# THE MSS LIAISON

# VOLUME 65 NUMBER 1-2

January - February 2025 AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS: CAIRN – CHOUTEAU – DAEDALUS – KCAG – LEG – LOG – MCKC - MMV MSM – MVG – OHG – PEG – SEMO – SPG - Stygian

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# Missouri Speleological Survey- President's Message March 2025 by Dan Lamping

The Spring 2025 MSS and MCKC meetings will be held at the pavilion at Round Spring in the Ozark National Scenic Riverways on Sunday, April 6 at 10:00 AM (MSS) & 11:00 AM (MCKC). Google Maps has the Round Spring Pavilion labeled, or you can follow <u>this link</u>.

There will be two days of caving prior to the meeting, on Friday, April 4 and Saturday, April 5, focusing on cave monitoring and mapping in the ONSR area through the Cave Research Foundation (CRF). The USFS Work Station at Winona will be available to stay at for anyone who helps participate in cave monitoring/mapping on Friday and/or Saturday. There are beds for about 25 people and there's space for tents, with group meals provided for those participating in the Friday and/or Saturday caving.

Following a brief MSS meeting at the Round Spring pavilion at 10:00 AM on Sunday, MCKC will have a brief meeting at 11:00, then lunch, followed by doing trail work in Round Spring Cave for the NPS through CRF. Cavers will get to see the main tour route of the cave.

So that we can plan for your presence, please fill out this form if you are planning to attend the Friday/Saturday cave monitoring and mapping out of the Winona Work Station and/or if you are planning to help with the Sunday trail work in Round Spring Cave. You can access the Google Form using the URL <u>bit.ly/MSS-</u>



MCKC-Spring25 or use the camera on your Smartphone and scan the QR code to fill out the form. You may have noticed the MSS website got a facelift. Webmaster Joe Light created a new website for us, using content primarily from the old site. Creation of the new site was the first step. The next step is updating the content on it. This is something which I hope to work on over the next several months. The URL for the new site is the same as the old <u>www.mospeleo.org</u>. Look to see updates and a bit of streamlining in the months ahead.

The MSS is always working to improve our data quality. While we'll gladly accept any data submission, there are certain pieces of information that often gets neglected when reporting. To help give cooperators an idea of what we need to confidently document the existence of a cave, we've been working on a cave report form which can be used to report new caves or to submit a report on a cave trip, which can be included in the Missouri Cave Database. At present, the form is not on the MSS website, but you can access it using the URL <u>bit.ly/mospeleo</u>. Likely, this form will

continue to evolve. Give it a shot. Next time you go caving, send in a trip report. Additionally, we have also developed a cave data request form, which can be accessed using the URL <u>bit.ly/MSS-</u>Datarequest.

I hope to see you all in April.

Files Report for March 1, 2025 - By Ken Grush. If you have new information on any Missouri caves, my email address is slak@grush.org. 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 sent: -60 Faunal records for Maddox, Hootentown Spring, Frankford and Bluff Dwellers Caves across the state in SWMO and NEMO. -Her annual bio-records from Cloud 9 Ranch in Ozark Co.; this year netted 136 Fauna records for 19 caves. -68 more Fauna records for 3 caves in Pike and Ralls Counties. Two new records, one each in same counties. Matt Beeson sent: -A re-map of Stoner Cave (CL=420) in Christian Co. Matt Bloes sent: - A report on Daisy Cave in Cape Girardeau Co., including 2 photos and 1 Faunal record. Mark Brooks sent: -An update on the Onyx Cave (CL=6630) map in Howell Co. Karamea Christofferson sent: -10 Faunal records and Monitoring form for Glauber, Big Bear, Cave in Jefferson Co. -13 Faunal records and Monitoring form for Mystery Cave in Perry Co.-9 additional Faunal records for Running Bull Cave in Perry Co. Jim Cooley sent: - Two cave maps for Turner Bluff Tunnel (CL=34) and Turner Bluff Slab Cave (CL=26) in Oregon Co. - A map of Tunnel Den Cave (CL=38) in Carter Co. -A map of Psuedo-Sisyphus Cave (CL=33) in Carter Co. Yes, spelling is correct! -Updates to the Main table for Massey, Tunnel Den and Psuedo-Sisphus Caves in Carter Co. Entrance photos for these and a few other caves were also sent. -Updates to the main table for Uncle Nicolas's Tunnel and Shelter, both in Shannon Co. -Entrance photos for Barrett, Ramsey, Primo's and Danged Overhang Cave. -Corrections/updates to the Main table of the cave database for 9 caves in Carter Co., 5 of them were new caves submitted by Jim in 2024 and 4 of them were lost historic caves that hadn't been reported on since there first reports, until rediscovered in 2024 by Jim. Josh Cooper sent: -5 Faunal records and 5 photos for Soehl Cave in Perry Co. -4 Faunal records for Crevice Cave, Perry Co. -4 Faunal records and 5 photos for Running Bull Cave in Perry Co. -3 Faunal records and a report of 840 ft of survey on Indian Camp Cave in Perry. -4 Fauna records for Running Bull Cave, Perry Co. Nathan Curran sent: -3 photos of Spit and Mud Sump Caves in St. Louis Co. -A detailed report, map and cover photo for Dissolution Drop Pit in St. Louis Co. Spike Crews sent: -via House, a map of Dead Coon Cave (CL=549) in Phelps Co. Nathan Curran sent: -The first cave map of the New Year: Doroto Spring Cave (CL=88) in St. Louis Co. - A report for Melonechinus (formerly Melonechinist; named after a fossil) Pit and entrance photo. - A map of Roadway Cave (CL=25) which was recently rediscovered by Curran. A map of Telegraph Overflow Cave (CL-18). Both from St. Louis Co. Bill Gee sent: -A data logger trip and his annual Stream Flow report for Carroll Cave in Camden Co. Scott House sent: -141 Faunal records, 34 (read as 34 caves) Use monitoring forms and 37 Narratives for cave monitoring work done by, almost exclusively, Mark Jones and Kirsten Alvey in both the MTNF and ONSR while working out of the Winona facility. -An updated survey for Big Paddy Dry Cave (CL=747). JJ Huelsing sent: -An 1878 property map that has 2 cave locations that we didn't have in our database. One is a Hermit Cave, where a hermit once lived and eventually died (see Light). Both need a visit to confirm, they are actually caves. Nothing is known about the other cave, if indeed it exists! Mary Kausch sent: -Entrance photo of Bone Cave in Washington Co.; some of the work that she has been doing in Meramec State Park in cooperation with Brian Wilcox of DNR. Candace Kovacs sent: -9 Faunal records and 140 photos for 3 caves in the Lost Hills Park in the Springfield area. -About 50 photos for the gating of one of the caves at the Bridal Cave property. -12 Faunal records for Ritter

and Junction Caves in Greene Co. SPG is working with county parks to collect new records on their resources. She also sent 100 photos from the 2 caves. -94 photos from Butler Hollow Mine Cave. -Faunal records and 58 photos for Sequiota Cave in Greene Co. Mike Kovacs sent: -His survey files for a remap of Junction Cave (CL=430) in Greene Co. Joe Light sent: -A 1913 Current Wave newspaper clipping from Van Buren, MO for the Welch Cave purchase by the good doctor! -An interesting story of a hermit living/dying in a cave in Montgomery Co. Sadly, we didn't have a location for this cave (see Huelsing). - A report on sewer lines in St. Louis City, but near the county line. There's an interesting report that one home had a sewer line that dropped into a void! - A report on a survey trip within the St. Louis city limits. Chad McCain sent: - A Narrative for a survey trip to Cascade Pit in Ste. Genevieve. - A Narrative for the 3-day trip to Carroll Cave. Kohl Mitchell sent: - A map of DuChein Cave (CL=258, aka DuChein Natural Bridge). -3 Monitoring forms and 9 Faunal records for 3 caves in Boone, Callaway and Marion Counties. -8 GPS locations and 8 photos for caves in the Three Creeks area of Boone Co. -Corrections to the files for some long-suspected problems. We removed 3 caves in the process, but were able to place all records tied now to a GPS and other records tied to known caves. And got one cave surveyed. - A KML file for a Perryville cave. A KML works well tying underground survey with surface features, like a city! -2 new caves for Boone Co.: Wix Cave and Kitchen Sink. For these, he sent Main Table entries and entrance photos. In addition, he sent 8 Faunal records and 4 Use Monitoring forms for these two caves and two other caves: Scat and Elbow Caves. All 4 caves are from Boone Co. -Another cave deletion due to duplication. Two entrance photos for Rutherford Bluff and Sunburst Shelters in Boone and Calloway Counties, respectively. And an updated GPS for one. -A new rendition of Sink Cave (CL=163) in Boone Co. -Map of new Kitchen Sink (CL=39) in Boone Co. -An update on the remapping of Spring Cave, also in Boone Co. -4 new caves, 3 for Callaway and 1 for Boone. He included 8 Use Monitoring and 10 Fauna records for these and 4 other caves in Boone and Callaway. -2 new maps for 2 relatively new caves: Left Turn Cave (CL=27) in Callaway Co. and Moon Loop Cave (CL=34) in Boone Co. Caleb Mundwiller sent: -Map of Salamander Speakeasy Cave (CL=117; CD=21), a new cave in Gasconade Co. Richard Orr sent: -(Via Bobby Swain) a dozen photos for a Crawford Co. survey trip (see Swain below). Jim Ruedin sent: -7 Use monitoring forms, 7 entrance photos and about 10 Fauna records for 7 caves that haven't been reported on for 25-30 years, in Shannon Co. while monitoring in cooperation between CRF and MDC. Marissa Schorr sent: -Use monitoring form, 5 Faunal records and a report of a survey trip to Big Paddy Dry Cave in Texas Co. This trip closed out survey for the cave (see House). Jim Sherrell sent: -14 pages of letters and notes from Paul Cates related to early (1960s) access to Nameless Cave. Among them was Cates' description with annotated line plot of the cave. Tim Schoppenhorst sent: -5 photos and location for Devils Boot in Warren Co. Bobby Swain sent: - A report on 4 caves, 3 of which were surveyed in Crawford Co.: Dry, Dry Annex (CL=80), Oven (CL=170+) and Side Slope (CL=15) Caves. The 2 shorter caves have their maps already submitted; Oven will need at least on more trip to complete. Eight Faunal records were also submitted. - A map of Gully Gulper (CL=58, CD=19) Cave in St. Louis Co. - 3 Use Monitoring forms on Overhang, Rockwood and Glencoe Caves in St. Louis Co. Glencoe is new and the name may change. Along with the Use forms, 9 Faunal records were added. Glencoe was surveyed. -9 Use monitoring forms, 50 or more photos with entrance shots for all but one cave, and 50 Faunal Records from the Huzzah CA, while working with MDC and CRF to assess the health of cave resources throughout the state. - A map and report of Glencoe Cave (CL=40) in St. Louis Co.

**Chouteau Grotto. Jan 11** - Kohl Mitchell, Caleb Mundwiller and Sean Zimmerman surveyed another 650ft in Spring Cave (BNE-021) bringing the surveyed length to 1326ft so far. **Jan 12** - Kohl, Caleb, Ian Pelletier and Tiffany Stoots surveyed 610ft in Spaghetti Cave (CWY-010) completing the survey of the main passage. Jan 18 - Caleb Mundwiller helped Bob Lerch and Ben Miller remove the "strap-on" from Carroll Cave (CAM-001) that had been in Thunder River for 20 yrs. Jan 25 - Rita Worden, Martin Carmichael and Jerel Waters accompanied Bill Gee and others on Bill's regular data logger service trip. This was Jerel's 1st time in Carroll and Bill showed him all about the data loggers. We also counted over 100 cave fish along the way. Jan 31 - Jack Rufener, Amy Fawks, Caleb Mundwiller and Tiffany Stoots surveyed Salamander Speakeasy Cave, a new one in Callaway County, only 120ft long but guite roomy. Feb 1 - Martin Carmichael, Caleb, Tiffany, Kohl Mitchell and Matt Chasen cleared debris from the barrier at Elbow Cave (BNE-025) and serviced the lock on the gate. Feb 2 -Jack Rufener, Kohl and Tiffany surveyed some very narrow passage in a newly opened sink in Rock Bridge Mem State Park they dubbed 'Kitchen Sink'. At 39.1ft long the only biology found was a lucky box turtle, which was removed. Feb 15 - Rita Worden and Shawn Williams set out to open the gate of Fourteen Forty Cave (WRI-013) one way or another, with the owners' permission, to assess it for survey. None of the tools they brought were needed as it had already been breached, probably in 2011. Many salamanders, a pseudo-scorpion and a tri-color bat were noted in the first 1000ft. Feb 21 - Kohl Mitchell, Bob Lerch, Caleb Mundwiller and Sean Zimmerman surveyed 857ft of water crawl in Spring Cave (BNE-021), but there's much more to go. Feb 22 - Kohl, Caleb and Tiffany Stoots surveyed the final 267ft of Spaghetti Cave (CWY-010) in the miserable Lower Noodle passage. -- Rita Worden

Kansas City Area Grotto (KCAG). Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>: Jim & Julie Cooley organized a team of cave gate builders including Eric Hertzler (SPG), Joe Williams (MSM), Mike & Candace Kovacs (SPG), Max White & Cheryl Paulsen (SPG), Cody Morris (SPG), and KCAGers Bill Gee, Nathan Taylor, Jeff Bowman, and Becca & Tyler Marlin to re-gate Neongwah Bear Cave (CAM-096), a small show cave on the Thunder Mountain Park (Bridal Cave) property in Camdenton, MO. Long-time SPG caver Eric Hertzler, now



New Neongwah Bear Cave Gate

employed as the full-time maintenance supervisor for the Bridal Cave Development Company, has wanted to adorn Neongwah Bear Cave with an BCI/ACCA standard, air-flow-optimized, bat-friendly cave gate since he worked there as a cave guide back in high school. Mike Kovacs fabricated the swinging door ahead of time in the Ozark, MO metal shop where he works. The ever-resourceful and highly talented Kovacs also sourced some commercially available, weldable hinges for hanging this swinging door, representing a better, simpler method of hanging such doors than we have ever used before in the State of MO. The team cut and laid

the anti-digging screen, set and anchored the sill plate. the center rises (stationary door frame), and the exterior risers. The frame of the swinging door was then welded onto its hinges and hung, after which the cross members for the door were set and welded into place. Julie ran the chuckwagon up the hill at the Bridal Cave Event Center (a GREAT place for your wedding reception, after you get married in Bridal Cave!), serving a hot breakfast and lunch for everyone, with assistance from Cheryl Paulsen. After the work day was over, Eric treated the crew to a private tour of Bridal Cave, including some of the off-the-tourist-trail passages. It's an amazing cave, and well worth the price of the commercial tour. Jan 19th: Jim & Julie Cooley wrapped up the gating of Neongwah Bear Cave, using the smaller crew of Eric Hertzler, Joe Williams, Cody Morris, Jeff Bowman, Becca & Tyler Marlin and Tanner Brown (SPG). The side cross members were fabricated and installed on the gate, the top cross member was welded in place, all the pinning of the gate to the walls was completed, the bat guard was welded on, and the hasp and tang were installed on the front of the swinging door to enable the gate to be locked. The project was made all the more exciting by a windy arctic cold front that resulted in temperatures just barely breaking double digits. Eleven degrees Fahrenheit was the high for the day, with the wind chill index remaining well below zero the entire day. The 300.2-yard hike down the nature trail to the cave was MOST invigorating! Julie ran the chuckwagon at the Bridal Cave Event Center, serving a robust hot breakfast and lunch that was deeply appreciated by the nearly frozen crew. Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>: Bill Gee led a trip consisting of Martin Carmichael, Rita Worden, Marty Griffin, Jerel Waters, and Mike and Candace Kovacs for a semi-annual data logger service trip in Carroll Cave. In January every year, Bill downloads data from all loggers, then uses that data to prepare full-year graphs of data for the previous year. The trip this year was originally planned for Jan. 4, but a storm came through late that day which resulted in icy roads. They could have made it to the cave with no problem, but getting home would have required ice skates. They canceled the trip and rescheduled for Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>. On the 25<sup>th</sup>, the lockbox inside the silo was frozen and would not open. Bill carries a small propane heater which he set on the lockbox. In about ten minutes, it thawed enough to open. The lanyard on the key was still frozen solid. Bill opened the hatch and rigged the rope. One person did not show up. She came down with flu Friday evening and was not up to a trip. But they did not find that out until later, and so waited for her. When 9:40 arrived, they decided to go with the people they had. The first person was down the shaft at 9:50 and all were all in the cave by 10:15. Jerel Waters was on his very first trip in Carroll Cave, so Bill showed him where the loggers are and what the process is for downloading them. They also placed a refreshed cave intrusion detector. The team then headed down Carroll Passage to get data from the logger near the Rimstone Room. They arrived there at 10:45. A few people went on to show Jerel the Water Barrier and the big rimstones. They then went back to the ladder and started upstream Thunder River to get data from the logger in UL2. The trip went slowly because they were counting so many fish – a total of 106 for the day in all locations. They downloaded the UL2 logger at 12:50, then stopped at the formation areas on the way out so Jerel could get a look. Candace managed to get a very nice photo of the cave pearls. The return trip was much faster, and everyone was back at the ladder about 1:30. Several people peeled off to climb out while Rita, Jerel, Marty and Bill went on to Thunder Falls. Bill downloaded the data logger located in the pool a hundred feet downstream of the waterfall. They were back at the ladder about 1:50, with the last person out of the cave at 2:15. Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>: Bill Gee was joined by Seth Colston for a visit to Geronimo Spring Cave in Camden Co. to resolve a survey boo-boo. Fortunately, the water level was fairly low. The lads entered in 20-degree weather and traversed the nonetheless wet, 150-ft. long full-torso-immersion entrance bellycrawl at a gallop. The survey stations were well marked and easy to find. The problem was quickly found. There were TWO stations marked as A30. One of them should have been A31. After a short discussion, one of the A30 stations became A29a. They used instruments to re-survey the centerline data from A29 to A31, and also from A30 to A30a which goes into a side passage. The next step was to draw the sketches again, as the existing sketch does not fit the new centerline data. Doing it again ensures that the sketch and data fit together. Bill did the plan view while Seth did profile and cross-sections. On the way out of the cave, Seth drew some cross sections in the entrance crawl. The existing data sheets have a profile sketch but no cross

sections. That is a defining part of the cave, and Bill felt they needed some additional drawings. After exiting the cave and changing into warm, dry clothing, Bill and Seth tried to survey a line above ground from the house to the cave entrance. This line will also help establish how much rock there is between the house and the underlying cave. Unfortunately, the laser instruments they had were not bright enough to be used in daylight. Even with the cloud cover the lasers could not be seen. That task will have to wait for another day and will require a more robust analog device (i.e., a tape measure). Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>: Jim Cooley assisted wildlife biologists from the Mark Twain National Forest (MTNF) and the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) who counted hibernating Threatenedand-Endangered (T&E) bats in Kelly Hollow Cave (ORE-007), a gated cave on the MTNF. Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>: Jim Cooley supported wildlife biologists from the MTNF and MDC who counted hibernating T&E bats in Secesh Cave (CTR-010) on the MTNF. Feb. 26th: Jim Cooley accompanied wildlife biologists from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and MDC who counted hibernating T&E bats in the privately owned Big Mouth Cave (ORE-002) on the Eleven Point River. Feb. 28th: Jim Cooley accompanied a tenant on a large, privately owned ranch in southeast MO to locate, describe and photograph two new caves previously unknown to the MSS, making a total of eight new caves identified on this property since May 2024. He, then, led an educational trip of six Americorps volunteers from southeast Colorado to Lewis Cave (RIP-001), where among other interesting faunal observations, the group identified six white, cave-adapted Salem cave crayfish (*Cambarus hubrichti*). Mar. 1<sup>st</sup>: Jim Cooley and Candace Kovacs sketched a newly identified, 30.9-ft long shelter and a 47.3-ft long narrow, sinuous slot cave on the previously mentioned large, privately owned ranch in southeast MO. Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup>: On the same ranch, Jim Cooley and Candace Kovacs analyzed and tested various approaches to a newly discovered cave high in a bluff, which will require either a rappel or a ladder to enter, then did a map quality control check on another 289-ft cave with a huge entrance that is popular habitat for ... the local deer herd. Lastly, we shot 215.3 ft of survey line in a large-entrance spring cave that has been altered to provide the landowner and his wife with their drinking water.--Jim Cooley

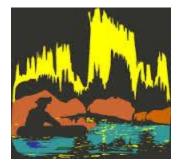
Springfield Plateau Grotto (SPG). Jan. 16th - Lost Hills Caves (Greene Co.) Candace Kovacs, Robyn Barnes and Jerome Brauner were assisted by Charles Rey, Patrick Fay, Tanner Brown, Jessie Shew and Schuyler Richardson in the biota counts in 4 caves in the park. The job was made easier with the use of a cable ladder borrowed from Matt Beeson, which allowed for easier entry into the pits. Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> - Neongwah Bear Cave (Camden Co.) managed by Eric Hertzler. Jim Cooley conducted the installation of a new cave gate. Mike Kovacs prefabricated the new gate door and more off site and brought them to the cave. Others on the gating team were Julie Cooley, Jeff Bowman, Candace Kovacs, Joe Williams, Max White, Cheryl Paulson, Becca and Tyler Marlin, Nathan Taylor, Bill Gee, Cody Morris and Tanner Brown. It takes many dedicated cavers, cooks, welders, cutters, grinders and more to make a gate fun and successful. Jan. 20th, 22nd, 27th – 29th - Bridal Cave (Camden Co,) Jon Beard continued the Restoration Project. Repair damaged formations in the cave. He, also, checked out the newly built gate on Neongwah Bear Cave. Jan. 23rd - Giboney Cave (Greene Co.) Candace Kovacs and Robyn Barnes were assisted by Charles Rey, Schuyler Richards, Tanner Brown, Marxe Altman-Orbach, Loren Kuntz, and Linda Ottmar. The team conducted a biota count in the cave. Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> - Wison Cave (Lawrence Co.) Matt Beeson assisted MDC personnel in doing at bio survey of the cave. Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> - Bridal Cave (Camden Co.) Jon Beard continued the Restoration Project, repairing damaged formations. Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> - Mammoth Cave (Kentucky), Cody Morris and Ashleigh Layer took the Grand Avenue tour making the most of their 1/2 day in the area, they completed a 4- mile, 4-hour tour. While entirely on concrete walkways, their guides were extremely knowledgeable

regarding both history and science. After walking through miles of wide-open walking passage that led to about a mile of meandering slot canyons and waterfalls. Limited formations and restrictions on the beaten path did not take away from the reverence they felt being in the world's longest cave system. Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> - Cody Morris and Ashleigh Layer joined Brandon Van Dalsem and Nicole Riddel at Cumberland Gap Caverns (Tennessee) They saw pristine Gypsum flowers and needles that thrived in passages called Crystal Chasm, Mountain King, Grand Hall and seen passages rarely seen. Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> -Junction and Bat Caves (Greene Co.). SPG assisted Greene Co. Park Board with Bio counts in the caves. The team consisted of Candace Kovacs, Robyn Barnes, Justin Smith, Giorgia Auteri, Casey Trujilla, Marxe Altman-Orbach, Schuyler Richards, Loren Kuntz and Jerome Brauner. Also, on Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> -Florida Caverns State Park (Florida) Cody Morris and Ashleigh Layer went on the tour of the highly decorated cave. Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> - Butler Hollow Mine Cave (McDonald Co.). Matt Beeson, Mike and Candace Kovacs conducted a Bat Count for MDC. The team checked the gates on Carter and Onyx Caves. Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> - Tumbling Creek Cave (Taney Co.) Jon Beard, assisted by Eric and Charity Hertzler repaired 3 stalagmites and saw lots of bio. In the cave and visited with Tom and Cathy Aley. Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> - Jon finished work on the Bridal Cave restoration project. With that, Jon Beard ended his cave restoration "career" with 3,243 total speleothem rebuilds during a 42-year stint at cave restoration in many caves that also included removing graffiti and trash, restoring trampled floors, and sinkhole cleanups. Other conservation-related activities included helping with cave gating, developing landowner relationships, establishing paths to keep cave floors pristine. Jon ended his "other career" as a cave surveyor in 2021 after participating in/directing more than 600 cave surveys in six states. Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> - Sequiota Cave, Crawl-All-The-Way Cave, and Walk-All-The-Way Cave (Greene Co.) Candace Kovacs, Robyn Barnes, Chase Dedman and Giorgia Auteri conducted bio survey on the caves. Jerome Brauner and Justin Smith assisted with the boat, to get the team into and out of Sequiota Cave.--Report by Max White. Content provided by Jonathan Beard, Matt Beeson, Candace Kovacs and Cody Morris

**MSS Affiliate Fees** were due in January. Organizations owing for 2025 are: MSM, OHG, & SPG. Please plan on paying the fee at the MSS meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup>. If unable to do that, please send a check or money order, payable to the MSS, for \$25.00 to: MSS Treasurer, Don Dunham, 6104 Valley Creek Ct., Imperial, MO 63052. If you want to pay for 2 years (2025 & 2026), he would gladly accept that, also.

# **Missouri Speleological Survey**

Spring Board Meeting Agenda - April 6, 2025 Round Spring Pavilion MO-19, Eminence, MO 65466



# Board meeting begins at 10:00 AM

# 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**

Cave Files Committee

#### **New Business**

• Appointment of Bob Weck to replace Doug Gouzie on the MSS Research Council

# **Projects and Announcements**

- Cave files / Database
- Agency Reports
  - Mark Twain National Forest
  - Ozark National Scenic Riverways
  - Missouri Department of Conservation
  - State Parks
  - $\circ$  Others
- Affiliate Organizations Project Reports
- Public Outreach

### Next meeting

• Weekend of October 3-5, Boone County, MO

# Adjournment