

DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



**VIRGINIA BIG EARED BATS,
HELL HOLE BAT COUNT, PENDLETON CO, WV**

VOL. #32

ISS. #3

MAR

2017

#35



SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP ---- \$50/YEAR
 (SUSTAINING-\$50/yr until \$200 total is met)
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**** The cover this month shows Virginia Big Eared Bats in Hell Hole Cave, Pendleton Co, WV. The photo was taken by Jeff Hajenga during the annual Hell Hole bat count.**

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

TRI-STATE GROTTTO OFFICERS

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**** 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 **gimpvcaver@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 NEED SOMEONE FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS: PROGRAM CHAIR PLEASE GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!



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CAVE IN EVENTS

***** CAVE BUCKS *****

2017

MAR 4 --- Big Column Cave – 1pm
MAR 4-5 --- Trout Rocks Bat Count - DNR
MAR 8 --- TSG meeting – 7pm
MAR 11 --- FRG meeting – 10am
**MAR 12 --- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
STARTS**
MAR 14 --- PI DAY
MAR 17 --- ST PATRICK'S DAY
MAR 18 --- Greenbrier Co, WV – see Tom
MAR 18 --- Sinkhole Cleanup – see Janet Tinkham
MAR 20 --- VERNAL EQUINOX
MAR 24 --- MD Day
APR 1 ----- All Fool's Day
APR 2 ----- PB&J Day
APR 12 --- TSG Meeting – 7pm
APR 14 --- GOOD FRIDAY
APR 16 --- EASTER
APR 17 --- TAX DAY
APR 22 --- EARTH DAY
APR 22 --- Sinkhole Cleanup – see Janet Tinkham
APR 28 --- ARBOR DAY
APR 29 --- Rock Enon-Vertical Play – see Tom
APR 28-30 --- Spring VAR – Thorn Springs
MAY 1 --- Day of Prayer
MAY 5 --- Cinco de Mayo
MAY 5 --- WVASS Meeting – Unus, WV – 1pm
MAY 10 --- TSG Meeting – 7pm
MAY 13 --- Adam Stephen Day – 9am
MAY 20 --- Scout trip to Baker Quarry-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 6-9 --- Bubble weekend at Nancy Hanks
JUN 14 --- FLAG DAY
JUN 14 --- TSG Meeting – 7pm
JUN 18 --- FATHER'S DAY
JUN 19-23 --- NSS Convention, Rio Rancho, NM
JUN 30-JUL 4 --- MAKC 20th Anniversary –
Blairsville, PA – Camping is free!!!!

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 FEBRUARY ----- **\$36.00**

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- **\$6497.50**

**The money was sent to SCCI.
Keep It Coming!**

WEBSITE & CAVING LINKS

Tri-State Grotto ----- www.tristategrotto.net/
VAR ----- www.varegion.org/
NSS ----- www.caves.org/
NSS Convention 2016 ----- www.nss2016.caves.org/
OTR ----- www.otr.org/
MAR ----- www.caves.org/region/mar/
WVCC ----- www.wvcc.net/
Bob's Web Site ----- www.tristategrotto.net/Bob/
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/>
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

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GROTTO BIRTHDAYS

MONTH OF FEBRUARY

Gloria Chepko, Cierra Durst, Mason Griffin, Bob Gulden, Eliza Marie Vis, Allison Hazen, Kevin Mulligan, David Sanbower

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

REPORTS

TSG Meeting 2-8-17 (16 people attended)

John called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
Jerry gave the Treasurer's Report.
Bob read correspondence. We sent \$39 to SCCI.
Craig Stihler will come to a meeting this summer and give a demonstration of how the new computer will be used in Bat studies.
Doc talked about what he is using on the rusty poles. Bob will bring more poles to the next meeting.
Bob talked about the Library, what he has available and how they can be used.
Doc suggested retaining a deposit for what the book is worth before allowing expensive and old books to be used outside the library. If the book cannot be replaced then the person will be allowed to look at the book either at a monthly meeting or at Bob's home.
PA has a lot of cave books but John suggested on holding off on purchasing any until we get a complete list.

Old Business: 501c-3 papers need to be filled out. We will set up a meeting to discuss filling out the papers.
We will be going back to Indian Knife Cave (Linda Snider) in March or April.

Spring VAR will be held at Thorn Springs on the weekend of April 28-30.
Adam Stephen dig, Sat, Feb 18 at 9:30 am.

New Business: None

Wednesday Night Caving: The last trip we to Donaldson Cave. There was water in the cave but there was still plenty to see. Beau talked about the trip. The next trip will be to Fox Skull Cave on Wed, Feb 15th. Meet at Rocs at Spring Mills.

Sean Mantooth talked about producing a ghost show about the caves under Martinsburg. He asked about maps showing these caves.
Bob talked about several sinkholes & caves near Martinsburg, High School.

Cave Bucks: \$36.00 – Will be sent to SCCI.

Who's been caving? Doc did Indian Church Cave & Jones Quarry Cave.
The vertical sessions will be on hold for the next couple of months.
Brent needs a date to repair the gate on Baker Quarry.
John adjourned the meeting at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Paulette Bennett, Secretary
Tri-State Grotto of the NSS

Trout Rocks Bat Count

The bat count went well. We stopped at the BP. Met Corey and his girlfriend Keeley. Mason and I did Hamilton with them. Cheryl, Earl and 2 others with the DNR guy went to New Trout. We got out around 4:30.

Mason and I stopped at the escalator. I have never been down the escalator, Mason said he did not trust his shoulder so I stayed with him. There were 4 other rooms this side of the blower. They have a specific route to follow.

Last year's count was 5, this year's count was 9, all tri-colored (pips). I did see another off the study trail. Not sure if they counted that one. I did bring

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the UV light. They found some bats with slight crust on them. The UV light did not indicate WNS. They thought that was interesting since the crust on the bat they would have indicated WNS on their report, since the UV light did not indicate it they felt there past reports maybe wrong.

New Trout had 30 bats with 6 different species. We did see 1 big ear about 50 feet in. All in all I got to learn a lot and Mason was able to finish his research.

Tom Griffin

More Bat Counts

February, 2017. Conducted winter bat count in Patton Cave, Monroe County, Honaker Cave, Mercer County, and Organ Cave, Greenbrier County, WV.

DNR conducted our biennial winter bat count in Hellhole cave, Pendleton County, WV, on February 25th. Thirteen people entered cave, and three stayed on the surface. A total of 16,804 bats were counted. Cavers from WVDNR, Germany Valley Karst Survey, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program, and US Fish and Wildlife Service were involved.



VA Big Eared Bats (Photos by Jeff Hajenga)

Jeff Hajenga, DNR



Nikki Fox in Endless Cavern
(Photo by Jerry Bowen)

Wednesday Night Caving Fox Skull Cave

Photos and story by John DiCarlo NSS # 25744
Falling Waters, WV-On February 15, 2017 Tri-State Grotto met up at 6 pm to go caving. We were headed to Fox Skull Cave. We left AC&T at 6:15 and drove to the cave.

Last time the guards from a nearby development called the cops on us thinking we were breaking into houses. When the Troopers jumped out and grabbed Scott, he told them we were caving. They said that they were puzzled that they didn't see any footprints in the snow around the houses. They looked at Scott and decided that he looked more like a caver (helmet cave suit, knee pads, etc.) than a burglar, and let him go.

This time as we passed the development I went to the guard booth and told them that we were going caving. Everyone else passed us by and parked at the end of the road. Suiting up, we started our walk. Arriving at the base of the cliff, we started our climb up. I always like to have someone who has never been in this cave go first. Beau Ouimette was videoing the trip, so I told him to go first as he had never been in it before. He protested mildly, and I told him if he didn't go first, that all he would film would be peoples' butts. He was good with that explanation and took the lead. I followed him, and Adam Oates followed me. One by one everyone climbed in.



Adam Oates with the
troublesome helmet

When I said "climbed in," I'm talking about a twenty-foot belly crawl until you can rise up to your knees and crawl. I had Beau stop a few times as we crawled along to let people catch up. It takes time to belly crawl that twenty feet. As I said then, if we go too fast we'll hit the back of the cave in no time, let's make this last.



This formation has the
shape of a coke bottle

There were some bones found and the question was raised as to what kind they were. Were they human?



A translucent bacon formation

We continued our crawl down the passage. We hit the intersection and stopped to look around. Beau found a 5 inch long metal awl or round file. He also

found a broken glass bottle with a figure of a rat embossed on it, which turned out to have been a bottle of rat poison.



No it's not a bone. Beau Ouimette crawls along with his camera holder in his mouth.

Moving along, we followed the going passage to the right. Going down this passage, it got bigger as we went along. There were formations along the wall here. Beau found a jawbone with a few tiny teeth on the end. We reached a spot where we could stand up. This was the only place in the cave where everyone could stand. There were two other places that only our younger, under 10 year old, cavers could stand up.



Tim Jordan having a great time

In the area that we could all stand up, two passages continued on from there. One went up and one went low. Several people went each way. We stayed in that area for a while before turning the trip and heading out.



Lexis Moats and Steven Lepley enjoying Wednesday Night Cave

We did look at every hole and slot as we made our way back. At the intersection I stopped and took pictures of everyone behind me as they came by. As Beau came by, he told Adam and me to go ahead, saying, "first one in last one out."



Jay Kilmer eagerly makes his way through Fox Skull Cave

We crawled along and came to the big bone again. Beau was convinced that it was a human bone and asked if he could take it with him to ID it.

Afterwards he would bring it back. He was told to go ahead and take it.



Danny Vieira having an excellent adventure

We hit the twenty-foot belly crawl and made our way through it. Outside we regrouped and moved down to the Dam # 5 caves. With the steep cliff, brush and darkness, we pointed out where they were and said this would be a better day trip. A few people did go ahead and climb up to some of the caves.



Some Soda Straws in the making

We headed back to our cars. Passing one of the houses, Lexis said she liked the look of the staircase

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on the outside of the house. She asked if I could take a picture as her battery ran out on her phone.



Nearby is an old stone house

Being a stone house with a date of 1837 was enough for me to want to take the picture anyway.



Stone house dated 1837

We returned to our rides and had everyone line up for a group picture. We had 15 on our trip. We talked for a while before pulling off our muddy coveralls and putting them in trash bags. Saying our goodbyes we headed out one by one.



Our Tri-State Grotto group after the trip into Fox Skull Cave

I stopped at the guard shack again and told them we were done, and that I was the last one out. They thanked me for letting them know why we were there and that we were finished. I thought as I walked away, it was better telling them that we were caving instead of the state police.



Looking down a small side passage

To see a YouTube video of our adventure go to:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iZ6YN2SDvhg>



Todd carrying buckets for a change Adam Stephen dig (Photo by John DiCarlo)



Beau sliding into Willow Cave, Jefferson Co, another 'new' cave!
 (Photo by John DiCarlo)

Hellhole Bat Survey – Craig Stihler

A winter bat survey was conducted in Hellhole, Pendleton County, WV on 25 Feb 2017. Three survey crews tallied bats in the cave. A total of 16,804 bats of six species were tallied on the standard bat survey route. The route covers only a small portion of this very large cave, but includes all areas where endangered bats have been observed and two areas that, pre-White Nose Syndrome (WNS), contained 10,000s of little brown bats. The numbers by species were:

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	NUMBER
Little brown bat	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	2,450
Indiana bat	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	794
Small-footed bat	<i>Myotis leibii</i>	10
Tricolored bat	<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>	47
Big brown bat	<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	10
Virginia big-eared bat	<i>Corynorhinus townsendii virginianus</i>	13,493
TOTAL		16,804

Virginia big-eared bats have not been impacted by WNS, and the total in the 2017 is the highest ever recorded. Little brown bats exhibited the greatest decline after WNS appeared with 97% of the bats lost by 2015. Between 2015 and 2017, however, little brown bats increased 28%. This may suggest that the population has passed its low point and may slowly build up. The bad news is the Indiana bats, endangered before WNS arrived, continue to decline. The number dropped an additional 58% between 2015 and 2017. The population is now at 4% of the pre-WNS number and is continues to decline. During the 2017 survey, small increases were also seen in tricolored bats, small footed bats, and big brown bats. Very few of the bats remaining in the cave showed obvious signs of WNS compared to surveys conducted a few years ago. With so few bats of some species remaining, it is extremely to protect the survivors if there is to be any hope of recovery.



CAVEM CALENDAR

MARCH 5TH - APRIL 15TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mar 5	Mar 6	Mar 7	 Meeting 7pm Destination America	Mar 9	Mar 10	Mar 11 FRG Meeting 10am
Mar 12 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS	Mar 13	Mar 14 PI DAY	Mar 15	Mar 16	 Mar 17 ST PATRICK'S DAY	Mar 18 Greenbrier Co Snider Farm - see Tom Sinkhole Cleanup - see Janet Tinkham
Mar 19	 Mar 20 VERNAL EQUINOX	Mar 21	Mar 22	Mar 23	Mar 24 MD DAY	Mar 25
Mar 26	Mar 27	Mar 28	Mar 29	Mar 30	Mar 31	 Apr 1 ALL FOOL'S DAY
Apr 2 PB&j DAY	Apr 3	Apr 4	Apr 5	Apr 6	Apr 7	Apr 8
Apr 9	Apr 10	Apr 11	 Apr 12 Meeting 7pm	Apr 13	Apr 14 Grand Caverns Restoration Camp	Apr 15 Grand Caverns Restoration Camp

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Duffys Cave sinkhole (Photo by Bob Bennett)

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Spring V&A R 2017

April 28-30

Thorn Springs Park , Franklin, WV

Please print legibly

Pre-registration closes April 8th

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Accompaniers

Name _____ Name _____

Name _____ Name _____

Name _____ Name _____

Pre-Registration fee Adult \$35 # Adults _____ Total \$ _____

On-site \$40

Child 6 - 16 \$25 # Children _____ Total \$ _____

On-site \$30

Under 5 free

Registration Total \$ _____

of Vegetarian meals _____

Cabins offered first come first served 8 bunks \$ 40 _____

16 bunks \$ 80 _____

Camper electric hookup - 7 available \$5 _____

Make check payable to : Baltimore Grotto Total remittance \$ _____

Sorry - we do not have Pay Pal

Send check & form to - Carol Tideman, 7600 Pindell School Rd. Fulton, MD, 20759

We will do our best to provide a meal for everyone, but we can only guarantee meals to those who pre-register.