

# DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



## WHITINGS NECK CAVE

VOL. #27

ISS. #3

MAR

2012

#37



**ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP---\$12.00 (Non-NSS)**  
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Payment of DUES can be made at MONTHLY MEETINGS  
 or can be SENT TO:

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 HAGERSTOWN, MD 21740  
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\*\*\* The photo on the cover was taken by Eric Berge in Whitings Neck Cave, Berkeley 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](mailto:gimpycaver@comcast.net) or **JUDY FISHER** [304-258-4974(H) or 304-258-1822(W)](E-MAIL at [jcf@access.mountain.net](mailto: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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All material for inclusion in the **DEAD DOG DISPATCH** must be sent to the EDITOR NO LATER THAN THE **25<sup>TH</sup>** OF EACH MONTH.

### TRI-STATE GROTTTO OFFICERS

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**TRI-STATE GROTTTO MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

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

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# CAVING EVENTS

## 2012

MAR 10 ----- Culverson Creek – Eric & Earl  
**MAR 11 ----- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS**  
**MAR 14 ----- TSG meeting – 7PM – Deadline for beer, sodas, & water**  
**MAR 17 ----- ST PATRICK'S DAY**  
MAR 17 ----- Silers Cave – SEE Jeff Jahn  
**MAR 20 ----- VERNAL (SPRING) EQUINOX**  
MAR 22 ----- World Water Day  
MAR 25 ----- MD Day  
MAR 30-31 – NCRC Orientation – E. Mennonite U  
MAR 31 ----- Maxwellton Sink – see Jerry (Photo trip)  
MAR 31 ----- Hamilton Cave-see Eric Berge – Beginner  
APR 1 ----- NCRC Orientation  
**APR 1 ----- ALL FOOL'S DAY**  
**APR 6 ----- GOOD FRIDAY**  
APR 6-8 ----- Grand Caverns Conservation Weekend  
**APR 8 ----- EASTER**  
**APR 11 ----- TSG meeting – 7pm**  
**APR 16 ----- TAX DAY**  
APR 22 ----- EARTH DAY  
APR 27 ----- ARBOR DAY  
**APR 27-29 --- SPRING VAR – Hosted by TSG in Greenbrier Co, WV at the Poor Farm Festival Grounds**  
MAY 3-6 ----- SERA Cave Carnival  
MAY 5 ----- CINCO de MAYO  
MAY 9 ----- TSG meeting – 7PM  
MAY 10 ----- DAY of PRAYER  
MAY 12 ----- Heritage Day (Adam Stephen Day)  
**MAY 13 ----- MOTHER'S DAY**  
MAY 19 ----- ARMED FORCES DAY  
MAY 25-28 --- KY Speleofest – Lone Star Preserve  
**MAY 28 ----- MEMORIAL DAY**  
JUN 8-10 ----- Bubble Weekend  
JUN 13 ----- TSG meeting – 7pm  
**JUN 14 ----- FLAG DAY**  
**JUN 17 ----- FATHER'S DAY**  
JUN 20 ----- WV DAY  
**JUN 20 ----- SUMMER SOLSTICE**  
**JUN 25-30 --- NSS Convention, Lewisburg, WV**  
**JUL 1 ----- OTR Pre-registration begins**  
**JUL 4 ----- INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
**JUL 11 ----- TSG meeting – 7pm**  
**JUL 14 ----- TSG picnic**  
JUL 20-22 --- Karst-O-Rama, Great Saltwater Preserve, KY  
JUL 22 ----- Parent's Day  
JUL 31 ----- TRA Deadline  
AUG 8 ----- TSG meeting – 7pm  
AUG 30-31 – SEP 1-3 --- OTR  
SEP 1 ----- Doo Dah Parade – 10am

SEP 3 ----- LABOR DAY  
SEP 9 ----- GRAND PARENT'S DAY  
SEP 11 ----- PATRIOT'S DAY  
SEP 12 ----- TSG meeting – 7PM  
SEP 22 ----- AUTUMNAL EQUINOX  
OCT 8 ----- COLUMBUS DAY  
OCT 10 ----- TSG meeting – 7pm  
OCT 20 ----- Bridge Day  
**OCT 31 ----- ALL HALLOW EVE (HALLOWEEN)**  
**NOV 4 ----- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS**  
NOV 10 ----- Sadie Hawkin's Day  
NOV 11 ----- VETERAN'S DAY  
NOV 14 ----- TSG meeting – 7pm  
NOV 22 ----- THANKS GIVING  
NOV 23 ----- BLACK FRIDAY  
DEC 12 ----- Grotto meeting – 7pm  
DEC 15 ----- Annual Grotto Christmas Celebration  
DEC 16 ----- Caving!  
**DEC 21 ----- WINTER SOLSTICE**  
DEC 24 ----- CHRISTMAS EVE  
DEC 26 ----- CHRISTMAS DAY  
DEC 31 ----- NEW YEAR'S EVE

### \*\*\*\*\* 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----- **\$11.00**

**TOTAL TO DATE: --- \$5122.00**

### Keep It Coming!



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## WEBSITE & GIVING LINKS

Tri-State Grotto ----- [www.tristategrotto.net/](http://www.tristategrotto.net/)  
VAR ----- [www.varegion.org/](http://www.varegion.org/)  
NSS ----- [www.caves.org/](http://www.caves.org/)  
NSS Convention 2010 ----- <http://www.ics2009.us/>  
OTR ----- [www.otr.org/](http://www.otr.org/)  
MAR ----- [www.caves.org/region/mar/](http://www.caves.org/region/mar/)  
WVCC ----- [www.wvcc.net/](http://www.wvcc.net/)  
Andy Celmer ----- [www.tristategrotto.net/Andy/](http://www.tristategrotto.net/Andy/)  
Bob's Web Site ----- [www.tristategrotto.net/Bob/](http://www.tristategrotto.net/Bob/)  
Ehren Gieske ----- [www.tristategrotto.net/Ehren/](http://www.tristategrotto.net/Ehren/)  
Jerry's Cave Web Site ----- <http://www.caves.org/member/jerry/>  
Vitas Eidukevicius ----- [www.tristategrotto.net/Vitas/](http://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/](http://s63.photobucket.com/albums/h143/Todd_05/)  
Bob Gulden ----- [www.caverbob.com/home.htm/](http://www.caverbob.com/home.htm/)  
Rock Climbing Knots Friction ----- [www.chockstone.org/TechTips/prusik.htm#Bachman/](http://www.chockstone.org/TechTips/prusik.htm#Bachman/)  
Tri-State Grotto MySpace ----- [www.myspace.com/tristategrotto/](http://www.myspace.com/tristategrotto/)  
Animated Knots by Grog ----- [www.animatedknots.com/](http://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](http://www.crystalgrottoescaverns.com)

## GROTTO BIRTHDAYS

### MONTH OF MARCH

Gloria Chepko, Ehren Gieske, Mason Griffin, Bob Gulden, Allison Hazen, Kevin Mulligan, Amanda Payne, Ken Tayman, Eliza Marie Vis, Sean Wootten

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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## GROTTO NEWS

### Spring VAR

Poor Farm Festival Grounds  
Williamsport, WV  
April 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, & 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Have you registered for VAR yet? If not, you still have until April 1<sup>st</sup>. Why, do you ask? Because starting now, you can go to our website  
“<http://tristategrotto.net/SpringVAR2012/VARTrips.pdf>” and sign up for trips. We have a lot of trips, horizontal, vertical, easy and some a little harder. George Dasher is leading a kids' trip. We'll save a few spots for Friday night sign up, but why wait? Then there is food. Want to make sure there is a meal ticket for you? Pre-register and your ticket will be waiting.

Spring VAR will be held at Poor Farm Festival Grounds in Greenbrier County, WV. To get there, go to the Lewisburg, WV exit on I-64. Turn north on Rt. 219 to the little town of Frankford (about 8.5 miles). Turn left onto Williamsburg Road and follow the signs to the Festival Grounds (about 6.3 miles). Please note! This not a campground. Camping will be primitive. There will be water and porta-pottys, but no bathhouse or showers. Lots of open pasture to camp. Vendors, registration, food, wine tasting, information and trip signups will be near the stage area.

Registration will open Friday at 12:00 noon. IMO has sent in their registration and Barry Duncan and B&C Wonderwear have said they are coming. NCRC vertical module training will also start Friday afternoon. Tri-



**State Chair John DiCarlo will host a wine tasting Friday night beginning 7pm on the stage. Please bring a bottle to share. Your bottle should be a berry wine or have a berry on the label. Try to keep the cost to \$10.00/bottle. Trip sign up will open at 9pm. Registration will close at mid-night.**

**Registration will reopen at 7am Saturday. Trips will leave at their scheduled times. John Pearson will have a conservation project (rebuilding some steps) on site at Poor Farm Cave entrance. Greenbrier County has many non-caving activities such as biking on the Greenbrier River Trail, floating on the Greenbrier River, Bear Town State Park, Greenbrier State Forest, the towns of White Sulphur Spring, and Lewisburg. Two commercial caves and the list goes on. If you need help, ask at registration. Registration will close at 5:00pm The Festival ground owner's will cater a Bar-B-Q dinner at 6:30pm at the stage. 8:00pm will feature our speaker followed by our DJ John Fox and beer and soft drinks until midnight.**

**Sunday has Front Royal Grotto doing their super breakfast (extra fee), several trips are scheduled, and the VAR Meeting at 9am.**

## Tri-State Grotto of the NSS Meeting: Feb 6, 2012

John called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Jerry gave the treasurer's report.  
John read an invite to help at Heritage Day for the Adam Stephen Tunnel Tours.

### OLD BUSINESS: VAR

Judy gave a report on VAR registrations (18 so far).  
JC gave a report on jobs for VAR.

Bob gave a report on pre-posted trips for VAR. Need at least 3 signs with arrows, possibly 8 total signs.

Need chairs, wine glasses (?), snacks (?), crackers & cheese (?), & tables for wine tasting (7 pm to 12 pm).

Ft Royal will be fixing breakfast on Sunday.  
Bob gave a report on all the led trips with leaders.

Talked about speaker (s) for VAR, conservation project (steps), and music (John Fox).

### MORE OLD BUSINESS:

Whitings Neck cleanup – Possibly June.  
Crystal Grottoes dig – Feb 11 at 10 am.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Stephen gave a report on the cave rescue in MD.

### TRIPS:

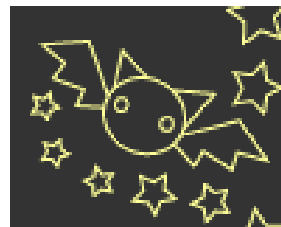
Tom talked about the Adam Stephen dig a couple of weeks ago.  
Jerry & family went to Whorleys Cave in TN.

### FUTURE CAVE TRIPS:

Jeff is going to Carnegie Cave in PA.  
Next Adam Stephen dig will be in June or July.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted:  
Paulette Bennett  
Recording Secretary



# TRIP REPORT

## Tri-State Grotto The Tri-Colored Bat

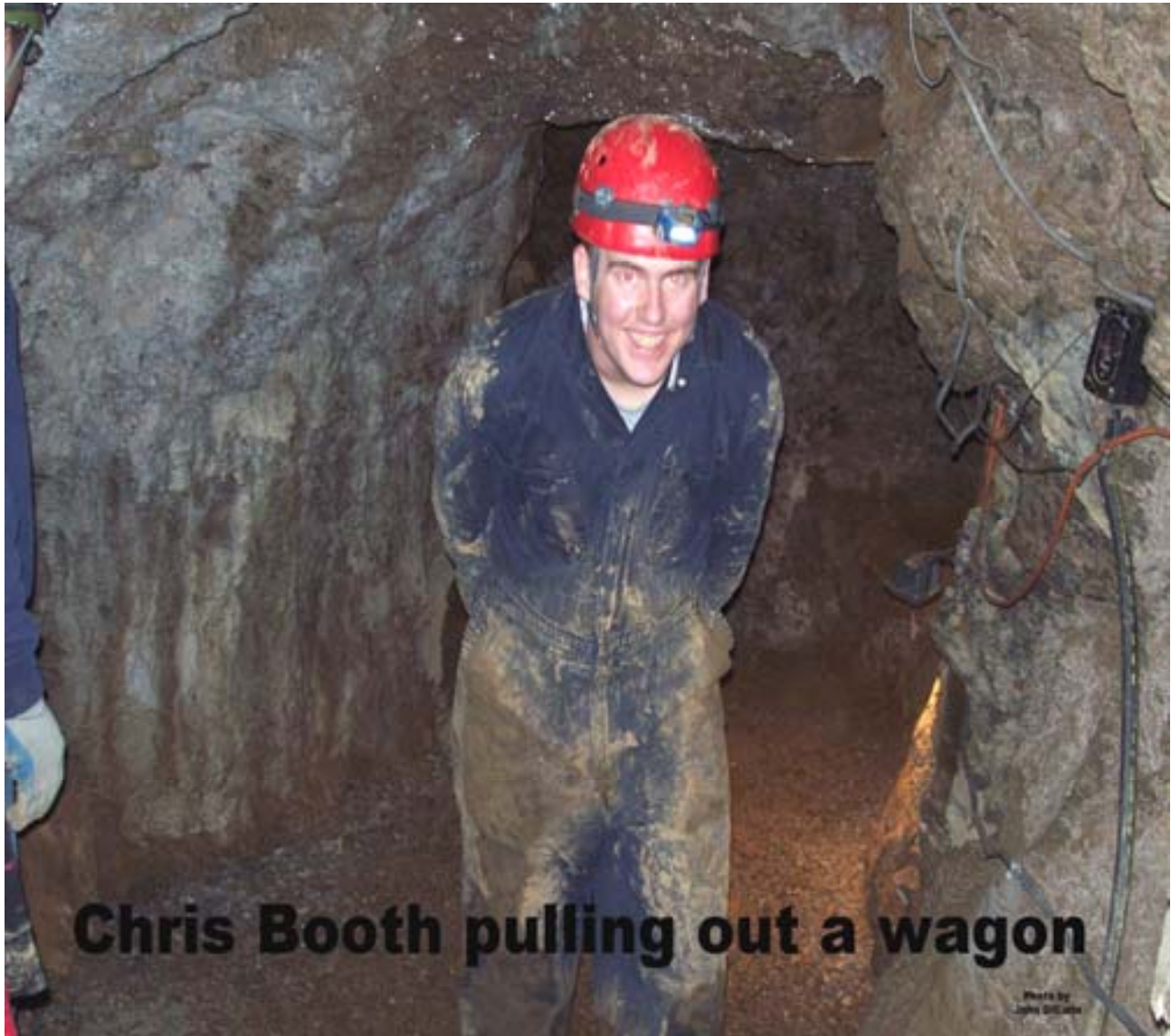
By John DiCarlo, NSS 25744

Boonsboro, MD-On February 11, 2012 Tri-State Grotto returned to Crystal Grottoes Caverns to continue their dig on the Tri-State Grotto Passage.



Tom Griffin, Bob Bennett and Stephanie Lederer

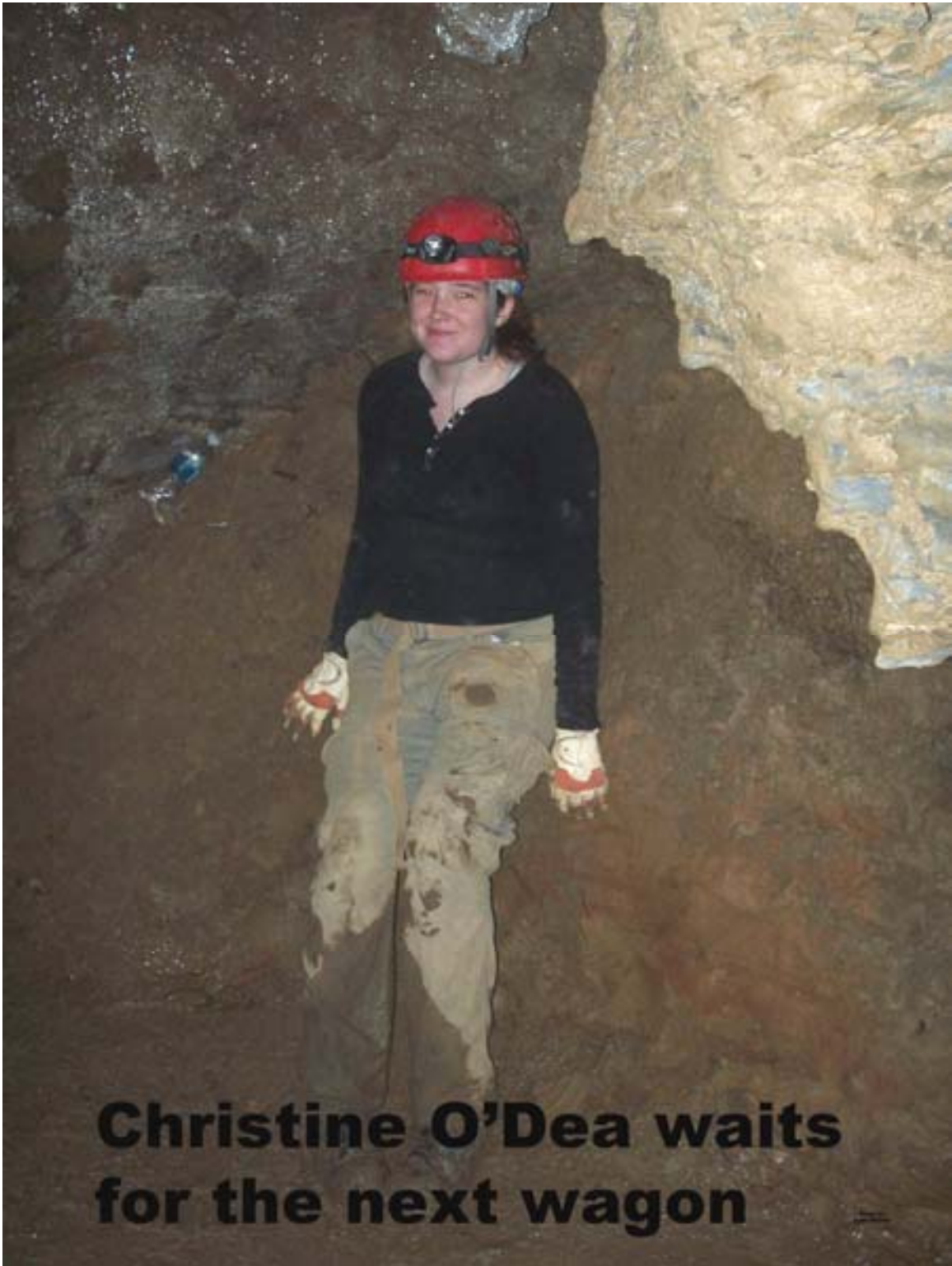
The digging started. One person dug while two people filled the wagons. The wagons were backed up to the dig site, rapidly filled and pulled out. As soon as a wagon returned it was filled and sent back out. There were three wagons running back and forth.



When lunchtime arrived, there had been 65 wagons taken out and dumped. For lunch, pizza and sodas were served in the Blanket Room.

It was noted the work that had been done there by Crystal Grottoes' employees since the last dig. A big rock in the Blanket room had been hammered apart. The stone left from it was used to build a stone wall as a separation between the open room and the Blankets.



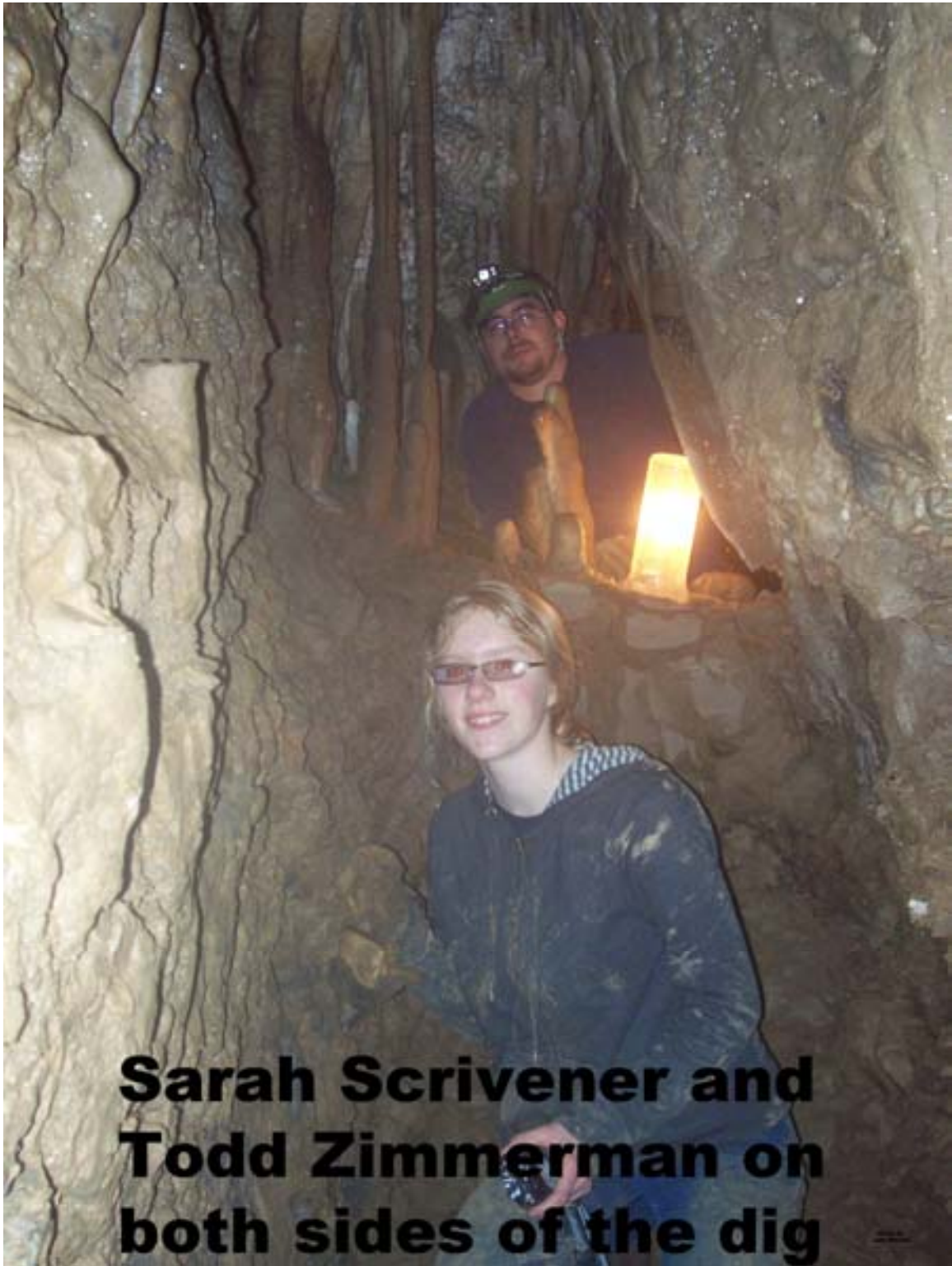


After lunch the digging started back up. The wagons were being filled with clay, pulled up to the surface and dumped. It was like clockwork again.





We broke two wagons. The metal in the front was pretty light weight and didn't hold up. Todd Zimmerman took them home to fix. The one wagon that didn't break had been fixed by Todd before. In talking to Jerry Downs, owner of Crystal Grottoes Caverns, he decided to buy two more wagons. This will help if another one breaks down during a future dig. It did slow us down when we lost the two wagons. When the second one went, the work pretty much grounded to a stop.



When we finished for the day we were only several feet from the other side. The next dig will bust through.



As far as cave life, we saw two creatures in Crystal Grottoes. One was a small, quarter size, Pickerel Frog. It was sitting on the cover of the sump pump by the Pig Ears. The second creature was an Eastern Pipistrelle Bat (Tri-Colored Bat). It did not show signs of WHS. It was hanging from the ceiling off the passage at the same sump pump.



There were 14 helpers. John Scrivener, Sarah Scrivener, Zack Floyd Art Hanson, Sr., Tom Griffin, Mason Griffin, Stephanie Lederer, Cory Benasaute, Bob Bennett, Todd Zimmerman, Tim Kropp, Chris Booth, Chris O’Dea, and John DiCarlo.





With two-thirds of the wagons breaking down, there still were 340 drywall buckets of clay taken out. A total of 84 hours of donated time worth \$1,680.00.

Tri-State Grotto will return again to “Break on Through to the Other Side.”

**Spring 2012  
VAR  
Registration Form**

**Spring 2012 VAR will be held at the Poor Farm Festival Grounds located in Williamsburg, WV. The Grounds are off Rt 219 near Williamsburg WV, just north of Lewisburg, WV. Make a left in Frankford and follow the signs.**

Early registration by April 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 - Full = \$30.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Early registration by April 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 - under 15 years old = \$26.00 \_\_\_\_\_

On – site registration - Full = \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_

“ -Under 15 = \$31.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Please check if you want  Vegetarian Option \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: Tri-State Grotto  
Please fill out a form for each person

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Grotto: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL FORM to Judy Fisher  
PO Box 276  
Berkeley Springs, WV  
25411