else we had. We did not want to need something else and have to negotiate the crawls any more than we had to.

After resting and eating snacks we proceeded to try and move a rock blocking the drop. After much digging and using the pressure of the come-along we finally managed to start moving the block.

We almost had the rock move to a spot to where we could muscle it out of the way and then uh ooh! The rock slipped out of the rope and slid down the tight pit. Luckily it didn't wedge in the pit and fell through a slot to the side just large enough to allow the rock to fit in.

Clint rappelled first and then I came down. We didn't find any more cave, but there sure was plenty of mud. We, along with the rope and gear were thoroughly slimed. Climbing out was also not easy. Near the top the pit gets very narrow so it limits how much lift you get when you move your ascenders.

We had tried to keep the discovery a secret for as long as we could. At the 1st dig, since the hole was in the side wall, we found a slab of thin rock

that looked similar to the wall, stood it on its side and placed it over the hole. We then used mud from the floor of the room to seal & cement the cracks around the slab. This actually worked for about 2 years until an extended dry period created cracks in the mud. This showed the slab, somebody removed it and the rest is history.

Back to end of the story.

After we all oohed and aahed for a while we headed back out. The trip out is just slightly easier because the tight crawls have a slightly downward trend.

Once we connected with the waiting group we proceeded to finish the tourist trip that leads over and up to the 3rd Entrance area. There are some very nice large columns here. From here we headed over to the top of the dome pit, through the crawl, down the climb, up the slope and out of the cave.

What a nice day! 70 degrees and sunshine! We all stood around again and talked caving. Kai was pleasantly tired at this point and was happy to allow us to talk. Another trip was planned to go to Whittings Neck.

Bob Bennett
NSS 21847



The Gang before the trip into Poor Farm



Spring VAR 2011



Bug Camp



Crystal Grottoes



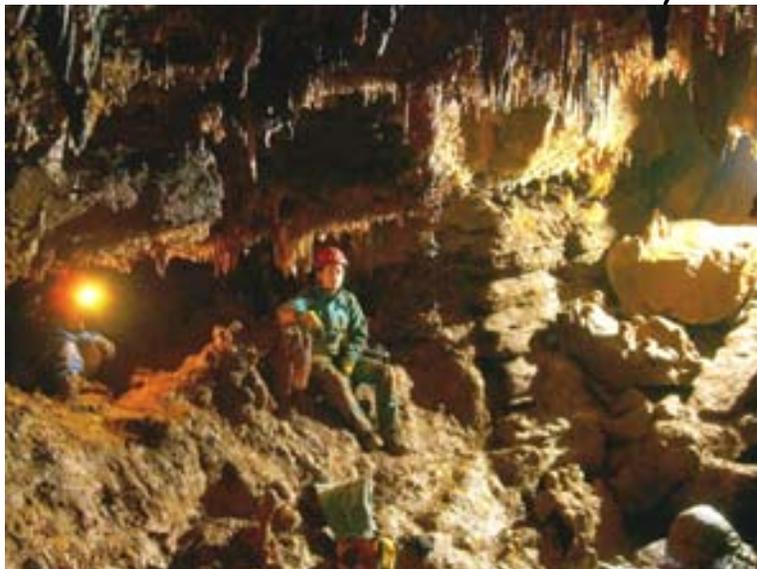
CANYON CALENDAR

MAY 8TH - JUNE 18TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 8 Jones Quarry Cave - see Bob  MOTHER'S DAY	<i>May 9</i>	<i>May 10</i>	May 11  Meeting 7pm	<i>May 12</i>	May 13 Spring MAR - Shade Camp, PA	May 14 Spring MAR
May 15 Spring MAR	<i>May 16</i>	<i>May 17</i>	<i>May 18</i>	<i>May 19</i>	<i>May 20</i>	May 21  ARMED FORCES DAY
<i>May 22</i>	<i>May 23</i>	<i>May 24</i>	<i>May 25</i>	<i>May 26</i>	May 27 Speleofest, KY	May 28 Speleofest
May 29 Speleofest	May 30 Speleofest  MEMORIAL DAY	<i>May 31</i>	<i>Jun 1</i>	<i>Jun 2</i>	<i>Jun 3</i>	<i>Jun 4</i>
<i>Jun 5</i>	<i>Jun 6</i>	<i>Jun 7</i>	Jun 8  Meeting 7pm	<i>Jun 9</i>	Jun 10 Bubble Weekend	Jun 11 Bubble Weekend
Jun 12 Bubble Weekend	<i>Jun 13</i>	Jun 14  FLAG DAY	Jun 15 NSS Convention Pre Registration Discount ends	Jun 16 SERA Cave Carnival TN	Jun 17 SERA	Jun 18 SERA

DEAD DOG DISPATCH



Paxtons Cave (Todd Roberts)

1- JONES QUARRY
2- WNS IN KY

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

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