

THE MSS LIAISON

VOLUME 62 NUMBER 1-2

January – February 2022

AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS:

CAIRN – CCC – CHOUREAU – DAEDALUS – KCAG – LEG – LOG –

MCKC – MMV – MSM – MVG – OHG – PEG – RBX – SEMO – SPG - Stygian

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Missouri Speleological Survey - President's Message - March 2022

by Dan Lamping

The Spring 2022 MSS meeting is approaching quickly. This meeting is a part of a larger event called the Perry County Underground held from March 4-5 in Perryville, Missouri. The weekend is being put on by Cave Research Foundation, Missouri Speleological Survey and Missouri Caves and Karst Conservancy along with the City of Perryville. On Saturday, we'll have mapping trips to Streiler City Cave along with monitoring trips to caves owned by the City of Perryville for MSS cooperators. Contacts to get in on the Saturday caving and details on Friday and Saturday night camping have been shared with MSS directors. Reach out to your grotto MSS rep or to me if you're an MSS cooperator and need more information on the weekend.

On Saturday evening at 6:00 PM and again at 7:00 PM at the Catalyst Center, 508 North Main St. we will have a public showing of the Perry County Karst movie by Denise Vaughn. At the same venue, on Sunday morning, the MCKC meeting will begin at 9:00 AM, with the MSS board meeting to follow at 10:30 AM. From 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM there will be a public outreach event for Perry County featuring tables and exhibits from MSS, MCKC, SEMO Grotto, Missouri Bat Census, Missouri Department of Conservation, Missouri Geological Survey, U.S. Fish & Wildlife, Natural Resources Conservation Service and the L-A-D Foundation.

This work with the City of Perryville builds off of a long history dating back to the days of Tex Yokum and the work he coordinated with the City of Perryville. It's great to see the city government and the larger community embrace their situation living atop karst. Perry County is home to the largest caves in the state with a high density of caves overall. It is a region rich in biological diversity and in caving history. While in Perryville, be sure to take a look at the karst interpretive signs found in various Perryville parks. I hope to see you all there.

Missouri Speleological Survey Files Report for March 1, 2022 by Ken Grush: If you have **new information** on any Missouri caves, my email address is slagrush@gmail.com. We need your help to improve the database and make it more complete. I can and do work with Facebook entries, but for information or photos to be incorporated I need to be "private messaged" with the cave name and county. **Kirsten Alvey-Mudd sent:** -via Messenger, 14 Faunal Records for caves monitored in Stone Co., including Old Spanish, Cathedral and Belle Starr Cave. -13 photos and 8 Faunal Records of Maddox Cave in Stone Co., found some new passage! Seven Faunal Records for Maples Cave. -via Facebook, 12 Faunal Records and 26 photos of Indian Creek Cave in Stone Co. -A massive Messenger relayed McDonald Co. collection of cave reporting on Fauna in SWMO including 14 caves,

105 Faunal Records and almost 200 photos. It took most of a day to just process the information. This does not include the 33 other caves that she participated in with other reporters mostly in Shannon Co. but with components in Stone, Christian, Carter and Oregon Counties. -130 photos from Marion Co. She also guided me (Grush) around the city of Hannibal and got a chance to visit many caves within the city, collecting locations and photos for most of the caves in the city. Almost every cave in Marion Co. (23 known caves and 4 quarries) is in close proximity to Hannibal, we managed to change almost every record in the county; mostly single-handedly by Alvey-Mudd. Even caves no longer accessible, she knew where they were. She identified 8 “new” secondary entrances to 2 of the caves. Many caves in Marion are maze systems. We started the trip with less than 30 records (accession numbers, accnums) in the county and ended with 39 accnums. **Krista Bartel sent:** -A report on Hominy Creek Cave in Polk Co. that raised some questions. We had to get a clarification from Jon Beard and Richard Thompson on this cave since this location fit Bear Cave also. Turns out the two caves are synonymous and will be combined for future references. Bartel in addition to a nice report included 8 photos, 7 Faunal Records and description. **Jon Beard sent:** -A final map of one of the Bald Knobber Caves (525=CL) in Christian Co. **Jake Bennett sent:** -A cave report and 5 Faunal Records for Roubidoux Cave in Pulaski Co. **Mark Brooks sent:** -A report on a recent survey trip to Onyx Cave in Howell Co.; destined to become the state’s newest mile-long cave. -A report on Double Drop Cave in Howell Co., including photos, Lidar snapshot, Faunal Records and GPS location. **Matt Beeson sent:** -Trip Report with some information to add to the database on Big Branch and Spaghetti Caves in Callaway County. TRs are maintained in a different database, but they often have useful information for the Cave Database. Later, he sent a map of Big Branch Cave (CL=12). Short but has previously hosted 3 different bat species over 3 years, this trip none reported. -New map of Ozark Caverns Cave (CL=3730 ft) in Camden Co.; he also supplied a map of the cave that is on the tour route. **Jim Cooley sent:** -Faunal records for a visit to Bat Cave in Franklin Co. **Chouteau Grotto sent:** -A new location for Possum Pit in Boone Co. Now if that were that simple! A check of the original location for this pit was found to be wrong. And reversing the quarter sections puts them pretty close to this location. Our records indicate, that a follow up trip, years later, couldn’t find the pit. So where is this cave, is this “new” location truly Possum Pit? Well, their visit provided enough similarities to the original reporting that we believe the original report submitted “reversed” quarter sections. Sadly, this is way more common than it should be. **Shelly Colatskie sent:** -8 Faunal Records for Little Scott Cave in Washington Co. **Dillon Freiburger sent:** -A nice photo of the entrance of Rocheport Cave in Boone Co. which photo is now the “cover” photo in the database. **Ken Grush sent:** -20 maps for caves surveyed/scanned by LiDAR with imagery used to create standard cartography. This does include 6 new caves. Now with 37 known caves in the county and 8 of these flooded by Truman Reservoir, there are only 7 caves that yet need to be surveyed in the county. **Scott House sent:** -A map of Conner Hollow Cave (CL=372+ ft) and Conner Rock House Cave (CL=53 ft) in Shannon Co. -About 75 Faunal Records, 25 Use Monitoring forms and 25 new Reports from the CRF January trip to Winona **Mark Jones sent:** -Via Scott House, 17 Use Monitoring forms, 17 Narratives (or 17 cave reports) and 110 Faunal Records for CRF work in the ONSR/MTNF area from the Winona facility. **Ed Klausner sent:** -Map of Willow Branch Cave (CL=1081 ft) in Howell Co. Later he sent a map of Hillside Spring Cave (CL=91 ft). **Dan Lamping sent:** -A trip report for recent survey work in Carroll Cave (see also McCain below). He sent several photos and updated line plots of the recent work. **Joe Light sent:** -Several historic newspaper clippings on caves. One I found was particularly interesting since it came from 1905. This Panther Cave was described at a distance from a nearby town and was “measured” by the owner whose statistics reflected ours. Interestingly, we didn’t record the cave until about 1991 as Unnamed Cave. Only in 2016 was the name changed to Cougar, because the landowner said its

historic name was Cougar. -A bunch more newspaper clippings. Several on skeletons (including giants) and treasures in caves in Laclede, Franklin, McDonald, Oregon and Wayne Counties. -A 1922 newspaper clipping on Jacob's Cave in McDonald Co. -A 1977 newspaper clipping on a cave rescue in Perry Co. -A 1993 clipping from a local fire department for a cave rescue in Cave of the Falls in St. Louis Co. News clippings for Pleasant Valley and Moss Hollow Caves. -Several more clippings, some from the late 1800s...yes not last century, the previous. Some were tied to specific caves and were incorporated into the database. All were archived in their respective counties of origin. -More newspaper clippings: one for The Gulf in Wayne Co.; sinkhole collapse in Maries Co.; Lee Cave in St. Louis Co. -A collection of information (landowner comments, deed info and newspaper clipping) on Lee Cave in the City of St. Louis. **Jon Lillestolen sent:** -A drafted version of the new depth for Roaring Spring Cave (CL=2225 ft, CD=472), which depth is a new national record for a spring dive! **Alex Litsch sent:** -Via the Valles Mine Facebook page, Ste. Genevieve and Jefferson Counties, an update to the map, now up to 2.9 miles. **Ben Miller sent:** -A map of Butter Bill Cave (CL=57 ft; VR=16 ft) in Crawford Co. A composite map of Bluegill Bend Cave (CL=74) and Shelter (L=84 ft, W=88 ft). **Chad McCain sent:** -Newly updated 8 maps of Planaria Passage, Maze, Drum Crossover, Base Camp, Coon and Formation, Popsicle, Tom Moore and Pot of Gold panels of the map. -A trip report for recent survey work in Carroll Cave. Included with the submission were his survey notes from the weekend. **Ben Miller sent:** -Maps for Bluegill Bend Cave (CL=74), Bluegill Bend Shelter (CL=84) and Acorn Bliss Cave (CL=163 ft, CD=53 ft). **Marissa Schorr sent:** -16 historical Monitoring forms from 2017, several historical Trip Reports plus her own Trip Report, 9 Faunal Records and Monitoring form for White Cave in Phelps Co. -Monitoring Reports, Faunal Records, GPS and 7 photos for Inlaw and Outlaw Caves in Phelps Co. She also sent 10 photos from a previous trip to White Pine Cave also in Phelps Co. **Mick Sutton sent:** -35 Faunal records for 3 caves in Shannon Co.: Whiskey, Cooley Hole and Island Branch Blowing Caves. He also sent biologic summaries for the caves further describing the cave critters within. -14 Narratives (or reports) for the database from 1986. Sutton is cleaning out files to make sure they are all in database now. **Stan Sides sent:** -Via Scott House, a report on Whitewater Cave in Bollinger Co. Interestingly, Stan's first "report" in the database comes from 1960; over 60 years in MO caving history. AND still reporting! **Mick Sutton sent:** -14 cave "reports" covering more caves as many addressed more than one cave per trip (30 Narratives) and many reports had multiple trips. **Craig Williams sent:** -Two reports, Monitoring forms and Fauna Records with photologs of Pillman and Merrell Caves in Phelps and Pulaski Counties respectively. **Richard Young sent:** -A report on a cave lead, a dig in Perry Co., and it's blowing air. -3 photos of the recent (February) flooding in Perryville at cave entrances. **Shannon Zaloz sent:** -Report on a practice survey trip to Rutherford (aka Ralphord) Cave with 6 Faunal Records.

Stygian Grotto. Our meetings for January and February were conducted at the St. Charles County, Spencer Rd. Library. **Jan 8th** - Rich Orr, Allan Breite, Kevin Berdak and new member Sarah Peterson made a follow up trip to monitor the continued vandalism to Green Arrow Cave. Six New "no trespassing" signs were posted along the roads and another new lock was installed. No new graffiti was apparent and trash was minimal. One very decomposed bat corpse was located in the lowest level of the cave. It was notable as bats have not been observed in this part of the cave on previous trips. **Jan 28th** - Allan Breite made a field check on a sinkhole opening in St Charles Co. **Jan 29th** - JJ Huelsing and Allan Breite continued the field survey of Babler State Park for DNR Park Naturalist, Dustin Hillis. **Jan 30th** - Allan Breite revisited Green Arrow Cave entrance to verify the cave gate lock was still intact and inspect for signs of continued trespassing. Five additional "no trespassing" signs were posted along the power line right of way on the south property line. JJ

Huelsing and Dawn Martin did a field survey of part of the Ranacker Conservation Area. **Feb 12th** - Rich Orr, JJ Huelsing, Phillip Newell, Sally Kula, Jason Cole and TJ Griffin conducted a field survey to relocate the entrances to 2 cave locations in St Louis Co. for the MSS Cave files. **Feb 13th** - JJ Huelsing did a field survey of the George A Hamilton Forest Natural Area in Cuivre River SP.—Allan Breite

Middle Mississippi Valley Grotto (MMV). Nov. 6th - Doug and Michael Leer and Nick Deutsch



accompanied Alex Litsch into Roubidoux Cave (MCKC) to plan out the work needed to mark a walking trail in the front section of the cave. The goal is to protect the population of Grotto Salamanders living in the small stream that flows out of the cave. Quite a few salamanders (large and small) were observed during this trip amongst the rocks in the small stream. **Nov. 20th** – Brian Biggs and Julie Springman did survey work in Crevice Cave (Perry Co.). The survey was in a new section where they dug into a low, wet and muddy passage. A grim survey of about 400 feet of virgin passage pushed Crevice to just over 31 miles. **Dec. 9th** - Michelle Leicht and Larry Ablen visited Rio Secreto in Playa del Carmen in the Yucatan. They did an 8-hour wild tour in and out of sinkholes during the jungle hike. They spent 4 hours in the clear sinkhole waters with the rest of the time exploring the cave and hiking in the jungle. In the cave they observed many sizes of large cave spiders, a few salamanders and frogs, and several bat species. **Feb. 18th** - Doug and Michael Leer and Nick



Deutsch completed the trail in the front section of Roubidoux Cave. The marked trail is in the front section of the cave for a distance of a little more than 800 feet. The original plan was to use masonry string, similar to the almost mile of trail marked in Cat Track Passage in Berome Moore, but it worked out nicely to use natural stones that were available along the passage to mark the trail and lead the visitors across at least four stream crossings

where stepping stones were laid. During the trip, a large number of Big Brown Bats were observed, in clusters, up in the ceiling of the large main passage. –Doug Leer

, **Kansas City Area Grotto (KCAG) Liaison Report for January-February, 2022:** **Jan. 22nd** - Bill Gee led his annual Carroll Cave data logger service trip. Participants included Kayla Heady, Mike and Candace Kovacs, and Scott Wenzel. They downloaded all data from all data loggers in the cave. This information was used to prepare full-year 2021 graphs which are now posted on the Carroll cave Conservancy web site. **Jan. 23rd** - Jim & Julie Cooley led a trip to Bat Cave, Franklin Co., site of an abandoned gray bat colony, that included Shelly, Ron and Lucy Colatskie and Joe Williams. The purpose was to evaluate possible recolonization subsequent to partial colony restoration efforts

undertaken by the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) in the early 2000s. No evidence of current significant gray bat usage was found. The big, highly bat-unfriendly lower gate is being considered for replacement, continuing the prior MDC restoration effort, which would also include the removal of two artificial air-flow obstructions toward the lower end of the cave. **Jan. 29th** - Jim & Julie Cooley teamed up with Seth Colston, KCAG president, and Jim Weese to prepare the cutting station area and open a trail to the entrance of the Camden County Priority 1 gray bat maternity colony cave that is to be gated first week of April. This involved removal of a large deadfall covering the area of the cutting station, as well as a strategically placed widow-maker where the electrical generators will be placed.--Jim Cooley

Springfield Plateau Grotto (SPG). Jon Beard was asked by Eric Hertzler (Who is heading up the CRF Project in Christian Co.) to accompany him on a number of ridgewalking trips to Mark Twain National Forest. With hopes of possibly finding some undocumented caves. **Jan. 18th, 22nd, Feb. 5th--** Jon and Eric ridgewalked, but found no caves. **Feb. 12th** --Jon and Eric documented Ursus and Flat Rock Shelter Caves. Only Eric entered to check them out. Neither was explored more than 30 feet. **Feb. 18th** --Jon and Eric documented Creep Block Cave. Only 20 feet of cave was seen. **Feb. 12th** -- Nathan Burton, Zachary Burton, Jacob Burton, Zac Wormington and Ophelia Pettus visited Old Spanish Cave (Stone Co.) as part of an ongoing project, attempting to map where the current cave system continues. This mapping is predominantly being done on the surface by Zac Wormington using Resistivity. The primary goal of this trip was to take measurements and double check the old cave map Zac W. is using to compare readings to. His goal is to make sure that any new readings are indeed outside of the known cave system. These measurements took us to the top of a debris cone we believe is associated with one of the sinkholes. While at the top of the debris cone, Zac W. wanted a photo op, so he slid his feet down into a hole. Curious, he continued down the hole followed by Zachary B. They discovered cold air to be coming from a narrow, passable "crack" that is partially plugged by rubble from the debris cone. It is believed possible this could be easily opened up and explored on a future trip. While in the cave they also saw, Tri-Color Bats, Brown Bats and juvenile Grotto Salamanders. **Feb. 19th** - Nathan Burton, Zachary Burton, Jacob Burton, Cheryl Paulson and Max White participated in the CRF Project on the Buffalo River by monitoring some small caves. Materials provided by Jonathan Beard and Nathan Burton.--Report by Max White

Lake Ozarks Grotto (LOG). **Jan. 29th** – LOG members were asked to take 3 new cave guides into Stark Caverns before they would be allowed to explore off the tourist trail. The goal was to teach cave safety. Ken Long and Christen Easter took Tripicie, Kay & Erin through the stairs section and the canyon section, through crawlways and mud. Grotto members, Buzz Caldwell, Gary & Alberta Zumwalt were there for support, helping to put plastic bags on and off their feet and taking photographs. Our first meeting of the year will be on April 12th, 6 pm, in the meeting room at Stark Caverns.—Alberta Zumwalt

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Gzumw@aol.com

Research Committee -Dr. Robert Lerch, Dr. Michael Sutton, Dr. Doug Gouzie and Jeffrey Crews.

Cave Files Committee: Scott House (Chairman), Ken Grush, Mick Sutton, Dan Lamping, and Jeffrey (Spike) Crews.

Gating Project - Construction of a bat-optimized cave gate on Toby Cave at Climax Springs, MO will start the morning of Friday, April 1st and conclude no later than Sunday, April 10th. Cave Research

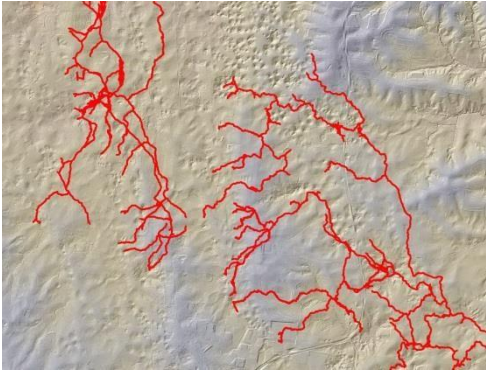


Huge guano pile on right

Foundation will be building a large, fly-over style cave gate to protect a HUGE maternity colony. This cave houses on average around 115,000 maternal gray bats every summer. Gray bats are a Federal and state listed endangered species; their maternity colonies are especially susceptible to disruption. This site has seen repeated trespassing, but no big juvenile gray bat kills – **yet**. Our goal is to keep it that way. This project is funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the agency responsible for administering the Endangered Species Act.

We are looking for able-bodied volunteers to help build this gate, especially during the April 1st-April 6th time frame. This is a BIG project and we’ll need a LOT of help. There is plenty of good camping on site, and we’ll have grub every day and a campfire every night. This will be a fun project. If you can help, contact Jim Cooley – 816-763-8111 or email: coolstoi@kc.rr.com

PERRY COUNTY UNDERGROUND



Open House
March 5-6, 2022
The Catalyst Center
508 North Main Street, Perryville MO
*Join us in Perryville, the karst capital of Missouri, for these
free public education events.*

**Saturday evening video presentation: The
Perry County Karst Video will be shown**

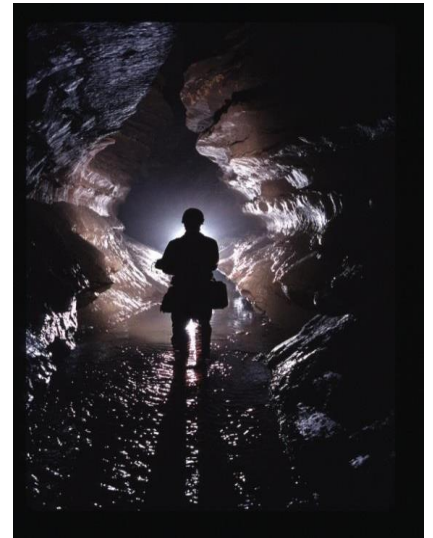
Saturday evening at 6:00 pm and again at **7:00 pm** at the Catalyst Center, in front of the American Tractor Museum.

**Sunday afternoon Cave and Karst
Open House: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

Got questions about caves, karst, bats, and strange fish? Get your questions answered and find out all about what's going on underground in Perry County.

Folks from the following groups and agencies will be there with exhibits, handouts, and other information:

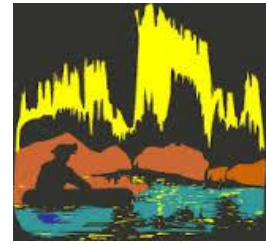
Missouri Speleological Survey
Missouri Caves and Karst Conservancy
Missouri Department of Conservation
Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Missouri Geologic Survey
Missouri Bat Census
L-A-D Foundation
SEMO Grotto
Cave Research Foundation



This event is being sponsored by Cave Research Foundation, the Missouri Speleological Survey, and Missouri Caves and Karst Conservancy, in cooperation with the City of Perryville. For more information contact Perry County Heritage Tourism at 573-5347-1097.

Missouri Speleological Survey
Spring 2022 Board Meeting Agenda
The Catalyst Center - 508 North Main St., Perryville, MO
Board meeting begins at 10:30 AM

March 6, 2022



Administrative Business

- Roll call – Officers and Board
- Secretary’s Report and approval of last meeting’s minutes – Alberta Zumwalt
- Liaison – Gary Zumwalt
- Treasurer’s Report – Don Dunham
- *Missouri Speleology* – Don Dunham

Old Business

New Business

Projects and Announcements

- Cave Files Committee Report
- Agency Reports
- Affiliate Organizations Project Reports

Next meeting

Adjournment

Calendar:

March 5th – 6th – MSS weekend in Perry Co. MSS meeting on Sunday at 10:30 am. The MCKC meeting will be held before the MSS meeting.

March 30th – April 10th – Toby Cave gating project. Contact Jim Cooley.

May 1st – Deadline for the next MSS Liaison

NOTE: MSS Affiliate Organization fees are due. Check or money order for \$25.00 should be sent to the MSS Treasurer, Don Dunham, 6104 Valley Creek Ct., Imperial, MO 63052. **Not paid are: Cairn, CCC, Daedalus, MMV, OHG, PEG, Roubidoux (owes \$10), SEMO, SPG, Stygian.** Failure to pay the Affiliate fee will affect your status on the Board. Please pay at the upcoming meeting or send money to Don ASAP.