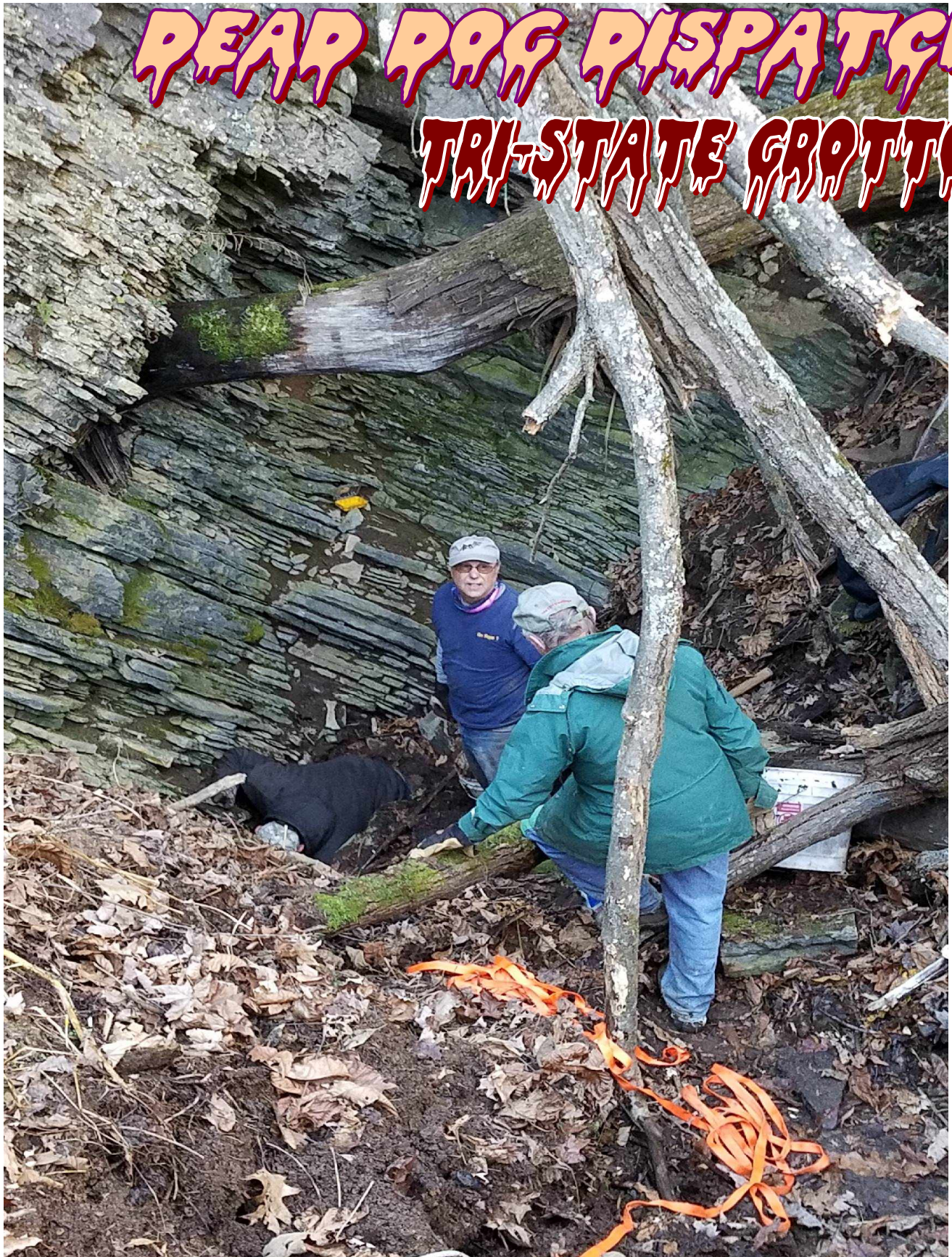


DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



DIG SOMEWHERE IN WV

VOL. #35

ISS. #12

DEC

2020

#129

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**** The photo on this month's cover shows Bob Edmonds in the sinkhole of his dig somewhere in WV. The photo 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!



CAVING EVENTS

2020

DEC 4 --- National Cookie Day
DEC 7 --- Pearl Harbor Day
DEC 9 --- TSG Meeting 7pm - Virtual
~~**DEC 12 --- Annual TSG Christmas Celebration**~~
~~6pm (Cancelled)~~
DEC 21 --- WINTER SOLSTICE
DEC 22 --- National Short Person Day
DEC 24 --- Christmas Eve
DEC 24 --- National Chocolate Day
DEC 25 --- CHRISTMAS DAY
DEC 30 --- National Bacon Day
DEC 31 --- Annual NSS Bat Ball
DEC 31 --- New Year's Eve

2020

JAN 1 --- NEW YEARS DAY
JAN 1 --- National Hangover Day
JAN 8 --- Elvis Birthday
JAN 9 --- Law Enforcement Day
JAN 13 --- Rubber Ducky Day
JAN 13 --- TSG Meeting - 7pm
JAN 14 --- National Dress Up Day
JAN 18 --- MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY
JAN 22 --- Ted Monger Jr Birthday (Owner of Jones Quarry)
JAN 24 --- Peanut Butter Day
JAN 24 --- TRI-STATE GROTTO BIRTHDAY
FEB 1 --- Bubble Gum Day
FEB 2 --- Ground Hog Day
FEB 7 --- Super Bowl Day
FEB 9 --- National Pizza Day
FEB 10 --- TSG Meeting - 7pm
FEB 14 --- Valentines Day
FEB 15 --- PRESIDENTS DAY
FEB 16 --- Fat Tuesday
FEB 28 --- National Tooth Fairy Day
MAR 1 --- Peanut Lovers Day
MAR 10 --- TSG Meeting - 7pm
MAR 14 --- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS
MAR 14 --- National Potato Chip Day
MAR 14 --- PII Day
MAR 14 --- Dr Latterell - Birthday - (Molers)

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 NOV ----- **\$00.00**

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- \$7529.81

GREAT JOB EVERYONE! Let's continue the giving!

Keep It Coming!

WEBSITE & CAVING LINKS

Tri-State Grotto ----- www.tristategrotto.net/
VAR ----- <http://var.caves.org/index.php>
NSS ----- www.caves.org/
NSS Convention 2020 ----- <https://nss2020.caves.org/>
NSS Convention 2021 ----- <http://nss2021.caves.org/>
OTR ----- www.otr.org/
MAR ----- www.caves.org/region/mar/
WVCC ----- www.wvcc.net/
Bob's Web Site ----- www.tristategrotto.net/Bob/
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/
Crystal Grottoes Caverns
www.crystalgrottoescaverns.com
Silers Cave -----
<https://www.karst.org/index.php/category/preserves/silers-cave-preserve/>

GROTTO BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

John Fox, Corey Hackley, Mary Hicks, Carlyn Pate, Janey Pate, David Smallwood, Evert Bonito Vis, Bobbi Warrenfeltz

Happy Birthday!

REPORTS

TSG Meeting, November 11, 2020

John called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. The meeting was held online.

Elysia read the treasurer's report and it was approved.

Bob read the minutes and they were approved.

Old Business

There will be no Christmas party this year.

Don reported that his son went to a public sale last Saturday where he got 10 series 1 postcards from Baker Caverns for \$17.50 each.

New Business

Bob reported that Doc went to Donaldson Cave. The kiosk is in bad shape. Someone who Doc knows has volunteered to repair it.

John asked if there were any grotto pamphlets left. No one knows of any. Jerry Downs from Crystal Grottoes said if we gave him pamphlets, he would pass them out.

The guy who lives in the trailer on the property next to Shirley's cave, bought the land that Shirley's cave is on. Gary spoke to him, and he is open to visitation with notification.

Trips

Elysia, Gary, Tom, Ashby and Bob went to Dead Dog Cave. They saw some cool fungus.

Ashby went to Snyders Landing Cave, Killiansburg Cave, and the Antietam Caves along the creek near Antietam Furnace. He has a YouTube video up with the Antietam and Snyders Landing Caves.

Don went to Coolidge Crawl Cave (?) a couple weeks ago, and people coming out were in wet suits. A week before that, there was no water in the cave.

Mary Hicks has access to a farm in Loudon County, VA, that has sink holes. One is 10 ft. deep, and several are trashed filled. The landowner was talking about burning wood that had collected in one. She wondered if this was environmentally safe. Several alternative options were suggested: pull it out and burn it, have someone come cut it up for firewood, or check into possible Virginia State clean-up grants that might be available. Several people gave her names to check with who might know.

The meeting was adjourned at 7: 45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lynn DiCarlo
Setting in as substitute for Doc Phillips



Here's a little bit for "Who's been caving"

Nov. 14th: Johnsons Crook Cave, Dade County, Georgia

Terry McClanathan, Damien Lebrun-Grandie (Knoxville, TN.), Jon Zetterberg (Atlanta, GA.)

A four-hour trip to de-ring and measure a dome climb

Nov. 14th: Youmans Pit (45'), Pool Pit (42'), Lenora Well (48'), One Arm Pit (41'), All four in Dade County, Ga.

Same three as above

Nov. 15th: Lot 41 Cave (small cave with two pits of 23 and 26'), Richards Pit (50'), Dean Pit (53'), and Rock Shelter Pit (44'), All four in Dade County, GA.

Terry McClanathan, Jon Zetterberg

Nov. 15th PM; Had a couple hour visit with Marion and Sharon at their Bone Cave Road home on my way back to Maryland. Marion has shingles but was on pain medication and doing OK.

Eric Berge here. Thought I would let you know Earle got married on the 2nd of November. His wife is an emergency room trauma doctor. Earle just finished his masters degree in environment science (he did a pollinator study on the Eastern Shore that took years to finish).

He and his wife now live in Jacksonville, Florida.



Scott hollow - Mystik Miller, Chris Colin and me. Took a long trip up to camp to see what supplies we may need in the future. That was my first trip up there since 2007. Needless to say it looked even bigger. We plan on doing some camping soon. On the way out I fell and went completely under! That was my 5 secs of cave diving!

Billy Gibberson

DIG SOMEWHERE IN WV

Bob Edmonds had been bugging Tom Griffin, Jerry Bowen, and I for months about a dig in WV that he said would probably open up to a fantastic cave. Back in November he finally persuaded the 3 of us along with Dave Hubbs, Frank O'Hara, _____ O'Hara, and Bob E's wife ____, to meet in WV to dig on the sinkhole! On Sat, Nov 16th we all met at a local service center and headed to the dig,

To get to the dig we had to drive across several meadows along the side of a steep ridge to get to the sinkhole! And yes, it was a huge sinkhole! The sinkhole was about 100' across and 75 to 100 ft deep. The sinkhole apparently receives drainage from the surrounding ridges and it follows a ravine that leads to the bottom of the monster sinkhole.

They had already dug on the sinkhole once but that was some time ago. Since then the rain, cold, etc had caused many of the trees that lined the sinkhole to lose their grip and fall into the sinkhole. This made getting down into and out of the sinkhole tricky with all of the downed trees and roots everywhere.

The first thing we had to do was figure out a way to pull buckets out and dump them. That is why we had Tom along. He seems to be pretty good at figuring out how to rig the ropes and pulleys. Pretty soon we were set and pulling filled buckets from the center of the sinkhole.

The weather was cold and windy. But down in the sinkhole the wind seemed to miss us.

Jerry, Bob E, and Dave spent a couple of hours taking turns digging in the hole. Dave would then hook the bucket to the rope and Tom would pull the bucket up the side of the sinkhole where I would get the bucket and take it to Bob E's wife. Then she would dump the bucket among the mass of trees and roots.

Later Jerry & Tom traded places and Tom helped dig in the hole while Jerry & I took turns pulling buckets and dumping the dirt. The mass of trees and roots served as a natural barrier for collecting the rock & dirt that we removed and dumped.

We took a break about lunchtime and everyone snacked and drank liquids. Frank O'Hara and his wife showed up and during the afternoon Frank helped to dump buckets that were pulled from the dig.

No one is sure just how many buckets of rock and dirt were removed from the hole, but it was a lot!

Along about 3pm it was decided that everyone had had enough of the mud and cold wind. I found out in the early afternoon that by wearing my covid mask it seemed to protect my face so while I was wearing it even my nose stopped running in the cold! Jerry and Tom decided to try it also and they also said it helped!

All in all, we had a pretty good day. Bob E spend all day in the hole taking turns digging after all this is his dig! Quite a marathon job Bob!

Everyone agreed that it was worth a return trip to continue the dig at a later date.

Bob B



Bob E in the hole with Bob E's wife & Bob B (Tom Griffin)



Tom rigged the ropes with pulleys to haul the buckets (TomG)



Bob E (by Jerry Bowen)



Bob E & Dave busy digging (by Jerry B)



Bob, Tom, & Dave Hubbs (by Jerry B)



The dig hole (by Jerry B)



Looking down into the Sinkhole (by Jerry B)



Bob E in the dig hole (by Jerry B)



Mass of downed trees in the sinkhole (by BB)



Tom pulling up the bucket (by BB)



Dave guiding the bucket up the sinkhole
(By BB)



Dave Hubbs watching the bucket of dirt come up
(by BB)



Frank O'Hara beside the dirt that was removed from
the sinkhole (by BB)



CAVIN CALENDAR

DECEMBER 6TH - JANUARY 16TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dec 6	Dec 7 Pearl Harbor Day	Dec 8	Dec 9  Meeting 7pm Virtual	Dec 10	Dec 11	Dec 12 Annual TSG Christmas Party Cancelled
Dec 13	Dec 14	Dec 15	Dec 16	Dec 17	Dec 18	Dec 19
Dec 20	Dec 21  Solstice	Dec 22 National Short Person Day	Dec 23	Dec 24  CHRISTMAS EVE National Chocolate Day	Dec 25  CHRISTMAS DAY	Dec 26
Dec 27	Dec 28	Dec 29	Dec 30 NATIONAL BACON DAY	Dec 31  NEW YEARS EVE	Jan 1  National Hangover Day	Jan 2
Jan 3	Jan 4	Jan 5	Jan 6	Jan 7	Jan 8 Elvis Birthday	Jan 9 Law Enforcement Day
Jan 10	Jan 11	Jan 12	Jan 13  Meeting 7pm Virtual Rubber Ducky Day	Jan 14 National Dress Up Day	Jan 15	Jan 16

DEAD DOG DISPATCH



Photo that Jerry Bowen purchased on Ebay



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