

# DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



**EDDIES CAVE, DARK WOODS**

**VOL. #29**

**ISS. #4**

**APR**

**2014**

**#43**



(FAMILY ASSOCIATE-non NSS)(Voting over 16)

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

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.

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](mailto:bookmaker-jb@myactv.net)

For MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION contact:

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**.

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](mailto:gimpycaver@comcast.net)

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.

\*\*\* The photo on the cover was taken by Bob Bennett in Dark Woods, Berkeley Co, WV.

### TRI-STATE GROTTTO OFFICERS

CHAIR ----- John DiCarlo ----- 301-432-2323  
V-CHAIR ----- Bob Bennett ----- 304-579-4304  
TREASURER--- Jerry Bowen ----- 301-790-0476  
SECRETARY -- Paulette Bennett --- 304-579-4304  
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  
Youth Chair ---- Eric Berge ----- 703-323-4528

\*\*\*\* 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!**



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

**FULL MEMBERSHIP ----- \$10.00 (Must be NSS)**  
**ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP --- \$12.00 (Non-NSS)**  
**SUBSCRIBING MEMBERSHIP- \$12.00 (Non-Voting)**  
**FAMILY MEMBERSHIP ----- \$2.00/FAMILY**  
**LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP ---- \$200.00**  
**SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP ---- \$50/YEAR**  
**(SUSTAINING- \$50/yr until \$200 total is met)**  
**(FULL FAMILY- must be NSS)(Voting rights if over 16)**

**DEAD DOG DISPATCH**

**V.#29**

**I.#4**

**APR**

**2014**

**#44**

# CAVING EVENTS

## 2014

APR 1 ---- ALL FOOL'S DAY  
APR 5 --- Grand opening of TSG Passage – Crystal Grottoes – 1pm  
APR 9 --- TSG meeting – 7pm  
APR 11-13 --- Spring VAR – RASS  
APR 15 --- TAX DAY  
APR 17-19 -- Grand Caverns Easter Restoration Camp  
APR 18 --- GOOD FRIDAY  
APR 20 --- EASTER  
APR 20-26 --- VA Karst Week  
APR 22 --- EARTH DAY  
APR 25 --- ARBOR DAY  
APR 26 --- Cave Cleanup – Scouts – 10am – see Bob  
MAY 1 --- DAY of PRAYER  
MAY 1 --- Last day for discount – NSS Convention  
MAY 5 ---- CINCO de MAYO  
MAY 10 --- HERITAGE DAY - Martinsburg  
MAY 10 --- FRG Meeting – 10 am  
MAY 10 --- ADAM STEPHEN DAY  
MAY 11 --- MOTHER'S DAY  
MAY 14 --- TSG meeting – 7pm  
MAY 16-18 --- Spring MAR – OTR site  
MAY 17 ---- ARMED FORCES DAY  
MAY 23-25 -- Rope work at Rock Enon – Scout camp  
MAY 23-26 – KY Speleofest  
MAY 26 ---- MEMORIAL DAY  
MAY 30-JUN 1 – SERA – NSS Hdqtrs  
JUN 6-8 ---- Bubble weekend  
JUN 11 ---- TSG meeting – 7pm  
JUN 14 ---- FLAG DAY  
JUN 15 ---- FATHER'S DAY  
JUN 20 ---- WV DAY  
JUN 20-22 --- Mud Fest – Lincoln Caverns – FREE!  
JUN 20-22 --- Karst-O-Rama - KY  
JUN 21 --- SUMMER SOLSTICE  
JUL 4 ---- INDEPENDENCE DAY  
JUL 9 ---- TAG meeting – 7pm  
JUL 12 -- TSG PICNIC – CRYSTAL GROTTOES – 12 Noon  
JUL 14-18 – NSS Conv – NSS Hdqtrs, Huntsville, AL  
JUL 27 ---- PARENT'S DAY  
AUG 13 --- TSG meeting – 7pm  
AUG 28-SEP 1 --- OTR  
AUG 30 --- DOO DAH PARADE – 10 AM  
AUG 30 --- POLYESTER POWER HOUR – 1PM  
SEP 1 ---- LABOR DAY  
SEP 7 ---- GRAND PARENT'S DAY  
SEP 10 --- TSG meeting – 7pm  
SEP 11 --- PATRIOT'S DAY  
SEP 23 --- AUTUMINAL EQUINOX  
OCT 8 --- TSG meeting – 7pm – Annual Auction  
OCT 10-13 – Fall TAG Cave-In  
OCT 13 --- Columbus Day

OCT 18 ---- Bridge Day  
OCT 31 --- ALL HALLOWS EVE  
NOV 4 --- Election Day  
NOV 11 -- VETERAN'S DAY  
NOV 12 -- TSG meeting – Nominations – 7pm  
NOV 27 -- THANKSGIVING  
NOV 28 -- BLACK FRIDAY  
DEC 10 -- TSG meeting – Elections – 7pm  
DEC 13 -- Annual Christmas Celebration at Bob & Paulette Bennett's home – 6:30 pm  
DEC 14 -- TSG caving – set trip up at party!  
DEC 21 -- WINTER SOLSTICE  
DEC 24 -- CHRISTMAS EVE  
DEC 25 -- CHRISTMAS DAY  
DEC 31 -- NEW YEAR'S EVE

## 2015

JUL 13-17 --- NSS Convention – Waynesville, MO

## 2016

JUL 17-23 --- NSS Convention – Ely, NV

\*\*\*\*\* CAVE BUCKS \*\*\*\*\*

CAVE BUCKS is a voluntary donation for cave purchases. The money is collected at each monthly meeting and sent to the Conservancy of choice. The money SHOULD NEVER be kept past the week it is collected.

Month of March ----- \$29.00

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- \$5562.50

The money was sent to SCCI!  
Keep It Coming!

# WEBSITE & CAVING 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 2014 ----- <http://nss2014.caves.org/>

**DEAD DOG DISPATCH**

**V.#29**

**I.#4**

**APR**

**2014**

**#45**

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/>  
 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 APRIL

Pete Bracken, Jeff Hajenga, Jeff Jahn, Mike Ward,  
 Sarah Ward

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

# TRIP REPORTS

## An Interesting Trip Report Nathan Roser

On Saturday March 15th a group of SUOCers consisting of Nathan Roser, Jen Bundy, Noah Pasqua Godkin, Malcolm Moncheur, Emma Shih Mendez, and Brendan Popp went on a trip to Roaring Spring Cave, VA. We parked the car at a bend in the dirt road and began the long hike to the cave. We had no trouble finding

**DEAD DOG DISPATCH V.#29 I.#4 APR 2014 #46**

the entrance and headed in. The cave begins as a walking stream passage with a climb over a Break down block. After this a waist deep pool is encountered with a rotten log spanning it, most likely placed by someone years ago. Not wanting to squeeze to the sump we climbed to the upper level. The upper level was crawling/stooping with lots of smooth bulbous yellow formations everywhere. We went downhill through a squeeze into a slippery squishy mud crawl. This then led to a pool dammed by rimstone.

Continuing in the water appeared to sump so we spotted a climb over. I went up first and rigged a handline. This led into a narrow slot canyon that could be chimneyed to a larger spot at the top which then led to a tight flowstone squeeze. I went through first then Emma, Jen, and Noah all attempted the squeeze with only Emma getting through. At this point people were getting cold so Emma and I went ahead in the big passage in front for a bit before turning around as fast as possible. The formations here are incredible and we saw the big mushroom like flowstone and formation squeezes pictured in the 1964 "Caves of Virginia". Beyond the formation squeeze we encountered breakdown and a drop off to the stream level. I turned around here not wanting to keep the others waiting. Once back through the squeeze we went down the handline climb and exited.

Great cave but only for skinny/small framed people and good climbers if you want to see the big stuff at the end. Lots of webbing is also a must for this cave since there are two tricky climbs, the second of which was incredibly difficult to get back up without a handline.

## GEPKS Ridge Walk (Greater Eastern Panhandle Karst Survey)

On Mar 22 I met Tom Griffin & John & Sarah Scrivener at Mickey D's at Exit 20 at 9:30 am. The weather was supposed to be mostly sunny with temps in the mid 60's. Our purpose was to go to the dark Woods area of Berkeley Co to do some ridge

walking. I have walked the area many times in the past but it seems that each time I was there something had always changed. One major danger with the area was the fact that new housing developments were starting to squeeze the area. It seems that soon the 'wild' area would be houses and roads. Then the area would be lost forever!

Previous visits to the area in the past had already produced 13 known caves with many other sinks, sinkholes, and karst features. The area has always been owned by US Steel in the past and local residents always used the area for hunting (there are several deer stands in the trees). The area south of the power lines has always been owned by the quarry operations that borders route 45 to Shepherdstown. The quarrying operations ceased many years ago. This allowed the water level that used to be pumped out of the quarry to move into several of the caves in the south end of the DW area.

This time we were going to use some more modern equipment, smart phones! We all 3 had GPS software on our phones that would give us several types of ways to share the info, we could take pictures with the phones, and of course if we got separated we could keep in touch!

We arrived at the gate and parked at an old road about 10:15 am. You used to be able to drive through the area because the gate was never closed. People fighting over using the area for hunting used to try everything including throwing nails and busting glass along the road to keep people out. From here we headed generally WNW down the old road that splits the northern end of DW. After about 100 yds we went right into the woods to look for Little Hope Crevasse. This little cave was GPS'd and surveyed by Chuck, Judy, JC, & I. Our purpose was to refind the known caves, GPS them, and look for any new features that we might find. We found new survey marks and steaks so someone apparently had or was buying some of the area.

Right away we found a 'new' hole. We GPS'd the hole and looked very closely at it. It wasn't LHC so it was a new hole. After moving a couple of limbs, etc it looked as though it could be entered, Sarah

cautiously agreed to try to get in. She lowered her legs down into the hole and continued to wiggle. She went in to her waist and said that it was pretty small. We decided to continue our search. We found at least 2-3 more holes that are good possibilities for digs &/or removing rock. They also were GPS'd. We continued to explore the right side of the road but found little to peak our attention.

Near the point where the old road turned left we regrouped and took a break. At this point there are several hard surfaced roads that run through this part of the woods from the development.

There are 3 main tracks of sinks, sinkholes, and karst features that run generally south through DW. We went into the woods east of the old road and continued walking south. This area is the highest section of the area. In this area we found several very large sinks but nothing to peak attention. I started to look for a known pit called Wobeys Pit. This pit was found by Vitas's dog Wobey. On a ridge walk in the past a group of TSG members ridge walked the area. Vitas always had his trusty sidekick, Wobey, with him. Wobey was with Chuck at the time and was sniffing and digging at some large roots. Chuck went over to see what Wobey was doing and lo and behold the roots were covering a pit at least 15'-20' deep. We GPS'd the pit at the time and Judy, JC, Chuck, & I came back later to survey it.

We continued to find more large sinks but nothing important. I then came across a root structure with a hole under the roots. We GPS'd the spot but the GPS did not match the GPS for Wobeys Pit. Looking down through the roots we could see clay dirt about 4' down. If it was Wobeys Pit it had filled itself in. We looked around the area for a while but did not find anything else.

Just past the pit was an old stone wall surrounding a grave yard. At this point we came across 2 men walking the area carrying hand guns. Oh oh! We guessed we were in trouble! The gentlemen were very friendly and one told us that we had put a bid and contract on the 100 acre tract that included almost all of DW. He and his sister were planning to build houses on several acres near the gate area

and he and his buddy were ridge walking the area to see exactly what he was buying. He told us that we were more than welcome to continue our search. He was planning on putting up 'No Trespassing' signs but that we were free to come back any time that we desired. He asked us about the sinkholes and how many caves were there. I filled him in on what I had found in the past and he was happy to have the info. He gave us his name and phone number and we parted ways.

We continued our search. The next spot I was looking for was Coral Cave. This cave had about 150' of passage. Soon I found it and again we GPS'd it. We took another break. I told everyone that the cave was probably the prettiest of the DW caves. Sarah & Tom decided to go in. Tom took a couple of pictures and soon they reappeared. After a short rest we continued on. I told the group that from here to the power lines we probably would not find much. Also the high area we were on soon started going down as we approached the power lines. We headed east while we were still in the woods and actually found a small sink. Removing leaves we saw a small hole going down. We found a long limb and the hole dropped down 6+ feet. Another possibility!

We headed on and soon were near the center of the woods. I headed out to the power lines while everyone else looked around in the woods. I was looking for a small opening that I had found when I had a couple of biologists here during an Eastern Panhandle 2 day bug camp several years ago. I found the entrance & GPS'd it. It is near a known cave entrance called Deer Pit.

I then headed back into the woods to rejoin the group. John had headed more to the east and was ridge walking by himself. The 3 of us headed back north through the woods. We were in the 2nd track of caves & sinks. We found several more of the known DW entrances. We found Calamity Keyhole and Lil Crevasse caves along with others. We continued to GPS all of the DW entrances but we didn't find much that was new. We were finally back to the old road that headed back to the gate. But still no John. We arrived back at the vehicles and I called John on my phone. He was almost back

at the vehicles. When he arrived we compared notes and headed home.

We had a very productive day for our first ridge walk. We found at least 1 new cave, found 3-4 new possibilities, and GPS'd most of the known caves. Not bad for 6 hours work. Oh by the way, the temperature was about 70 degrees. It couldn't have been any better!



DW1.1 Sarahs Cave



DW1



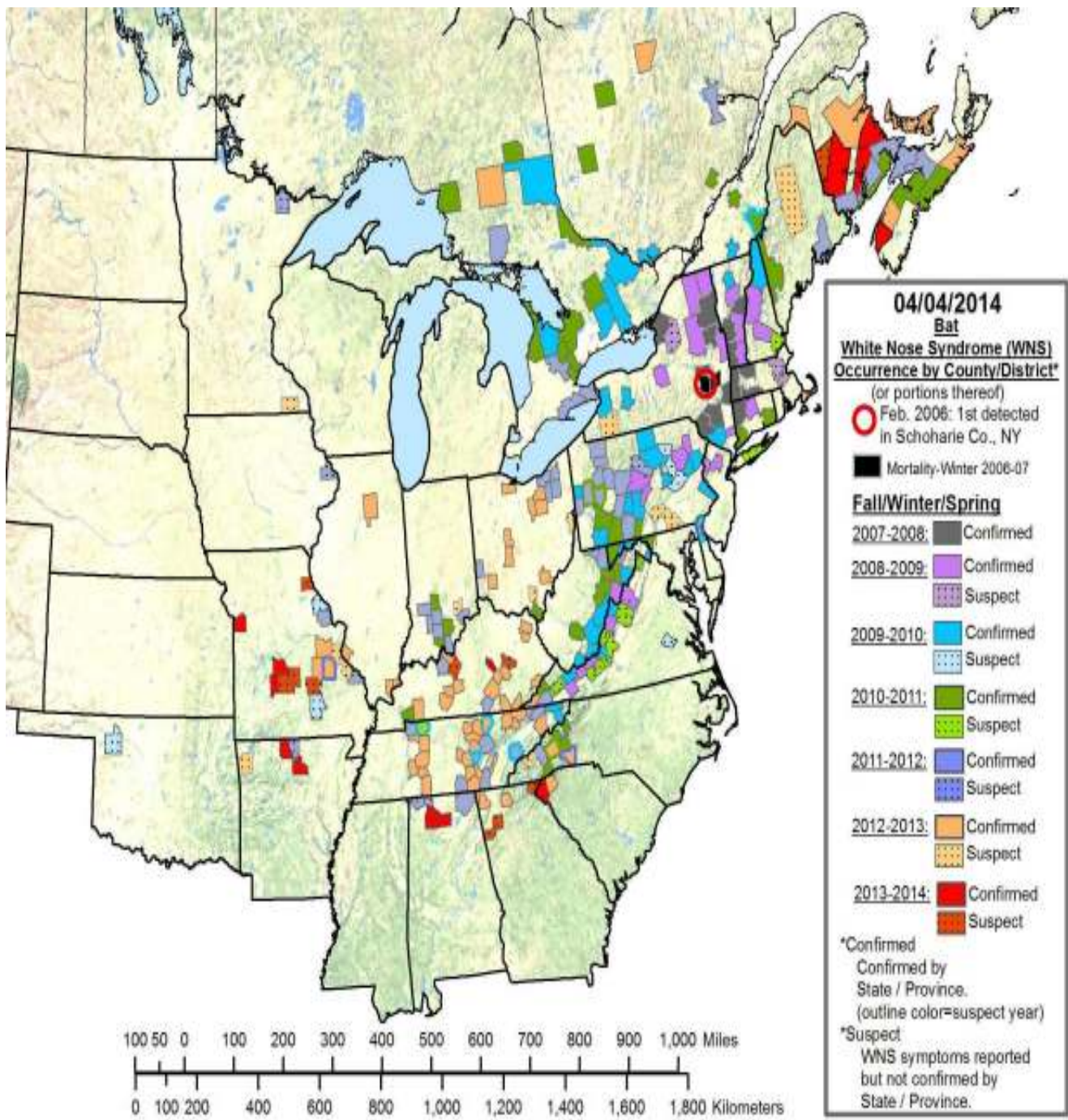
DW1.3 (15' drop)



Good possibility



Here is an updated map of the WNS epidemic that has been decimating the bat population in the US!  
 Please continues to clean your gear per the Fish and Wildlife recommendations!







# CAVIN CALENDAR

## APRIL 6TH - MAY 17TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Apr 6	Apr 7	Apr 8	Apr 9  Meeting 7pm	Apr 10	Apr 11 Spring VAR - RASS Field House	Apr 12 Spring VAR - RASS Field House
Apr 13 Spring VAR - RASS Field House	Apr 14	Apr 15 TAX DAY	Apr 16	Apr 17	Apr 18 GOOD FRIDAY Grand Caverns Easter Restoration Camp	Apr 19 Ridgewalk 10am - see Bob Grand Caverns Easter Restoration Camp
Apr 20  EASTER Grand Caverns Easter Restoration Camp	Apr 21	Apr 22  EARTH DAY	Apr 23	Apr 24	Apr 25 ARBOR DAY	Apr 26
VA Karst Week						
Apr 27	Apr 28	Apr 29	Apr 30	May 1 DAY of PRAYER	May 2  Last Day for NSS Conv Discount	May 3
May 4	May 5 Cinco de Mayo	May 6	May 7	May 8	May 9	May 10 Heritage Day Adam Stephen Day FRG meeting 10am
May 11 MOTHER'S DAY	May 12	May 13	May 14  Meeting 7pm	May 15	May 16 Spring MAR at OTR site	May 17 Spring MAR at OTR site  ARMED FORCES DAY

# DEAD DOG DISPATCH



DW 1.1



## DEAD DOG DISPATCH

TRI-STATE GROTTO OF THE NSS  
BOB BENNETT, EDITOR  
464 HUCKLEBERRY DR  
GERRARDSTOWN, WV 25420-0344  
304-579-4304  
gimpycaver@comcast.net



**TO:**

