

DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



LOWER NESTLE QUARRY CAVE

VOL. #30

ISS. #3

MAR

2015

#41



(FULL FAMILY-must be NSS)(Voting rights if over 16)
(FAMILY ASSOCIATE-non NSS)(Voting over 16)

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

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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**.

*** The photo on the cover was taken by Scott Graham in Lower Nestle Quarry Cave, Berkeley Co, WV.

All material for inclusion in the **DEAD DOG DISPATCH** must be sent to the EDITOR NO BY THE **25TH** OF EACH MONTH.

**** 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 304-821-4621(H)** or **304-671-0344(C)** 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]

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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!

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)**



CAVING EVENTS

2015

MAR 8 ----- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS
MAR 9 ----- Ridge walk - Bob D
MAR 11 ----- TSG meeting 7pm - Tom G & Carl A will
show us how to tie caving knots
MAR 14 ----- Karst Water Institute Banquet - Honoring
Biologist Dave Culver 6pm
MAR 14 ---- Adam Stephen dig - 9am
MAR 17 ----- ST PATRICK'S DAY
MAR 18 ---- Assault on the Apollo - 6pm
MAR 20 ----- VERNAL EQUINOX
MAR 21 ----- Whittings Neck 9am - Venture Crew 66 - see
Tom G
MAR 22 ----- WORLD WATER DAY
MAR 25 ----- MD Day
MAR 28 ----- Jones Quarry Cave - see Andy Celmer
MAR 28 ----- Ogdens Natural Cave Preserve - graffiti &
sinkhole cleanup - see Janet Tinkham
APR 1 ----- ALL FOOL'S DAY
APR 2 ----- PB&J DAY
APR 3 ----- GOOD FRIDAY
APR 3-5 ---- Grand Caverns Restoration Weekend
APR 5 ----- EASTER
APR 8 ----- TSG meeting 7pm
APR 11 ---- Baker Quarry gate repair 9am
APR 15 ---- TAX DAY
APR 15 ---- Assault on the Apollo - 6pm
APR 22 ---- EARTH DAY
APR 24 ---- ARBOR DAY
APR 24-26 -- Spring VAR - Natural Bridge Caverns
hosted by BATS
MAY 1 ---- DAY of PRAYER
MAY 5 ---- CINCO de MAYO
MAY 8-10 -- SERA Cave Carnival
MAY 9 ----- Adam Stephen Day - Natural Heritage Day 9am
MAY 10 ---- MOTHER'S DAY
MAY 13 ---- TSG meeting 7pm
MAY 16 ---- ARMED FORCES DAY
MAY 20 ---- Assault on the Apollo - 6pm
MAY 22-25 -- KY Speleofest
MAY 25 ---- MEMORIAL DAY
JUN 1 ----- Convention Discount Deadline
JUN 10 ---- TSG meeting 7pm
JUN 12-14 -- Bubble Weekend - Nancy Hanks
JUN 14 ---- FLAG DAY
JUN 20 ---- WV DAY
JUN 21 ---- SUMMER SOLSTICE
JUN 21 ---- FATHER'S DAY
JUN 26-28 -- Karst-O-Rama - KY
JUL 4 ----- INDEPENDENCE DAY
JUL 8 ----- TSG meeting 7pm
JUL 11 ---- TSG Picnic - Blue Ridge Acres - 12 Noon
JUL 13-17 -- NSS Convention - Waynesville, MO
JUL 26 ---- PARENT'S DAY

JUL 31 ---- Last Day for TRA Membership
JUL 31- Aug 2 -- Mudfest - Lincoln Caverns, PA
AUG 1 ----- OTR registration goes live
Aug 7-9 --- Indiana Cave Capers
AUG 12 ---- TSG meeting - 7pm
AUG 27 ---- OTR Preregistration Ends
SEP 3-7 ---- OTR

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 ----- \$26.00

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- \$5784.50

The money was sent to New River
Preserve!
Keep It Coming!

WEBSITE & CAVING LINKS

Tri-State Grotto ----- www.tristategrotto.net/
VAR ----- www.varegion.org/
NSS ----- www.caves.org/
NSS Convention 2014 ----- <http://nss2014.caves.org/>
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/>

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

V.#30

I.#3

MAR

2015

#43

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

at a later date. We exited the cave out of the first entrance to find it snowing.

In the next email I will attach a picture of the ice formations, and a picture of Edgar next to the large column in what I can only call "The Junction Room"

GROTTO BIRTHDAYS

MONTH OF MARCH

Gloria Chepko, Mason Griffin, Bob Gulden, Allison Hazen, Kevin Mulligan, Bill Vis

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Hey, everyone , go to the TSG website (www.tristategrotto.com). It is up and running! The website is updated and looking good. Everyone give John Scrivener a big hay! Nice Job John!



TRIP REPORTS

Whitings Neck - Shawn Hogbin

On February 16th, 2015, Shawn Hogbin and Edgar Villarreal entered Whiting Neck's Cave around 3 P.M. We emerged the cave around 5:45. We entered through the first entrance. In the first section of crawlway, there were ice formations. There were also pools of frozen water along the crawl. We did not bring vertical gear into the cave, so the trip was spend in the upper portion of the cave. We made sure to crawl into every hole or tight space we could locate.

It was my fourth time into this cave. However, this was the first time I had extensively crawled around the upper portion of the cave. It was Edgar's first time ever being underground. He very much enjoyed the trip, and looks to go caving



Donaldson Cave - Shawn Hogbin

At about 3:30 on February 22, 2015, Shawn Hogbin, Brandon Hill, Jonathan McGuire stepped through the gate into the cave. It was Shawn's 5th time into the cave, it was Edgar's first time into this cave. It was Jonathan's and Brandon's first time into a wild cave. The water levels were low, and we were able to get into the back of the cave. We dropped from the big back room, down through the small passage into another room. In the back of that room there was a noticeable temperature difference, and we noticed ice formations in the cave. (See attached photos)



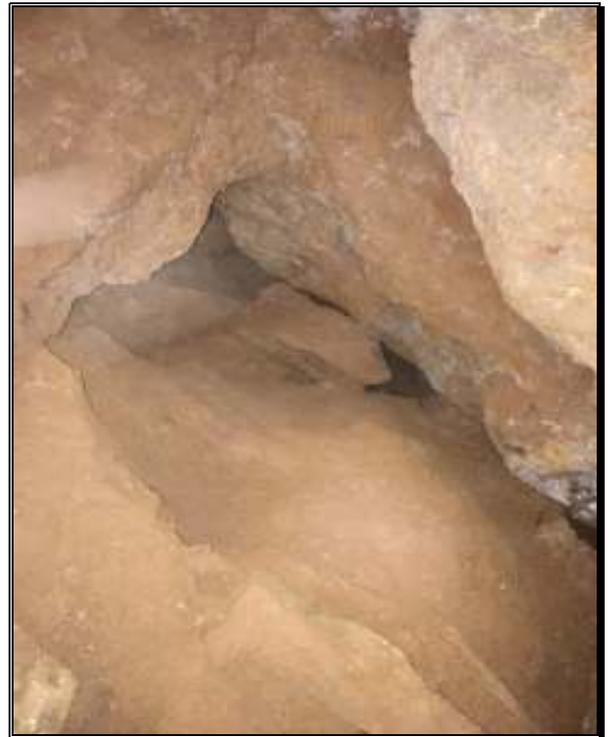
This of course meant we were close to the surface and could be a sign of another entrance that has been filled in.

We worked our way back to the entrance room and dropped down to the lower level. After banging and scraping a few elbows and knees we made it into the lower passage. After exploring the area we headed back up. There was a small room that led off

the big entrance room, and the group ducked in there. In the back of the room there was a small portal about the size of two helmets.



Shawn squeezed through the hole and saw where it did drop to the right into a flat area, and that was all to be seen. The group then spent about 2 hours digging at this hole and expanded it to the size seen in the pictures. The group was careful to not harm any formations. We were stymied by the rock you see wedged in the middle. We were simply out of energy and drive to continue, and we exited the cave at 6.



There was also a small visit from WVCC of about four people, they came into to check the water levels at to make sure we were not defacing the locks.

The group loved the visit. They are all eager to go caving again, and what to know if there is another cave they can get into. I am short on places to go.

Another Maryland First
By
Terry McClanathan (12103)

Cavers are representative of a diverse cross-section of human attributes. Our interests in caving span a broad spectrum of cave related endeavors. Many of us just enjoy the sport of it. For some it's cave photography, while others may gravitate towards the biological wonders of the subterranean. For the diggers and surveyors the drive is exploration into the unknown. Most of us get a real thrill imagining what might be "just around the next corner". This latter group of booty crazed explorers employs various modes in the pursuance of their goal.

During the early 1990's Georgia caver Alan Cressler, who is a good friend of mine, maintained that the easiest place to find new cave was to take a harder look in old caves. He successfully implemented this philosophy on numerous occasions by turning insignificant pit caves into major finds. I was fortunate enough to be in on several of these adventures. To name just a few.... Walking Fern was an 80 foot pit in Alabama just inside an obscure entrance. Alan and crew traversed around this pit to a continuation revealing a cave over 400 feet deep, with several big pits including the very impressive Whopper Well (242' free), and Julies Well (a 229' dome), plus several large rooms and a profusion of beautiful formations. Shortly after this Alan and Andy Zellner initiated a dig in a low blowing stream lead at the bottom of a short cave called Frenchmans Pit, also in Alabama. After 500 feet of sub-foot high groveling this opened at the top of a gaping chasm. This hundred foot diameter pit, dubbed Dental Floss Well and later taped by Doug Strait and I at 224 feet deep, lead to

several thousand feet of fine cave which eventually connected into a known valley cave, thus creating a multi-mile system which still ranks as one of the deepest in the state.

Not to be outdone, in Tennessee during the late '90's, Marion O. Smith (Alan was Marion's protégé) climbed two short waterfalls in Rumbling Falls Cave and extended what was a roadside pit with a few hundred feet of cave, into a fifteen plus mile mega-cave with passages so voluminous they rival Carlsbad.

Of course TAG cavers are not the only ones who have extended small caves into larger ones. In West Virginia members of the Germany Valley Karst Survey (GVKS) have, within the past fifteen years, explored and mapped well over thirty miles of virgin territory in Hellhole (the cave was about eight miles long in the early '90's), bringing the cave up to over forty miles in length.

A second method for finding new cave, which has been quite successful recently, involves seeking out blowing holes in areas already rich in cave density. GVKS cavers in Pendleton County's Germany Valley have been rewarded handsomely for their digging endeavors at several such blowholes. During the 21st century Memorial Day Cave has gone from a blowing surface lead to over 24 miles of passages, making it one of the longest in West Virginia. Shoveleater Cave was up to over four miles in its own right prior to its incorporation as part of Hellhole. Cavers in Greenbrier County have also opened and/or extended caves of impressive length and potential. Over the past twenty years Virginia cavers too have been quite prolific using these methodologies to find new caves. Witness the Omega System, Burnsville Cove caves, Corkscrew/Higginbotham System, and many others.

It's perhaps not so surprising that determined cavers in cave rich areas like TAG and the Virginias have been so successful in their quest for virgin cave. In Maryland there is a third technique being employed which is bearing fruit. This third technique is to search in areas which, due to a perceived limited potential for success, have seen little in the way of systematic ridge walking in the past. As a cave state Maryland has traditionally ranked somewhere just ahead of states like Delaware, Rhode Island, and Louisiana. However,

Maryland does have one advantage over other cave poor states. There are carbonates consisting of limestones, dolomites, and marble in abundance in the four western counties. Until just the past few years, these counties have been generally overlooked in the quest for unexplored caves.

Correspondence from Donnie Carn indicates that John Ganter and a few others may have had some insight into cave potential in western Allegany County as early as the 1980's, but while the larger caves such as Crabtree, John Friends, Devils Hole, Twiggs, and Crystal Grottoes have been known for decades, it has only been during the last five years or so that there have been any major additions to this short list of thousand foot long caves within the state.

A small group of dedicated cavers including Ryan Boyce, Donnie Carns, Corey Hackley, and Dave Schoenadel have been criss-crossing the slopes of the Allegheny Front in Allegany County checking for tiny blowholes. While we're not exactly talking anything on a scale with discoveries in TAG, Virginia, or West Virginia, these cavers have compiled what is, at least for Maryland, a noteworthy list of firsts.

Dave (Schoenadel) related to me that during 2011 he, Ryan, and Donnie began enlarging a fist sized blowhole found about a year earlier on Piney Ridge, a spur of the Allegheny Front in the northern part of Allegany County. Following a few digging trips their work was rewarded by revealing an entrance to a cave they dubbed Tanglefoot. Subsequent exploration spearheaded by Corey and Ryan, and supported by other masochists such as Dave and myself, has produced the longest cave in the state, and the deepest cave north of West Virginia. While few invitees actually attend trips (maybe they're the smart ones), Adam Byrd, Alli Crosby, Scott Walquist, and even Marion O. Smith have all endured the rigors of Tanglefoot as contributors to the ongoing survey. I think Marion remarked that he wasn't going back, but at 71 years of age, he'll probably always be the oldest caver to ever have his name included in the list of mappers. A second digging effort by essentially the same crew, along with Si Goetz and Mark Porter, that opened Tanglefoot's upper entrance has resulted in a lower entrance, allowing for a sporting through trip traversing nearly four thousand feet of cave

with a vertical extent of about 450 feet. Currently a little over five thousand feet has been surveyed, but with leads too numerous to count, the total length will probably be in the two mile range before the project is completed. Although its total depth will be around five hundred feet, there are no rigged drops in the cave. For a Maryland cave, Tanglefoot boasts many nice features, but these are interspersed with long crawls floored by copious quantities of mud. Exiting the lower entrance can be especially daunting during colder months (it's not especially pleasant during warmer months either) because the lower cave sucks in a continuous cold wind. This turns the hundred foot long low crawl through liquid mud just inside the entrance into a deep freeze. The upper entrance is no picnic either due to multiple contortions and a couple of tight squeezes. Despite the lack of a vertical component, Tanglefoot is a challenging cave, but it offers "dangling carrots" in the form of nice stream canyons, sizeable rooms, scenic waterfalls, plunge pools, and some interesting speleothems.

Across the valley the same crew is working on a couple of other caves which have the potential to exceed even Tanglefoot in depth. Corey has informed me that one of these is already about 1200 feet long, and another is around 800 feet in length. Corey, Ryan, Dave, and Donnie have found around a dozen other viable leads, mostly scattered throughout Allegany County. Corey has also explored and partially surveyed passages in a Washington County cave which have resulted in a once 100 foot long cave now topping the thousand foot figure.

The account of the most recent addition to this list of accomplishments began about a month ago when I received an e-mail from Corey regarding excavation of a vertical cave he'd just found not too far from Tanglefoot. Corey related that he'd moved some rocks to gain entry to a vertical hole which was climbable down to a pit. He described it as a "real bonafide pit" which he estimated by rocks dropped to be somewhere between 50-90 feet deep. The reader must understand that so far in Maryland "real pits" were a rarity. The few that do exist tend to be shallow and convoluted. In other words their pit-worthiness tends to be speculative, and there are only a few anyhow. Karn Cave #2 in Washington County (an earlier Corey project which Corey,

Jerry Bowen, Ben Doan, and I mapped in summer of '05 to a length of 240') has a marginally climbable 33' drop. Maple Pits in western Allegany County I taped at 23 and 34 feet deep (the latter has another drop for a total depth of 47'). Twiggs Cave has a 25 foot entrance drop and a pit in the forty foot range at the bottom. Washington County had a couple of small pits, but these have been filled in. This pretty much constituted the pit list for Maryland in its entirety.

So, you can understand how I might have been skeptical of Corey's claim that he had found a pit in the 50-90 foot range. We set a date for exploration and Corey suggested that I bring a rope that was around 150-200 feet long. Again, I was doubtful, but I brought a long rope as per his request.

On the afternoon of February 24th I met Corey and the two of us joined Dave and Donnie who had already secured permission for us to drive within about half a mile of the entrance. On the hike up we noted an abundance of turkey tracks in the snow. Corey located the small entrance with no miscues and after removing some camouflaging rocks we were ready to enter. We needed a name, so in keeping with the "foot" tradition, and noting all the turkey tracks everywhere, we christened Corey's find Turkeyfoot Pit.

Corey climbed down to the lip of the actual pit and I rigged and fed the end of the long rope down to him. I also lowered a large carpet pad to him to protect the rope at the breakover since we were only rigging TAG style, meaning tie off, throw in the rope, and no rebelay. I did have a self-drive bolting kit in my pack in case safety considerations warranted setting bolts, but that turned out not to be necessary. I also brought a hundred foot survey tape with me which I figured would be more than adequate to measure the pit's depth. I passed off the reel to Dave and started down with the "dummy" end of the tape to where Corey was perched above the pit. The cave started as a short series of climb downs with minimal horizontal displacement. There was one awkward spot near the top, but the rest was roomy enough. We taped the distance from the entrance down to the top of the pit at 27 feet. I still wasn't convinced the pit was as deep as Corey predicted, so I was not concerned that the hundred foot tape might not reach bottom. Dave kept the reel

and Corey began his rappel with the end of the tape in tow.

Corey rappelled down about thirty feet and reported that the pit was belling out. This was much better than I'd anticipated. As he continued rappelling and I watched the numbers scroll past, I started doubting that the tape would be long enough. When the tape passed the 60 foot mark at my level (recall that 27' of the tape was still above me) and Corey was still not on bottom, I communicated to Dave that I was going to need the reel or he was soon going to be out of tape. He lowered the tape to me so that we could put the entire length in the pit if needed. All the time I'm thinking, "how can this be?", we're in Maryland for heaven's sake.

By the time tension on the rope released and I assumed Corey had reached bottom, there was only a foot or two of tape remaining on the reel. Corey set the tape and I began taking up slack, thinking there'd be a good bit to take in. I'd only pulled up a couple of feet when the tape went taut. I queried Corey as to whether or not he was on station and he answered in the affirmative. I had to take a second, and then a third, look at what I was seeing. At the lip I was getting a reading of 94 feet!! This was unbelievable! WE'RE IN MARYLAND!!!, and ninety foot pits just don't happen.

Corey was at the bottom of the pit, but he reported that the cave still continued downward, and we were out of tape. I reeled it back in and tucked it in my pack to take down with me. I double checked to make sure I had a full contingent of "uppies" with me, for I was finally convinced that this was a very real pit, and then I started down. The top part was shear and 2-3 feet wide. At 30 feet down the rope contacted with a very muddy patch on the wall, but remained vertical. Below this the rope was very slippery for a bit before the pit belled to larger dimensions. Here the walls were cleaner, exposing dark limestone, and the drop was basically free. Corey had established the landing point on a four foot high mud/debris cone. Hard to believe, but a determined digging effort to remove this debris could actually produce a pit nearly one hundred feet deep!!

From the base of the pit a sloping passage of large size continued to the bottom. Unfortunately everything at the bottom was plugged with sticky

clay, and there was evidence of periodic flooding. Corey surmised that we had lost the air somewhere further up the pit, and in fact we did notice a small window in the pit wall on our ascent. The only lead near the bottom was a muddy alcove heading in the opposite direction from the base of the pit. From the -121 foot level (94 plus 27) we measured another 37 feet to the bottom at a 45 degree angle, for an additional vertical of about 18 feet, bringing the total depth of Turkeyfoot Pit to around 139 feet.

to be helpful for extraction from the top 27 feet of climb downs, especially the awkward spot just below the entrance. I'm sure Corey simply levitated up this, but I flailed for awhile.



Terry starting to climb at the bottom of the 94 foot pit (Photo by Cory H)



Corey ascending just below the lip of the 94 footer (Photo by Terry M)



Terry exiting Turkeyfoot Pit (Photo by Donnie C)

We did not do an actual survey at this time, and there are still a couple of leads to pursue. A couple bolts might improve the rigging a bit, but really doesn't seem necessary. There were only a few small loose rocks near the lip of the pit, and most of these I tucked safely out of the way before Corey made his descent. A little additional "gardening" and this should be a non-issue. We left my pad in place. I found having the rope rigged at the surface

So, in summary, Turkeyfoot Pit is essentially a 139 foot deep vertical cave with a 94 foot "bonafide" pit. While it may not raise any eyebrows or elicit any wows if it were in TAG or West Virginia, this Marylander got quite an adrenalin rush from the experience. It's a great find for Maryland. Congrats to Corey on another Maryland first.



The Uterus in JQ (Shawn H)



The Middle Finger LNQ (Tom G)



Aided Climb in LNQ (Scott G)



John Scrivener in LNQ (TomG)



Rag-Tag Crew just out of LNQ (John S)



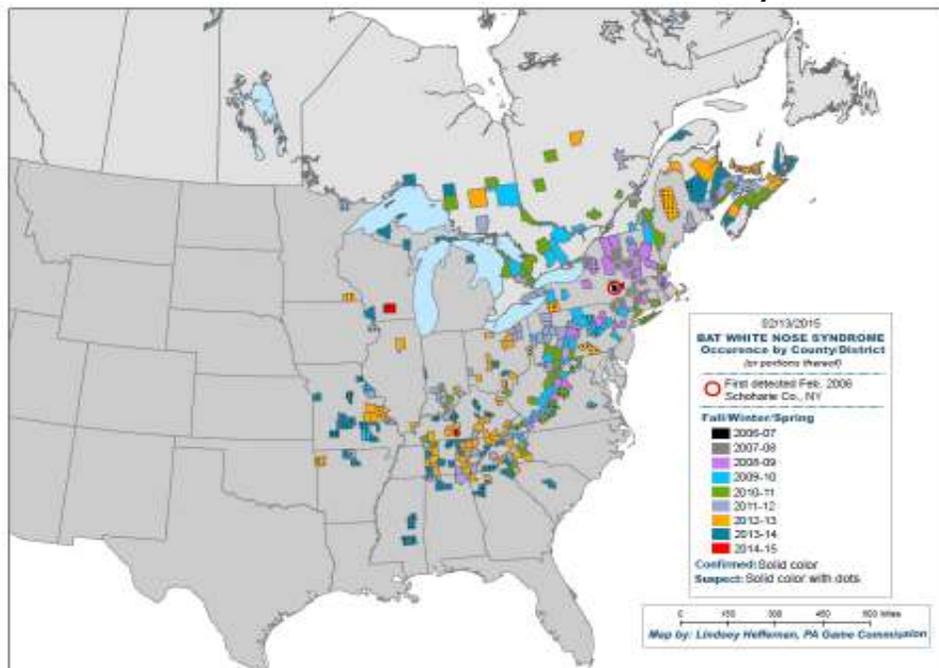
CAVIN CALENDAR

MARCH 8TH - APRIL 18TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mar 8 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS	Mar 9 Karst Ridgewalk Berk Co	Mar 10	Mar 11  Meeting 7pm - Work with knots	Mar 12	Mar 13	Mar 14 Karst Water Inst Banquet 6pm Honoring Dave Culver Adam Stephen Dig 930 am
Mar 15	Mar 16	Mar 17  ST PATRICK'S DAY	Mar 18 Assault on the Apollo 6pm	Mar 19	Mar 20  VERNAL EQUINOX	Mar 21 Scout trip to Whiting's Neck 9am - see Tom
Mar 22 World Water Day	Mar 23	Mar 24	Mar 25 MD DAY	Mar 26	Mar 27	Mar 28 Jones Quarry Cave-see Andy Celmer Ogdens Natural Cave Preserve Cleanup
Mar 29	Mar 30	Mar 31	Apr 1 ALL FOOL'S DAY	Apr 2 PB&J DAY	Apr 3 Grand Caverns Restoration Weekend	Apr 4 Grand Caverns Restoration Weekend GOOD FRIDAY
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Apr 12	Apr 13	Apr 14	Apr 15 TAX DAY Assault on the Apollo 6pm	Apr 16	Apr 17	Apr 18

DEAD DOG DISPATCH



FEBRUARY 2015 WNS MAP



DEAD DOG DISPATCH

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