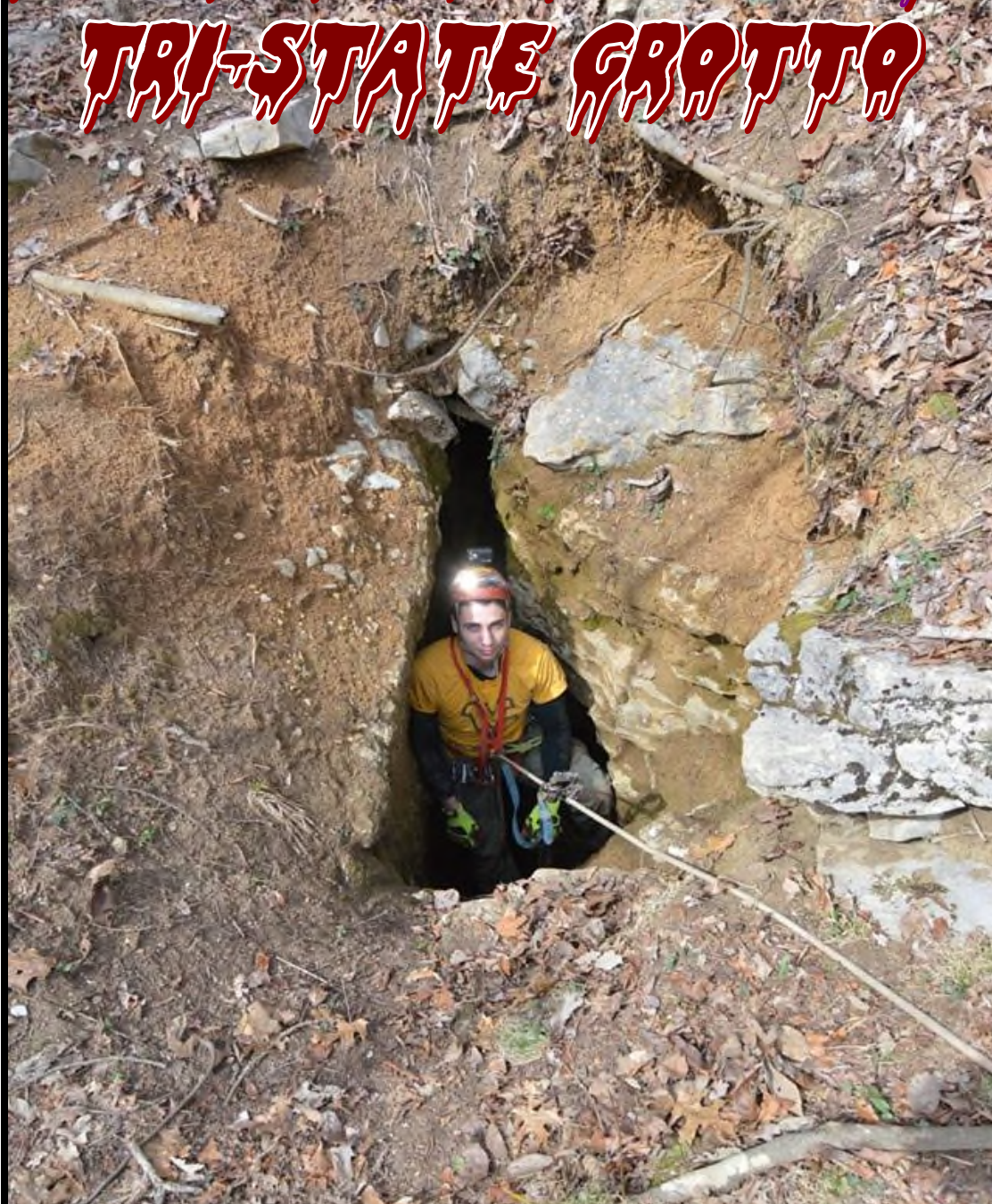


# DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



**SHAWN HUGBIN IN THE ENTRANCE TO LARSONS WELL,  
TN, (PHOTO BY WAYNE PERKINS OF WVUSG)**

**VOL. #32**

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**APR**

**2017**

**#47**



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

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**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**

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 (SUSTAINING- \$50/yr until \$200 total is met)  
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Payment of DUES can be made at MONTHLY MEETINGS  
 or can be SENT TO:

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**\*\* The cover this month shows Shawn Hogbin in the entrance to Larsons Well in TN. The photo was used with permission from Wayne Perkins of the WVUSG.**

\*\*\*\* Don't forget, the **JONES QUARRY BOOKLET** is **ALMOST GONE!** There are 10 left! If you are interested in purchasing a copy of the BOOKLET, contact **BOB BENNETT 304-821-4621(H)** or **304-671-0344(C)** E-MAIL at **[gimpycaver@comcast.net](mailto:gimpycaver@comcast.net)**  
**The copy will cost \$6.00 each!**

**\*\*\*\*\*10 LEFT!\*\*\*\*\***

**WE NEED EVERYONE TO KEEP THINKING ABOUT VOLUNTEERING FOR AN OPEN POSITION. WE STILL HAVE 6 POSITIONS OPEN! PLEASE GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!**



**BATTY**

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# CAVING EVENTS

## 2017

APR 1 ----- ALL FOOL'S DAY  
APR 2 ----- PB&J Day  
APR 7 ----- National Beer Day  
APR 8 ----- Ridgewalk-Inwood – 10am – see Bob  
APR 8-9 --- WVACS weekend  
**APR 12 --- TSG Meeting – 7pm**  
APR 14 --- GOOD FRIDAY  
APR 15-16 – Grand Caverns Restoration Camp  
**APR 16 --- EASTER**  
**APR 17 --- TAX DAY**  
APR 22 --- EARTH DAY  
APR 22 --- Sinkhole Cleanup – see Janet Tinkham  
APR 28 --- ARBOR DAY  
**APR 28-30 ---Spring VAR – Thorn Springs**  
MAY 1 --- Day of Prayer  
MAY 1 --- May Day  
MAY 5 --- Cinco de Mayo  
MAY 6 --- WVASS Meeting – Unus, WV – 1pm  
**MAY 10 --- TSG Meeting – 7pm**  
MAY 13 --- Adam Stephen Day – 9am  
**MAY 14 --- MOTHER'S DAY**  
MAY 19-21 --- SERA – Sequatchie, TN  
MAY 20 --- Scout trip to Baker Quarry – Work on  
gate -see Tom  
MAY 20 --- ARMED FORCES DAY  
MAY 26-29 --- Speleofest – KY  
**MAY 29 --- MEMORIAL DAY**  
JUN 2-4 --- Spring MAR/NRO – Cobleskill, NY  
JUN 9-11 --- Bubble weekend at Nancy Hanks  
JUN 10-11 --- WVACS weekend  
JUN 14 --- FLAG DAY  
**JUN 14 --- TSG Meeting – 7pm**  
**JUN 18 --- FATHER'S DAY**  
JUN 19-23 --- NSS Convention, Rio Rancho, NM  
JUN 20 --- WV Day  
JUN 21 --- SUMMER SOLSTICE  
JUN 30-JUL 4 --- MAKC 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary –  
Blairsville, PA – Camping is free!!!!  
**JUL 4 --- INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
JUL 8-9 --- WVACS Classic  
**JUL 12 --- TSG Meeting – 7pm**  
**JUL 15 --- TSG Picnic**

**JUL 20-23 --- Karst-O-Rama – Great Saltpeter Preserve**

**AUG 9 ---- TSG Meeting – 7pm**

**AUG 13 --- Left Handers Day**

**AUG 31 --- SEP 4 – OTR**

**SEP 2 ---- Doo Dah Parade – 10 am**

**SEP 2 ---- Polyester Power Hour Trip – 1pm**

**SEP 4 ----- LABOR DAY**

**OCT 9 --- Columbus Day**

**OCT 11 --- TSG Meeting – 7pm**

**OCT 31 --- HALLOWEEN**

**\*\*\*\*\* 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 ----- \$43.00**

**TOTAL TO DATE: ----- \$6540.50**

**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 2016 ----- [www.nss2016.caves.org/](http://www.nss2016.caves.org/)  
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/)  
Bob's Web Site ----- [www.tristategrotto.net/Bob/](http://www.tristategrotto.net/Bob/)  
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/)

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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)



## MONTH OF APRIL

Pete Bracken, Jeff Hajenga, Lauren McCoy, Adam Oates, Doc Phillips, Ann Shepard, Danny Viera

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



**TSG Meeting**  
**3/8/17 (21 people attended)**

John called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.  
Jerry gave the Treasurer's report

New Business: New light bulbs in Endless Caverns  
– Mar 22 at 1:30 pm.

New cave in Jefferson Co – Big Column Cave –  
Very pretty.

Wed night caving: Nestle Quarry Cave – 3/15/17 at  
6:00 PM.

'Indian Knife Cave' for a 1 day trip on 3/18/17.

Sinkhole in Jefferson Co behind the St Police station. There was an article in the Journal on 3/8/17.

Spring VAR – Thorn Creek Campground – 4/28 thru 4/30/17.

Doc still working on the poles for the Grotto canopy.

Papers for the 501 c3 were sent off.

We have non-members going on the Wed night caving trips.

Kevin Hughes has a helmet for \$20 & harnesses for \$10.

Cave Bucks: \$43.00 – SCCI

John adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm

Respectively submitted  
Paulette Bennett  
Secretary  
Tri-State Grotto of the NSS

## Wednesday Night Caving Vertical Edition

**Report and all pictures, but one, by John DiCarlo NSS # 25744**  
**Hedgesville, WV-**This fall Tri-State Grotto set up Vertical Practice at James Rumsey High School.

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**Eric Armer**

Eric Armer teaches there and arranged for Tri-State Grotto to use the masonry shop to climb in. The classroom has exposed metal ceiling joists that we tied a pulley to and ran the rope through it.

Tri-State Grotto had Tom Griffin buy three types of Vertical gear; Ropewalker, Frog and Mitchell systems. So someone could come and try the different climbing systems to see which one worked the best for them.

Instead of writing a bunch of different articles about “we climbed the rope,” I’m writing one story and putting pictures of the different sessions. The photos are from each visit.

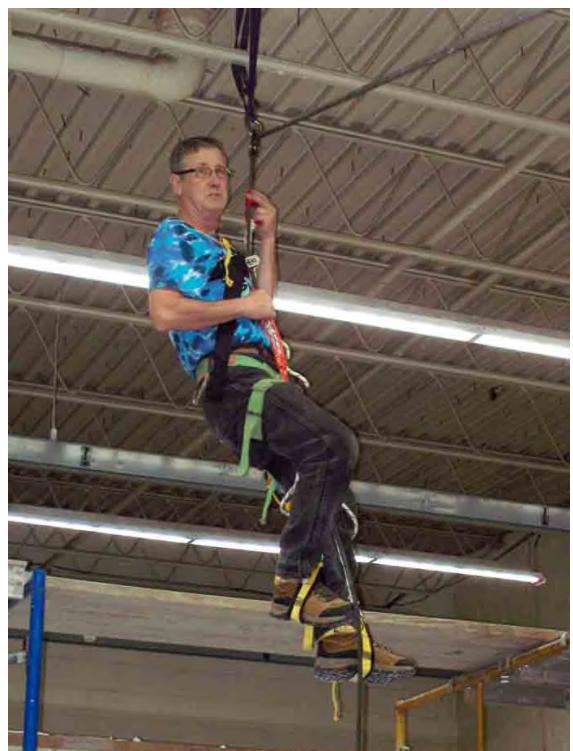
Overall we had a lot of people come down and try their hand at climbing the ropes. We climbed from 6 pm to 9:00 each night. We will take three months off as Eric has to teach a class for the school in the evenings for a while.

Our first session went well. We even had Carl Amundson come up to instruct us.



**Felicia Shockley and Carl Amundson**

- \* - \* - \* - \* - \* - \*  
- \* - \* - \* - \* -



**Jerry Bowen on rope**

Our next Wednesday Night Caving Vertical edition was in October.





**Doyle Garvin**

The ropes were hung and we soon had people swing from all of them.



**Sarah Scrivener** By Bob Edmonds

It's always nice to see young people involved. We had a couple up on the ropes tonight.



**Adam Oates**

We climbed till closing time, then had to remove all the ropes.



**Braedon Schuler**



- \* - \* - \* - \* - \* -  
\* - \* - \* - \* -

The Wednesday Night Caving Vertical edition in November was well attended.



**Bob Bennett**

Several ropes were hung. Soon they were filled with climbers.



**Adam Oates**

I didn't get as many photos, as I was climbing too.

- \* - \* - \* - \* - \* -  
\* - \* - \* - \* -



**Shawn Hogbin**

Our final Wednesday Night Caving Vertical edition for the year was in December. The scaffolding was moved this time. Eric and Tom had to go find a ladder to reach the ceiling. This made it a little harder to get the ropes up there.



**Tom Griffin, sitting on rope,  
and Bob Bennett, sitting in a chair**

This session was a little more laid back as you can see in Bob and Tom's picture. We still climbed with most people now doing changeovers.



**Adam Oates**

So ended our indoor climbing for the year. We will be back in three months to do it again. Everybody's invited to come on down.



**Doc Phillips and Tim Jordan**

The summer caving time will be here before you know it, and if you want to do some of the vertical caves, this is a good place to learn how. You will only be so far off the floor, not hanging in a deep pit, when you ask, "How do I do this again?" There's nothing like learning how.

- \* - \* - \* - \* - \* -  
\* - \* - \* - \* -

## Adam Stephen Dig February 18, 2017

Photos and story by John DiCarlo NSS # 25744  
Martinsburg, WV-Tri-State Grotto descended on the Adam Stephen House to continue the dig for the tunnels. Nine-Thirty came and people showed up to help. Tom took the Grotto Wacker and made his way down to the site.



**Paulette Bennett was our bean counter. She kept track of all the buckets that were carried out**

We fit a harness on Michael Kesecker, and he, then Doc Phillips, slid down into the hole. Soon buckets of dirt were coming up and carried out.



**Elaine Dodson carries out a bucket of dirt**



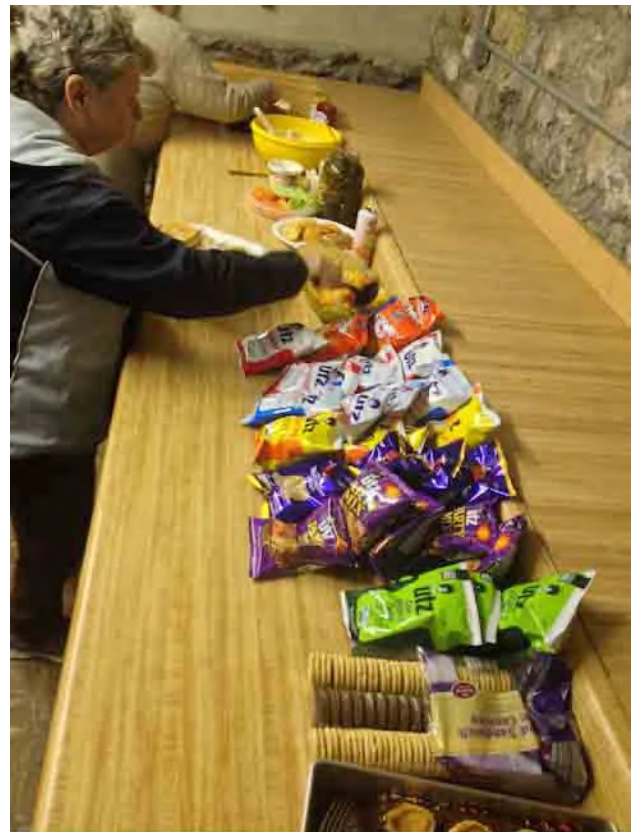
We had 15 people in the morning shift. The film crew from "Ghosts of Shepherdstown" came by to help. Many hands make the work go faster, and a lot smoother.



**Our Russell Linton on the left and one of the film crew on the right**

Keith sent the word up that lunch was ready at 12:30. We had hit 101 buckets by then.

Looking at the lunch spread I saw that Keith Hammersla had a large tray of pulled pork and hot dogs beside it. On down the table were all the trimmings to go with them, a big bowl of applesauce, and another of fruit cocktail, and rows of all kinds of chips. He even baked a nice desert. We always eat well.



**Paulette Bennett gets a serving of fruit salad as Bob Bennett grabs some pulled pork**



**The volunteer excavators line up for lunch**

After lunch, because of the amount of people who had not seen the King St entrance, we took a trip over there.





**Our lunch time crowd**

We went down a flight of steps into the cellar, then walked across the dirt floor and descended down another long flight of stone stairs to the sub basement with the stone arched ceiling. From there, we descended another flight of stairs to a stone floor, the sub-sub-basement.



**One of the film crew from "Ghosts of Sheperdstown" helps Bob Bennett pull up a bucket**

From there a hole goes down to a lower passageway, down to which Beau Ouimette climbed. From there, he walked to the end and peered down two more holes that were in the floor.



**Doc Phillips and Beau Ouimette, standing by the back door, chewing the fat**

This is where we turned the trip and climbed the flight after flight of stairs to get out. The group walked back to the Adam Stephen house and continued with the dig. A few people went down into the shaft to the dig site. Again, one by one they had to lower themselves down.



**Bob Bennett watches the passing of the bucket**



After the last one was down, they started sending buckets up again. A few of them were full of rocks. They had to break up a few rocks to get them out.



Keith Hammersla has dumped a bucket and is bringing it back

We lost four people after lunch. They had to go to work. We did pick up two more who showed up after lunch. So, we still had a good size work force. Many times someone would walk by another person as they carried a bucket, and a hand would come out saying, "here, let me take that from you." The reply would be, "No, I've got it."



Doc Phillips sitting for a spell

We had spots to take the buckets and set them down for the next relay. Many times the bucket carrier would not stop there, but would take the bucket all the way. Good help is great to find.



Russell Linton and his wife are showing their grandchildren the dig

Down below they were digging around a large rock in the wall. They had chipped at it, dug around it, and then gave up for a while, and were digging someplace else. All of a sudden, the rock, on its own, fell out of the wall. Keith's shovel was lying there and it snapped the handle in half. The shovel was sent back up to the surface, and we put it in a corner of the room and set it up so that it looked unbroken. At the end of the day Keith came into the room and we asked him to grab the shovel for us. Of course as soon as he grabbed it the shovel fell apart. Then we gave him a hard time for breaking the shovel. We all laughed at that, and then told him the story of how it broke.



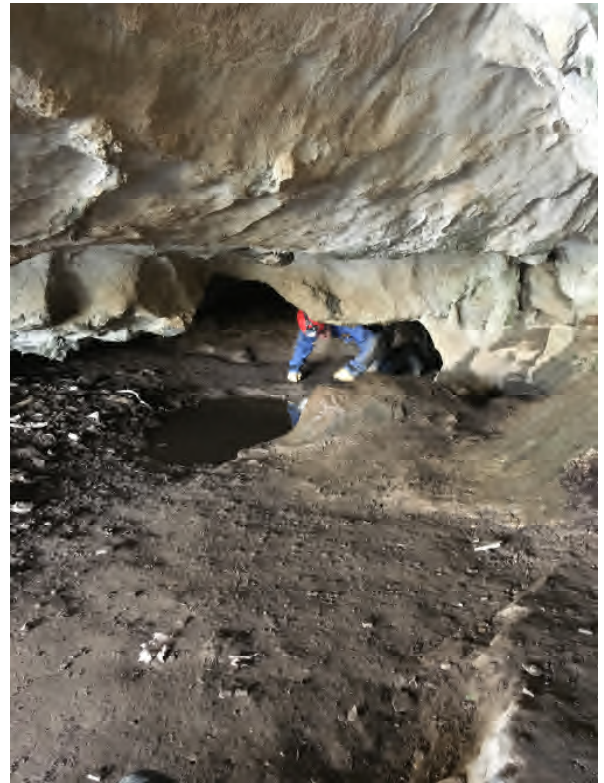


## **Todd Zimmerman is happy to carry out a bucket**

We carried out 51 buckets in the afternoon and ended up with 152 buckets for the day. We were pleased with our progress. We had 17 helpers for the day: Tom Griffin, Bob Bennett, Elaine Dodson, Russell Linton, Michael Kesecker, Paulette Bennett, Trevor Fitz, Beau Ouimette, Doc Phillips, Sean Mantooth, Ben Kall, Matt Shadle, Austin Porter, Barry Bates, Todd Zimmerman, Keith Hammersla, and John DiCarlo.

To see a YouTube video of our activities from this day go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YCk81N9byeo>



Jerry crawling out of Indian River Cave  
(Photo furnished by Jerry Bowen)



YMCA leaders at Donaldson  
(Photo by John DiCarlo)



## White Nose Syndrome Update April 2017

The fungal disease White Nose Syndrome (WNS) was first documented in West Virginia in early 2009. Since then, there have been significant declines in the numbers of bats observed in hibernacula. Species most impacted have been the little brown bat, Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, and tricolored bat. During winter 2016-2017, WVDNR biologists conducted bat surveys in 20 caves, including the state's most important bat hibernaculum, Hellhole. Nineteen of these caves were also surveyed in winter 2014-2015. The results of the 2017 surveys contained both good news and bad news.

Virginia big-eared bats, an endangered species, do not seem to be impacted by WNS, and their numbers are increasing. The winter count was the highest on record with 15,354 Virginia big-eared bats tallied. Over 13,000 were in Hellhole. Unlike other bats in the state, Virginia big-eared bats also form summer maternity colonies that use caves. WVDNR biologists monitor the bats in these colonies each June using night-vision equipment to count the bats as they emerge in the evening to feed. The June 2016 count was also the highest summer count on record.

Little brown bats were once one of the most common bats in the state. By 2014, WNS reduced the population by around 97%. Winter surveys conducted in 2016 showed that the number of little brown bats in caves surveyed in both 2014 and 2016 increased 17% between the two surveys. The number observed in caves surveys this past winter showed an increase of 19% over the 2015 total. While the number of bats remaining is still much lower than pre-WNS numbers, an increase in numbers is a welcome change.

Unfortunately, we are still not seeing increases in other species. The winter 2017 surveys documented a further 50.8% decline in Indiana bats and a 23.9% decline in tricolored bats (formerly called eastern pipistrelles) since 2015. Hellhole has the largest concentration of

endangered Indiana bats in the state. There used to be over 18,500 Indiana bats hibernating in the cave; the 2017 survey counted only 794 Indiana bats, a decrease of nearly 96%. Northern long-eared bats are not often observed in caves in West Virginia, so winter surveys don't provide a good way to monitor their populations. Summer bat mist netting data suggest that this species has declined, but the decline does not seem to be as severe as it has been for little brown bats.

Because WNS affects bats during hibernation, migratory bats that move south rather than enter hibernation are not affected. Migratory bats include the eastern red bat, hoary bat, and silver-haired bat.

Craig Stihler



Parker Webb on the light-bulb trip in Endless  
(Photo by David Lucas)





Tom going into Showalter Holler Cave  
(Photo by BB)



Bob coming out of the small cave near police  
barracks. (Photo by Tom Griffin)



Tom Checking out a tight entrance to a cave near  
the Coast Guard. Need some bang! (Photo by BB)



John emerging from the depths of Hell!  
Indian Knife Cave – (Photo by BB)



Small cave near St Police in Jefferson Co. There is  
a 15-20 foot passage just behind the rock on the  
right. (Photo by BB)





# CAVIN CALENDAR

## APRIL 9TH - MAY 20TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Apr 9</b> <b>WVACS WEEKEND</b>	<b>Apr 10</b>	<b>Apr 11</b>	<b>Apr 12</b>  <b>Meeting 7pm</b>	<b>Apr 13</b>	<b>Apr 14</b> <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> <b>Grand Caverns Restoration Camp</b>	<b>Apr 15</b> <b>Grand Caverns Restoration Camp</b>
<b>Apr 16</b>  <b>EASTER</b> <b>Grand Caverns Restoration Camp</b>	<b>Apr 17</b> <b>TAX DAY</b>	<b>Apr 18</b>	<b>Apr 19</b>	<b>Apr 20</b>	<b>Apr 21</b>	<b>Apr 22</b>  <b>EARTH DAY</b>
<b>Apr 23</b>	<b>Apr 24</b>	<b>Apr 25</b>	<b>Apr 26</b>	<b>Apr 27</b>	<b>Apr 28</b> <b>ARBOR DAY</b> <b>SPRING VAR - Thorn Spring Campground</b>	<b>Apr 29</b> <b>SPRING VAR - Thorn Spring Campground</b>
<b>Apr 30</b> <b>SPRING VAR - Thorn Spring Campground</b>	<b>May 1</b> <b>MAY DAY</b> <b>DAY of PRAYER</b>	<b>May 2</b>	<b>May 3</b>	<b>May 4</b>	<b>May 5</b> <b>CINCO de MAYO</b>	<b>May 6</b> <b>WVACS meeting 1pm - Unus, WV</b>
<b>May 7</b>	<b>May 8</b>	<b>May 9</b>	<b>May 10</b>  <b>Meeting 7pm</b>	<b>May 11</b>	<b>May 12</b>	<b>May 13</b> <b>Adam Stephen Day 10am</b>
<b>May 14</b>  <b>Mother's Day</b>	<b>May 15</b>	<b>May 16</b>	<b>May 17</b>	<b>May 18</b>	<b>May 19</b> <b>SERA - Sasquatchie, TN</b>	<b>May 20</b> <b>SERA - Sasquatchie, TN</b> <b>Baker Quarry - Work on gate 10am</b> <b>ARMED FORCES DAY</b>

# DEAD DOG DISPATCH



Jeff rappelling through trash before cleanup in Greenbrier  
(Photo by Jeff Hajenga)

## DEAD DOG DISPATCH

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TO:



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