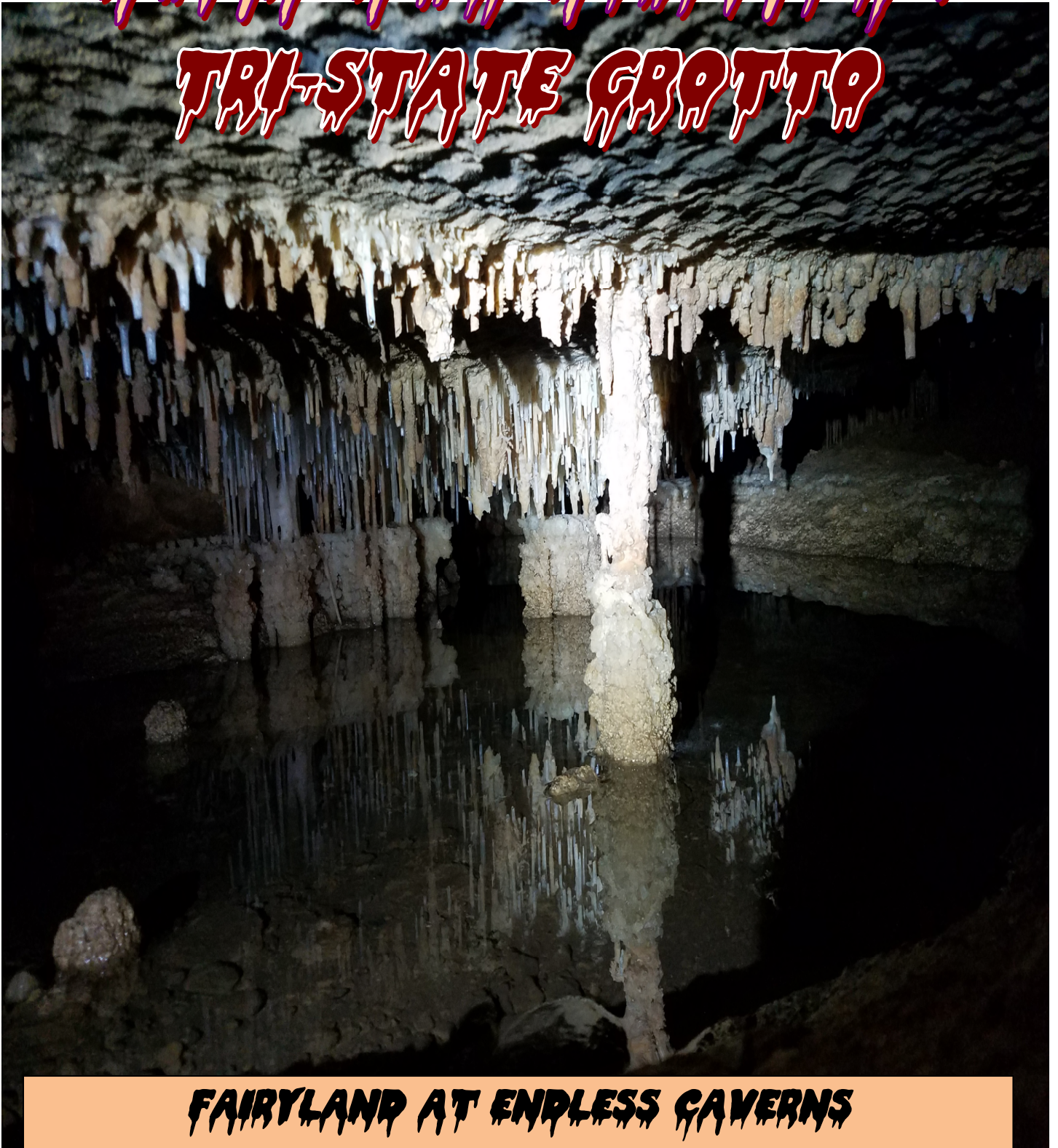


DEAR DAG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



FAIRYLAND AT ENDLESS CAVERNS

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APR

2018

#35

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SUBSCRIBING MEMBERSHIP-\$12.00 (*Non-Voting*)
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP -----\$2.00/FAMILY
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** This month's cover shows Fairyland in Endless Caverns. Notice the reflections! The photo was taken by Bob Bennett.

**** 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
The copy will cost \$6.00 each plus the cost of shipping!

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

WE NEED EVERYONE TO KEEP THINKING ABOUT VOLUNTEERING FOR AN OPEN POSITION. WE STILL HAVE 4 POSITIONS OPEN!
PLEASE GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!



CAVE EVENTS

2018

APR 1 --- EASTER

APR 1 --- ALL FOOL'S DAY

APR 2 --- PB&J Day

APR 6 --- Last day for VAR discount

APR 7 --- National Beer Day

APR 7 --- Sites Cave – see Earl Sutor

APR 11 --- TSG meeting – 7pm

APR 13-15 --- WVACS weekend

APR 14 --- Baker Quarry – Gate repair, scout cleanup, & kayak fun!

APR 17 --- TAX DAY

APR 17 --- BAT APPRECIATION DAY

APR 21 --- Sharps Cave – see Earl Sutor

APR 21-22 --- Grand Caverns restoration weekend – Contact Meredith Weberg

APR 27-29 --- Spring VAR – Hungry Mother Retreat

MAY 1 --- MAY DAY

MAY 3-6 --- 67th Annual SERA Cave Carnival – Scottsboro, AL

MAY 5 --- CINDO de MAYO

MAY 5 --- Spring WVASS meeting at 1pm – WVACS Field Station

MAY 9 --- TSG meeting – 7pm

MAY 11-13 --- WVACS weekend

MAY 12 --- Adam Stephen Day (Martinsburg Heritage Day – Be there at 9am

MAY 13 --- MOTHER'S DAY

MAY 25-28 --- Speleofest – Lone Star Pres, KY

MAY 28 --- MEMORIAL DAY

JUN 8-10 --- Bubble weekend

JUN 8-10 --- WVACS weekend

JUN 13 --- TSG meeting – 7pm

JUN 14 --- FLAG DAY

JUN 17 --- FATHER'S DAY

JUN 21 --- SUMMER SOLSTICE

JUN 22-24 --- NCRC-OCR – Chambersburg, PA

JUL 4 --- INDEPENDENCE DAY

JUL 11 --- TSG meeting – 7pm

JUL 14 --- Annual TSG Picnic

JUL 14-15 --- WVACS Classic - see Dave Sockey

JUL 30-AUG 3 --- NSS Convention – Helena, MT

AUG 8 --- TSG meeting – 7pm

AUG 13 --- LEFT HANDER'S DAY

AUG 30-SEP 3 --- OTR

SEP 1 --- WVASS Fall meeting at 630p – Lutz Rock, OTR

SEP 3 --- LABOR DAY

SEP 11 --- PATRIOT'S DAY

SEP 12 --- TSG meeting – 7pm

OCT 5-7 --- Fall TAG Cave-In – Westfork in Little River, AL

OCT 8 --- Columbus Day

OCT 10 --- TSG meeting – 7pm - Auction

OCT 20 --- Bridge Day

OCT 31 --- ALL HALLOWS EVE (HALLOWEEN)

NOV 11 --- VETERAN'S DAY

NOV 14 --- TSG meeting – 7pm- Nominations

NOV 16 --- Sadie Hawkins Day

NOV 22 --- THANKSGIVING DAY

NOV 23 --- BLACK FRIDAY

DEC 12 --- TSG meeting – 7pm - Elections

******* 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 ----- \$45.00

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- \$6844.52

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



DEAD DOG DISPATCH

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WEBSITE & CAVING LINKS

Tri-State Grotto ----- www.tristategrotto.net/
VAR ----- www.varegion.org/
NSS ----- www.caves.org/
NSS Convention 2017 ----- <http://nss2017.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/>
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/
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

GROTTO BIRTHDAYS

MONTH OF APRIL

Pete Bracken, Jeff Hajenga, Kevin Hughes, Andrew Imes, Jeff Jahn, Lauren McCoy, Adam Oates, Doc Phillips, Ann Shepherd, Danny Viera, Mike Ward, Sarah Ward

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

REPORTS

TSG Meeting 3/14/18

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

Committee Reports: Bob completed the NSS Year End Report.

Bob added 35 books and 55 PDF's to the Library List.

Doc gave a report on removing the rust from the poles.

Doc also gave a report on the condition of the Grotto helmets. They are in good condition.

Bob gave a report on Dyers Cave. It will not open up until after May 15th because of bats.

Tom gave a report on the Grotto rope. It is due on Mar 15th.

Mason accepted the Conservation Chair position.

New Business: On the last Adam Stephen dig we totaled 163 buckets.

Tom suggested digging in a different direction. He says that rocks from the ceiling could fall at the present spot.

Heritage Day (Adam Stephen Day) is Sat, May 12th from 10am until 5pm. We need help with the tours! Tom suggested that people should give a report on their trips that could be used for things such as conservation reports.

Old Business: There is concern about Big Column Cave. The property above it is being subdivided to build homes.

There was a discussion about the signatures in Donaldson Cave and a spot along the C&O Canal. Tom talked about the gate at Baker Quarry. It needs some repair work again.

Wed Night Caving: The last Wed Night trip was to Fox Skull Cave. They found a tooth and a fox skull in the cave.

Bob Talked about the Discovery Museum in Winchester. The museum has been holding lots of

cave exhibits. Bob said that lots of children played with the squeeze box.

Trips: Trip to Endless Cavern to replace light bulbs and run new receptacles and wiring on the tourist trails on Fri, Mar 23rd at 10am.

On Sat, Apr 14th we will be going to Baker Quarry to work on the smaller gate again. There will also be a scout trip going along to clean up graffiti and trash inside & outside the quarry. They will also be kayaking in the quarry.

Vertical practice on Wed, Mar 21st at James Rumsey at 6pm.

Cave Bucks: \$45.00 – Sent to Sccl.

There is a scout trip to Jones Quarry on Sat, Mar 17th. Members are welcome to come along.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm

Respectfully submitted

Paulette Bennett

Secretary, Tri-State Grotto

Adam Stephen Dig

Who Was That Masked Man?

By John DiCarlo NSS #25744

Martinsburg, WV-Tri-State Grotto returned in their quest to find the tunnels under the Adam Stephen House.



There was a nice turnout of helpers: Adam Haines, Andrew Imes, Gage Imes, Diesel Imes, Charles Stanley, Paulette Bennett, Bob Bennett, Tom Griffin, Jeff Marcum, Bill Jackson, Ben Nerud, Ann Muldoon, Elysia Mathias, Doc Phillips, Todd Zimmerman, Dave 'From The Cave' Lucas, Keith Hammersla, and John DiCarlo.



Arriving at 9:30 am on the 24th of February, the grotto hurriedly put their gear in place. There was a large plastic pipe, 50 ft long, connected to a fan for ventilation. Extension cords were connected and threaded across the ceiling and run down the side of the passage. The Wacker was pulled out and moved down the drop.



Tom and Jeff dropped down the hole and looked around. It was thought to have had water pooled up by the dripping sounds that were heard from the top. There wasn't any water lying around, but there was a large rock laying there that had dropped out of the ceiling. Soon the Wacker was reducing the rock, and buckets of rock were sent up along with buckets of dirt.



On top, Chuck Stanley walked in. We had not seen him in years. He took control of the rope and pulled the buckets of stone and dirt up the drop all by himself. The buckets were then grabbed by a fully manned bucket brigade. The material was passed along until it was cliffside and was heaved over.



Paulette was counting the buckets as they came by. When we stopped for lunch we had carried out 63 buckets.



Keith had whipped up another hunger quenching meal. There was food for meat eaters and for vegetarians, plus, all kinds of desserts.



Lunch was called and the diggers in the bottom of the drop came up. People started making their way over to the lunchroom. Soon a line formed at the lunch counter. Plates were grabbed and loaded with food as they passed down the buffet. Everyone found a seat and dug into the food on their plates, reducing the high mountains down to flat plains.



After lunch everyone drifted back to the dig site. This time three people went down to the bottom of the drop. The buckets were soon flying up.



Putting three people down the drop had an immediate effect, as it really sped up the filling of the buckets. With all the help it made for an easy task and the hillside was being covered with dirt. Paulette stayed busy keeping track of the buckets.



Tom kept running out of buckets at the bottom of the drop. They were not coming back quickly enough. Looking around, there were some more buckets found to add to the mix. The buckets kept flying out and the numbers adding up.



When the end of the day was reached, there were 63 buckets hauled out in the morning and 100 buckets in the afternoon, for a total of 163 for the day.

We had 18 people donating their time for a total of:

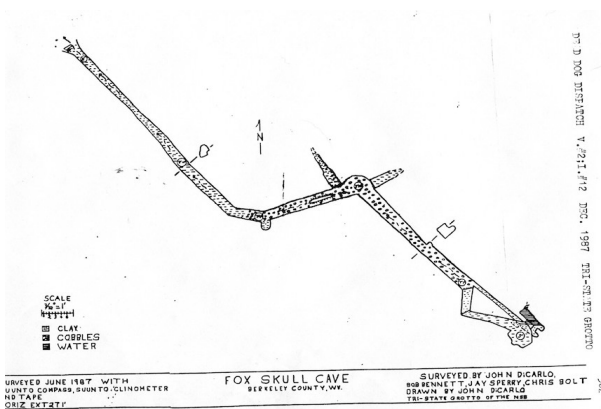
126 hours x \$15=	\$1,890.00
Wacker	\$55.00
Drill bit	3.00
Extension cords 2@ 10.00 =	\$20.00
4" 100 ft corrugated solid pipe	<u>8.00</u>
Value of work done	\$1,976.00

Oh, who was that masked man? Why Bob Bennett, of course.

Fox Skull Cave

By John DiCarlo NSS # 25744

Falling Waters, WV-For Wednesday Night
Caving, March 7, 2018, Tri-State Grotto went to
Fox Skull Cave.



We met up near the Falling Waters exit on I-81. We headed down the road to where we park. I made a quick side trip to a nearby guard shack to let them know what we were doing. A number of years ago they called the State Troopers out on us. This way they would know what was going on.



Tom, Mason and Terry M. were ready and headed off first. The rest of us put on our gear and went as a group.

Thinking that the others went in first, and if there were any animals in the cave, they would run into them before we did, we let Andrew Imes' sons lead us in. This was their first time in this cave.



Making the 20-foot belly crawl in, I was able to set up in the first "room." We moved slowly down the passage as people popped out of the belly crawl. We made our way through the cave and hit the intersection. We turned right there and crawled

some more. There was a lot of raccoon scat all over the floor with some fox scat here and there.



We passed a fox skull on a ledge on the right. This is where the cave ceiling starts going up and is the only place in the cave where an adult can stand up. We passed the formation that looks like a glass coke bottle. This is where we ran into Tom, Mason and Terry.

The passage split here with a passage going up and another one going down. Several people made the squeezes and slid into both. We turned the trip and started making our way out.



As we were waiting at the belly crawl at the entrance for people to slither through, someone handed an object back the line to me. It was a tooth. As I was last in line juggling a camera and other things, the tooth ended up in my pocket. I had no idea where it was picked up from. I thought

maybe it was in the first “room” and someone spotted it as they were waiting for the crawlway to clear.

We made our way out of the cave and went back to our cars. As people changed, or not, they headed out. I stopped at the guard shack to let them know we were done.



Back home I tried to identify the tooth. The internet did not have any good pictures of teeth that I could use. I showed it around at the grotto meeting and got opinions there, horse and pig.

My wife, Lynn, had to take our cat to the vet, so I gave her the tooth to see if she could get an ID. The small animal vet said it was an equine tooth; a horse or a donkey. Then, because she was in Charles Town, she went by the horse vet who said, it was a horse tooth.



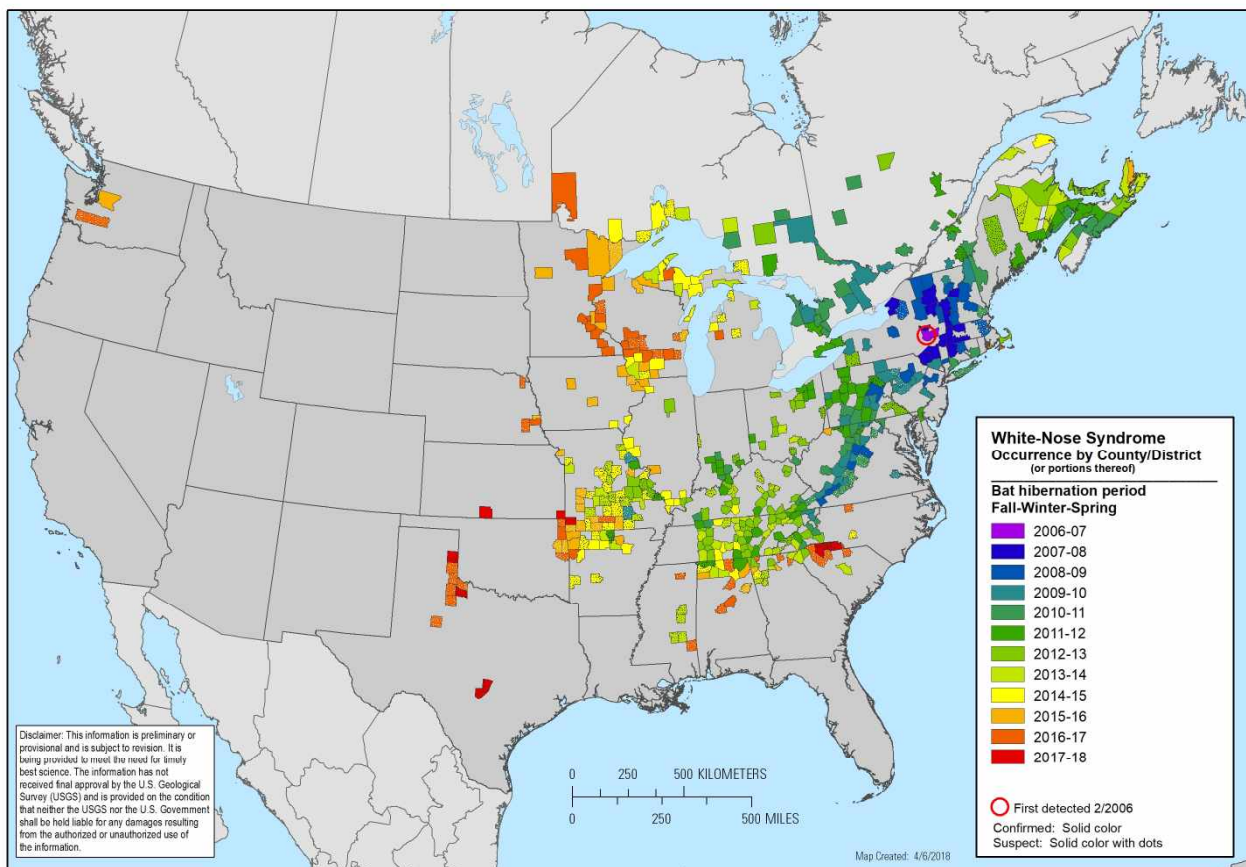
So, I want to know who was riding their horse inside the cave. Someone pointed out that it was a very short cave. I replied, “Yeah, that’s why the horse knocked out a tooth.”

Obviously, a small animal had carried it in. I don’t know of any horses nearby, which leads me to wonder, how old is the tooth?

Below is the latest map showing the spread of WNS since 2006.



Tom replacing a lightbulb
(Photo by Dave ‘From the Cave’ Lucas)



Citation: White-nose syndrome occurrence map - by year (2018). Data Last Updated: 4/6/2018. Available at: <https://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/resources/map>.



CAVIN CALENDAR

APRIL 8TH - MAY 19TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Apr 8</i>	<i>Apr 9</i>	<i>Apr 10</i>	<i>Apr 11</i>  MEETING 730 PM	<i>Apr 12</i>	<i>Apr 13</i> WVACS WEEKEND	<i>Apr 14</i> BAKER QUARRY GATE REPAIR, CLEANUP, & KAYAK FUN WVACS WEEKEND
<i>Apr 15</i> WVACS WEEKEND	<i>Apr 16</i>	<i>Apr 17</i>  BAT APPRECIATION DAY	<i>Apr 18</i>	<i>Apr 19</i>	<i>Apr 20</i>	<i>Apr 21</i> GRAND CAVERNS RESTORATION WEEKEND Sharps cave - see Earl Suitor
<i>Apr 22</i> GRAND CAVERNS RESTORATION WEEKEND	<i>Apr 23</i>	<i>Apr 24</i>	<i>Apr 25</i>	<i>Apr 26</i>	<i>Apr 27</i> SPRING VAR AT HUNGRY MOTHER RETREAT	<i>Apr 28</i> SPRING VAR AT HUNGRY MOTHER RETREAT
<i>Apr 29</i> SPRING VAR AT HUNGRY MOTHER RETREAT	<i>Apr 30</i>	<i>May 1</i> MAY DAY	<i>May 2</i>	<i>May 3</i> SERA CAVE CARNIVAL - Scottsboro, AL	<i>May 4</i> SERA CAVE CARNIVAL - Scottsboro, AL	<i>May 5</i> SERA CAVE CARNIVAL - Scottsboro, AL CINCO de MAYO Spring WVACS meeting - WVACS Field Station 1pm
<i>May 6</i> SERA CAVE CARNIVAL - Scottsboro, AL	<i>May 7</i>	<i>May 8</i>	<i>May 9</i>  MEETING 730 PM	<i>May 10</i>	<i>May 11</i> WVACS weekend	<i>May 12</i> WVACS weekend ADAM STEPHEN DAY - Martinsburg Heritage Day 10am
<i>May 13</i> WVACS weekend MOTHER'S DAY	<i>May 14</i>	<i>May 15</i>	<i>May 16</i>	<i>May 17</i>	<i>May 18</i>	<i>May 19</i>

DEAD DOG DISPATCH



Ann Muldoon replacing light bulbs (Photo by Dave 'From the Cave' Lucas)



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