

President's Message for November: The last meeting of the MSS was held at the MCKC's Berome Moore Cave in Perryville, Missouri on Sept. 27th. This, coupled with MCKC's meeting brought a good turn-out, graced with pleasant weather, fine company and plenty to do underground. Cave biologist Mike Slay with The Nature Conservancy was present doing bio inventories at Streiler City Cave and in Berome Moore. SEMO Grotto and others surveyed Point Basse Cave and Pit within the city of Ste. Genevieve. In addition to bio trips into Berome there were survey, photo and restoration trips each day, as well. We had one sizeable team of largely experienced cavers with no survey experience map in Lower Stream Annex Passage. Matt Bumgardner got his first taste of sketching by doing it right beside me, drawing the same passage so that we could compare notes along the way. He did a great job and hopefully liked it enough that Jon Beard can have some reprieve and won't have to sketch every cave in Southwest Missouri. Derrick Weisbrod, Lee Kern, John Donaldson, Larry Abeln of MVG and a former student of mine, Gabe Gowen all learned the fine art of pulling tape, setting stations and reading instruments in the stony beauty that is Lower Stream Annex. After a solid bit of survey we ventured down into Lower Stream Annex aways to see what we ought to expect in future trips. The number of small leads coming off this passage and the uncertainty of whether they'd ever been mapped leads me to



feel certain that this current generation of survey will be going on in Berome for many years to come and that Berome will surely exceed its current surveyed length by a considerable factor. During the meeting, those with better sense than most of us sitting through a meeting, went back into Berome to survey down Mainstream, near the Maze. Bob Osburn and Bob Criss of Washington University, in St. Louis brought some college students down to survey, bringing Gabe Gowen along with them. Meanwhile, after the meeting Jon Beard led another restoration trip while others toured the cave. During the MSS meeting, a vote was taken to ratify the proposed constitutional changes presented at the Spring meeting. The vote unanimously approved the changes largely resulting in the elimination of the "membership" category in the MSS. This perhaps sounding worse than what it

MSS Cooperators Derrick Weisbrod and Lee Kern stoked after learning to survey in Lower Stream Annex Passage is; the move was made to divorce *Missouri Speleology* from a membership based funding source. *Missouri Speleology* will still be published regularly, though each issue will no longer be tied to a subscription year, giving us greater flexibility in our publication schedule and freeing us from a future of being constantly behind with meeting our publication obligations. We are still collecting dues for 2015 but no longer will be doing this starting January 2016 - though we'll still gladly take donations. After that *Missouri Speleology* will be sold per issue with sales of previous issues funding future ones. In addition, we will print a lesser quantity of each issue so that we do not continue spending money for a large supply of printed copies that largely sit in storage. We are still discussing ideas for keeping some type of subscription, which we'll likely be able to present at the January meeting. However it works, the subscription will not be tied to a membership and will not be tied to any given year. As for *Liaison*, it will now be made available free, online through the MSS website, www.mospeleo.org. For those still wanting a paper subscription, *Liaison* will still be available as it always has, though through a separate subscription rather than tied to membership. From now on, everyone who contributes towards the goals of the MSS is simply considered equally, a Cooperator. This is how the MSS functioned for roughly a quarter century. We'll see how it works this go around. **Part of the** discussion on *Missouri Speleology* and reducing the quantity we print of each issue lead to the consideration of putting older issues of *Missouri Speleology* online, for free. We will likely start unrolling them slowly, beginning with issues we don't have abundant paper copies of or of issues which don't typically sell. We will wait some time, as in a few years, between when issues come out in print and before they are put online. For example, at this past meeting Don Dunham had copies of the latest *Missouri Speleology* issue on the history of speleology, particularly in Missouri and of the MSS. We will wait a few years before putting this online and in the meantime will try to move our paper stock. Our purpose in this is to make *Missouri Speleology* more accessible to our Cooperators and to get our message out to a larger audience. At the NSS Convention this past summer we sold old issues of *Missouri Speleology* for \$1 per issue. Quite a few people took advantage of that and bought one copy of each issue we had. Since then I've heard of at least one case where *Missouri Speleology* was cited in a scientific journal in a paper written by a researcher who bought issues at Convention. Had we not focused more on getting our message out there rather than trying to make a buck, this likely wouldn't have happened.

Recently, we received a message across MoCaves stating that MoCaves likely will not be hosted in the near future. This is unfortunate as it's an easy way for us to connect with the Missouri caving community. Rather than starting a new list serve, I'll now be making announcements and links to issues of *Liaison* through MoCaves as long it sticks around and

through the MVOR Yahoo Group. There are directions on the MSS website on the MSS homepage under News and in the Contact Us page for how to join the MVOR Yahoo Group. Once MoCaves ceases we will continue using the MVOR Yahoo Group. Hopefully, like some of our recent changes, this will increase the number of cavers that we're getting our message out to. **Another recent** occurrence was a message I received via the MSS website from some Arizona cavers associated with Lang Broad. Fortunately, they brought to us several boxes of Lang's papers and maps relating to Missouri for the Cave Files at Rolla. This was a most gracious gesture on their part, for which we're greatly indebted. **The next meeting** of the MSS will be at 1:00 PM on Saturday, January 23, 2016 at Missouri Geological Survey in Rolla. If there is anyone interested in giving morning presentations, please let me know. –Dan Lamping