

DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



BLACK-COFFEEY CAVERN, FRANKLIN CO, PA

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*** The photo on the cover was taken by Bob Edmonds in the historic Baker Caverns now known as Black-Coffey Cavern in Franklin Co, PA.

**** 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!



DEAD DOG DISPATCH

V.#36

I.#10

OCT

2021

#124

CAVING EVENTS

2021

DEC 31 --- Annual BAT BALL – NSS Hdqtrs

DEC 31 --- New Years Eve

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 SEPTEMBER ----- **\$32.00**

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- **\$7664.83**

GREAT JOB EVERYONE! Let's continue the giving!

Keep It Coming!

WEBSITE & CAVING LINKS

Tri-State Grotto ----- www.tristategrotto.org/

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/

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/>

OCT 1-3 --- NCRC OCR – Martinsburg, WV

OCT 2 --- Play Outside Day

OCT 7-10 --- Fall TAG Cave-In – TAG

OCT 10 --- Black Coffee Cavern conservation

Project – 10am – see Tom Griffin

OCT 11 --- Columbus Day

OCT 13 --- TSG Meeting – 7pm – Annual

Auction – Live & Virtual

~~OCT 15-17 --- Fall MAR/VAR --- Grand Caverns~~

~~OCT 16 --- Bridge Day~~

OCT 28 --- Chocolate Day

OCT 29-NOV 1 --- SERA Summer Cave Carnival –

Walling, TN

OCT 30 --- Devil's Night

OCT 31 --- All Hallow Eve – Halloween

OCT 31 --- National Knock Knock Joke Day

NOV 1 --- All Saints Day – Day of the Dead

NOV 2 – Election Day

NOV 5 --- Hot Sauce Day

NOV 7 --- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

NOV 10 --- Marine Corp Birthday

NOV 10 --- Vivian Monger Birthday (Owner of

Jones Quarry)

NOV 10 --- TSG meeting – 7pm – Nominations

for Grotto Officers – Live & Virtual

NOV 11 --- Veterans Day

NOV 13 --- Sadie Hawkins Day

~~NOV 13 --- WVCC Banquet – 7pm~~

NOV 21 --- World Hello Day

NOV 25 --- Thanksgiving Day

NOV 26 --- Day After Thanksgiving

DEC 4 --- National Cookie Day

DEC 7 --- Pearl Harbor Day

DEC 8 --- National Brownie Day

DEC 8 --- TSG meeting – 7pm – Grotto Elections

DEC 11 --- TSG Grotto Christmas Party – 6pm

DEC 21 --- Winter Solstice

DEC 22 --- Short Person Day

DEC 23 --- FESTIVUS DAY

DEC 24 --- Christmas Eve

DEC 24 --- National Chocolate Day

DEC 25 --- Christmas Day

DEC 26 --- National Candy Cane Day

DEC 30 --- National Bacon Day

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

V.#36

I.#10

OCT

2021

#125



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Debbie Floyd, Ashby Haines, Zack Haney, Chris Hogbin, Lindsay Kerfoot, Larry Powell, Craig Stihler,

Happy Birthday!



TSG Meeting, September 8, 2021 (attendance: 10/8 virtual)

John called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM due to online issues.

Elysia's gave a Treasurer's Report and Doc read the previous meetings minutes. Cave bucks:32

Old Business:

-The new TSG/ Crystal Grottos Caverns pamphlet was displayed and scrutinized. All the TSG officers had a draft sent to them for assessment. Cost of generating the pamphlet was discussed and a vote was taken with the result of printing a thousand units.

-Pennsylvania's Sara's Furnace Cave is still being surveyed.

-A discussion of Poor Farm Cave in Pocahontas County concerning a visitation two years ago took place. New plans are being made for the cave.

-The TSG picnic was a success. Thirty-four cavers and three dogs attended.

New Business:

-An Isaac Walton Cave survey that was preformed some time ago needs to be renewed. Plans to reach an agreement with the park officials to re-survey the cave will be held Thursday, September 9.

-There is a possibility that MAR/VAR may be postponed. The event could be held sometime in May 2022 if this year's event is once again cancelled. Plans are being made to contact the local health department for permits.

-A new lock box is needed for Jones Quarry Cave and materials are available. Also, a new concrete barrier should be added to the eroding area under the gate.

-NCRC is going to have a local class in the Martinsburg area.

-The Adam Steven's Cave project continued on September the fifth. Ashby and company are in the process of scouting and digging outside the house in the area facing the creek in hopes of finding an additional opening to the cave. A grinding wheel, old signs, and a metal glider were uncovered. The signs have a historical content, and the grinding wheel is going to be examined.

-A date has been set for next year's Heritage Day at the Adams Stevens House. It is to be held on May the fourteenth, which falls on the weekend after Mothers Day weekend.

-There was a conversation of "Who do you call in a cave emergency?" Call 911 – the police will make the contacts that handle caving emergencies. During a recent local caving trip someone requested information of a cavers safety that returned later than expected which started the conversation.

Caving:

-Adam, John, Ashby and Angela replaced bulbs on Friday, September third, at Crystal Grottos Caverns.

- Doyle, Sir Adam, Todd and Doc visited Thorn Springs Campground over the Labor Day weekend with a host of cavers from RASS, VPI and various locations in Virginia and West Virginia for a NOTR2. (No Old Timers Reunion 2)

-On September the fourth, there was a Dead Dog Cave trip including Adam, Ashby, Elysia and Angela. A suggestion of a VAR Landowner

award for the owner of Dead Dog Cave was proposed.

-The next Wednesday night caving event is to be held on September the fifteenth at Big Column Cave with a possible visit to Chapman's Cave, which is in the area.

-Tom and company went to Hipple's Cave in Pennsylvania.

-Donald has been doing research involving Baker's Caverns. He plans to visit the area on Sunday, September the twelfth.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm

Respectfully submitted

Donald 'Doc' Phillips

NSS # 32922

Secretary

Tri-State Grotto of the NSS

Greenville Saltpeter Cave Purchased

The majority of the Greenville Saltpeter Cave in Monroe County, WV has been purchased by the Conservation Fund for protection of the historical and natural resources present in the cave. Two of the four entrances, (Water and Hilltop), are still owned by an adjacent landowner. The Conservation Fund, along with the WVDNR, are currently working to produce management plan that will address future use of the cave. --- Jeff H



NOTR2 – This Years OTR Alternative
By Donald 'Doc' Phillips

NOTR2

/no-oh-tee-ar^TOO/

Acronym

An alternative caving and camping festival mimicking the original OTR (Old Timers Reunion) that was cancelled for whatever reason for a second time. No Old Timers Reunion Two.

"We had nothing better to do over Labor Day weekend, so we attended NOTR2 instead and had a really good time."

OTR was going to be held this year from September the second through the sixth over Labor Day Weekend. Unfortunately, the local health department postponed it once again. Because of the festival's cancellation, many cavers like myself who not only bought provisions but was also looking forward to the festivities, made plans to go caving and camping anyway. One of the alternatives was to create our very own mini Old Timers Reunion.

I not only posted an invitation on Facebook but also personally invited other clubs and grottos to attend a fun filled caving weekend at Thorn Springs Campground just outside of Franklin, West Virginia. Almost immediately I received positive and excited replies from not only my regular caving acquaintances, but a host of others as well.

I arrived, Friday September third, to the campground at dusk and noticed that a good size group of approximately half a dozen or more cavers from RASS (Richmond Area Speleological Society) were already starting the traditional OTR night-time activities, which involved starting a campfire, cooking, and socializing.

Sir Adam, who rode with me, and I were invited to join their campsite. I brought my guitar and Sir brought the beer. We had a festive time until midnight whereupon one by one, tired cavers retired to their tents.

The next day, a group consisting of Todd, Sir, Doyle, and myself, planned to visit Hamilton Cave, which is almost walking distance from the campground. Other cavers wanted to visit Flower Pot Cave. Flower Pot Cave was closed a few years ago when the owner passed away so I advised that someone should make an inquiry of the caves status. The cave is presently closed, and that troop made plans to visit Kee Cave instead.

Our trip to Hamilton Cave was spectacular. The weather was perfect and climbing the path up Pickle Mountain to get to the cave was slow going. The clean air was a not only refreshing but also energizing making the ascension acceptable. Caving itself was amazing and remarkable, visiting both the mudroom and crawling to the big slab room. Promises were made to return soon.

Before returning to camp, we stopped in town for a fast-food meal and then headed back to camp. The merriment continued, but this time with many more cavers.

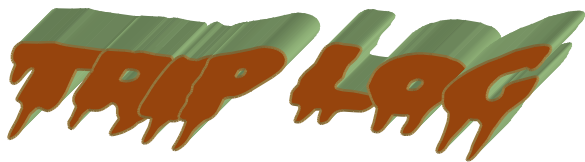
Another rather large crowd of cavers rented a cabin on the other side of the campground. There were close to over twenty people from Virginia and West Virginia that arrived while we were away.

We headed home on Sunday, although many other NOTR2 participants stayed one more day with the intention of getting back home on Monday. There were no hot tubs, bands, dancing, food vendors or a vendors' row, but considering the health emergency, we had a great weekend. NOTR2 was fun, time filling, and very connected. Hopefully we will not have a health emergency again next year with another cancellation a third time in a row. Nevertheless, this year we made our own festival. All the cavers and campers enjoyed this alternative event, which turned out to be a smaller and intimate fun OTR style experience.

glamping
/ glampNG/
noun

A form of camping involving accommodations and facilities more luxurious than those associated with traditional camping.

"Glamping is likely to satisfy any caver seeking a little refuse in nature – without foregoing comfy and modern luxuries."



Sept. 18th: Pig Hole, Giles County, Va.

My wife, Joyce, and I visited Pig Hole Sunday afternoon. I yo-yoed the 115-foot entrance pit three times while Joyce watched topside. Terry M

Sep 24th: Sarah Furnace Cave, Clarion Co, PA

Ashby came to learn to survey at Sarah Furnace. Red, Ashby and I arrived Sept 24th in East Brady Pa. stopped in what looked like a biker's bar, turned out they had fantastic food. After the meal we headed up the road about 6 miles to Sarah

Furnace. We camped there Friday to get up to meet with the other cavers and survey people. Chris Hill was in charge this weekend. Ashby was assigned to Red and I and another Diana from the Terrapin Trail Club from University of MD. We surveyed from 11 to 6pm. Ashby was able to get his experience in Sarah Furnace and use a Distox, even tried his hand at taking notes and sketching. He did a very good job. We feel he will make a very good surveyor. Red and I had to leave Sunday morning, Ashby stuck around and was assigned to another survey team. – Tom G

Sept. 24th: Cold Fingers Pit and Armstrong Pit, Pocahontas County, WV

Ryan Mauer and his girlfriend Hope, Nathan Roser, and I hiked up the mountain on the Kyle Hause property in the Swago area south of Marlinton. The goal was for Ryan to photograph the new pit found at the bottom of Cold Fingers by Shawn Hogbin last January. Over Labor Day weekend Corey enlarged the squeeze that had schudded Shawn on his discovery trip last winter in order that we could all fit without giving a "pound of flesh". At that time Corey, Keely Owen, Shawn and I did the first (and so far only) descents of the virgin 64-foot pit. It's a gorgeous pit (one of the prettiest in the state despite not being very deep). As it's discoverer, Shawn had the honor of naming it. He christened it Seasonally Hallowed Well. I wanted Ryan to get a good picture of it for an article I'll be writing soon for the *West Virginia Caver* on what I'm calling the Kyle Hause Project. However, it had rained three inches in the area early that week. The new pit was as wet as it was on the day Shawn first saw it back in January, when in addition to getting shredded, he also got soaked to the bone. Ryan, Nathan, and I all bounced the 28-foot entrance pit, but the photo of Seasonally Hallowed Well will have to wait for a drier time. Then we went over to Armstrong Pit. Nathan and Hope had never been there before so the three of us sans Ryan bounced it. It's a 33-

foot nuisance drop followed by a 132-foot freefall pit. Terry M

Sept. 25th : Sliding Rock Cave, Bedford County, PA
twelve-hour trip - I drove back from Pocahontas County late Friday night so I could join Corey's group for a Sliding Rock trip on Saturday. I'd been on three survey trips there before, but Corey and company had found quite a bit of new passage since my last trip, and it sounded interesting. On this trip would be Corey, Keely, Reilly Blackwell, Sean Lewis, and I. Sliding Rock is an interesting cave which has rapidly become the largest and deepest cave in Bedford County. It's also by far the most difficult. Corey says he would have no objection to me writing a story about the cave, and I might do that sometime in the near future, but for now here's just a short summary.

There are a lot of obstacles in the entrance series of the cave as it quickly drops down to around 200 feet in depth via numerous climbdowns and some short rappels. Some tricky rigging by Corey on what was probably our third trip led to some fairly extensive horizontal passages, some of which were crawling, some were walking/stooping, some were pretty nice, and some were sloppy. On our next trip we got into some well-decorated and fairly easy passages but were stopped by constrictions. Corey has since enlarged these to where a caver of average girth should be able to negotiate them with determination, though I did grunt a lot. Beyond the awkward squeezes Corey had found several hundred feet of pretty decent passages and what is probably the largest room in Bedford County. I enjoyed my tour of this. We split into two survey teams to push leads, with the combined new survey from both teams amounting to around 500-600 feet. Corey reported that the cave is currently only about 400 feet shy of being a mile long. — Terry M

Oct 2nd & 3rd - NCRC OCR class in Martinsburg, WV
Adam, Ashby attended the OCR class in Martinsburg, Red and I were there to assist. We ended up angles in the cave. Red took lead in setting up the Com's (radios), I assisted where ever needed. Very fun and fast class, lots of good instructors. Thanks to Earl & Cheryl for setting class up. In case you can't tell from pics, that's Tom laying on the floor to help demonstrate how to be an OSS patient. Tom G & Red S



OCR Class (by Tom Griffin)





OCR (by Red Schock)



OCR (TomG)



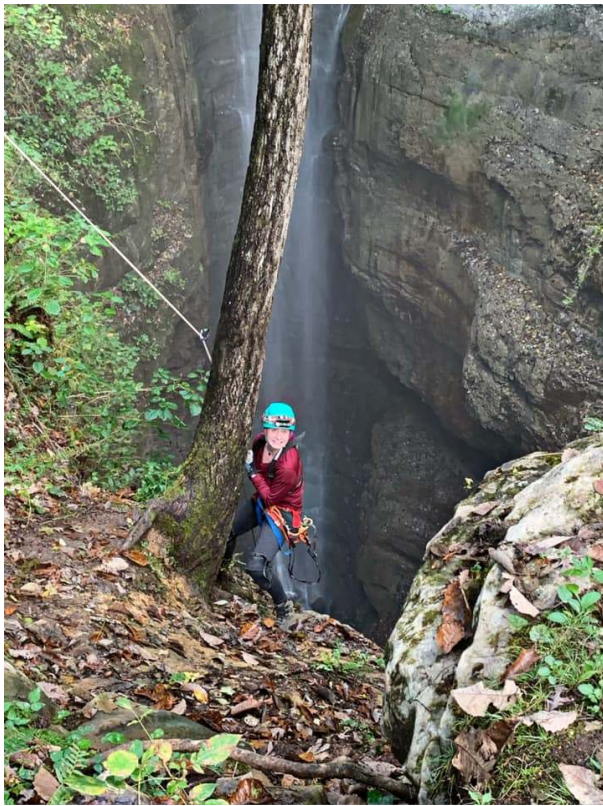
OCR (by Red S)



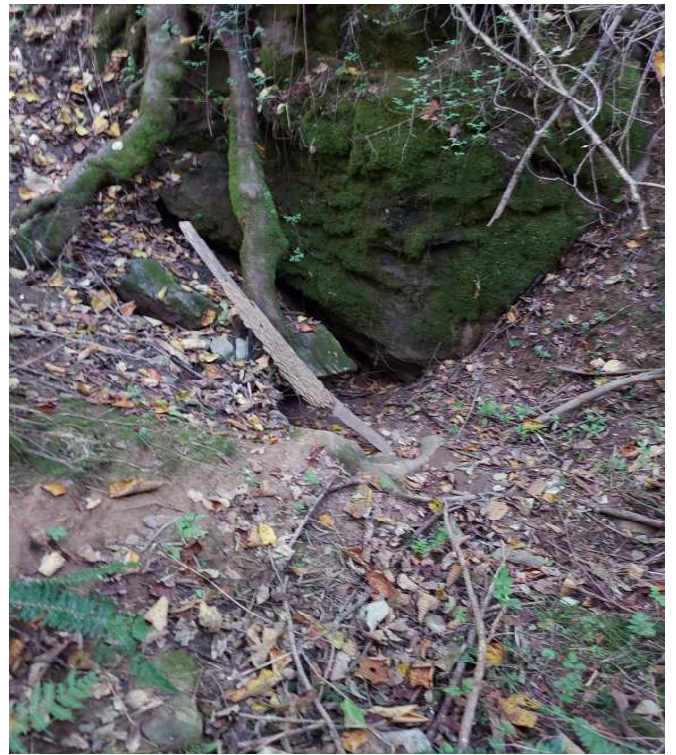
OCR (by Tom Griffin)



OCR (TomG)



Balcony Sink, AL (by Ashley Hitchcock)



Yankauer Cave (by Ashby Haines)



Tumblin Rock, AL (by Ashley H)



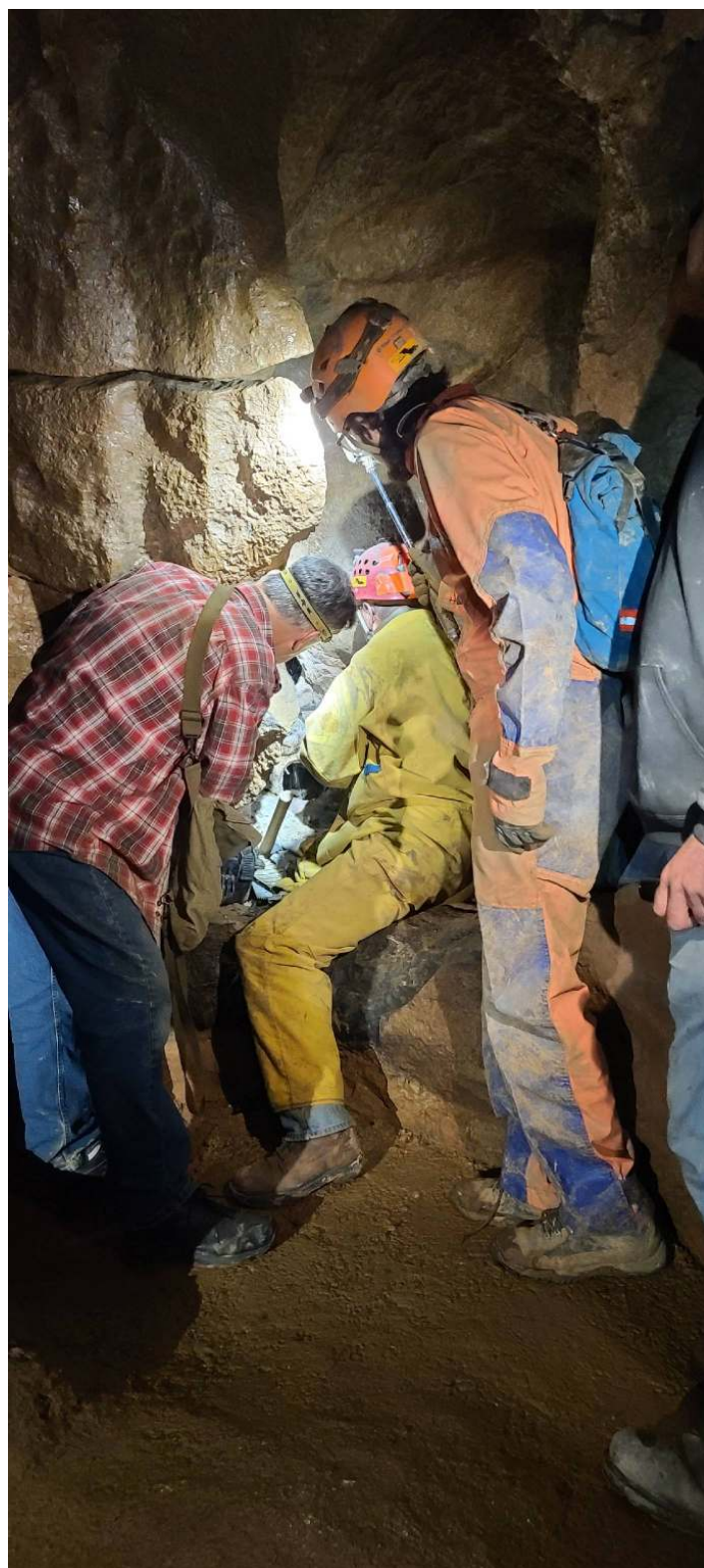
Black Coffee Cavern (by Elysia Mathias)



Black Coffey Cavern (Bob E)



Black Coffey Cavern (by ElysiaM)



BCC (by BB)





CAVIN CALENDAR

OCTOBER 10TH - NOVEMBER 20TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Oct 10 Fall TAG Cave-In Black Coffee Caverns - Conservation Project - 10am	Oct 11 COLUMBUS DAY	Oct 12	Oct 13  Meeting 7pm - Grotto Auction Live & Virtual	Oct 14	Oct 15  Fall MAR/VAR - Grand Caverns (Cancelled)	Oct 16 Bridge Day Cancelled Fall MAR/VAR - Grand Caverns (Cancelled)
Oct 17  Fall MAR/VAR - Grand Caverns (Cancelled)	Oct 18	Oct 19	Oct 20	Oct 21	Oct 22	Oct 23
Oct 24	Oct 25	Oct 26	Oct 27	Oct 28 National Chocolate Day	Oct 29 SUMMER CAVE CARNIVAL - Walling, TN	Oct 30 SUMMER CAVE CARNIVAL - Walling, TN Devil's Night
Oct 31 SUMMER CAVE CARNIVAL - Walling, TN ALL HALLOWEVE HALLOWEEN Knock Knock Joke Day	Nov 1 SUMMER CAVE CARNIVAL - Walling, TN All Saints Day DAY of the DEAD	Nov 2 Election Day	Nov 3	Nov 4	Nov 5 National Hot Sauce Day	Nov 6
Nov 7 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS	Nov 8	Nov 9	Nov 10 Meeting 7pm - Grotto Auction - Live & Virtual Marine Corp Birthday Vivian Monger-JQ Birthday	Nov 11 Veterans Day	Nov 12	Nov 13 WWASS meeting Cancelled Sadie Hawkins Day WVCC Banquet Cancelled
Nov 14	Nov 15	Nov 16	Nov 17	Nov 18	Nov 19	Nov 20

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(Upper left) A New Cave (supplied by Shawn Harris) (Upper Right) Black Coffey Cavern (by Bob Edmonds) (Lower Left) Carnegie Cave (by Elysia Mathias) Lower Right) Carnegie Cave (by Adam Haines)