

THE MSS LIAISON

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March - April 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 May 2025

by Dan Lamping

They said it would rain and rain it did. At the beginning of the week leading up to the last scheduled MSS meeting, which was planned to be held in early April, we had over forty people signed up to participate. With plans to do monitoring, mapping, graffiti removal and trail maintenance work in caves, owned by multiple agencies within the Shannon Co. area, it was shaping up to be a really good weekend with quite a few cavers coming, who typically don't frequent MSS meetings. Then the forecast came, calling for significant precipitation and regional flooding. Appropriately so, the cancellations began to follow and as the week progressed, so did the certainty for rain and so did the number of bailouts. With heavy rains and associated flooding a near certainty, it made sense to cancel both the MSS and MCKC meetings and hope for the best in regards to field work. But despite the forecast, we still had around twenty-five hardy cavers show up at various times over the weekend

and got approximately eight caves mapped, including three new caves which were found over the weekend, and around fifteen additional caves monitored with cave files work and camaraderie accomplished despite the wet weather.

I often tell people that to be a caver, you've got to be the right kind of wrong. But, to be a caver who heads off into the dark skies ahead, lit up by brief flashes of intense lightning, in the pouring rain, with flash flood warnings and



intentions of hiking the steep wooded hillsides in order to go underground, the same place the water is all going, ranks one into an entirely different level of questionable decision making. But it really wasn't too bad. On Friday, April 4 the morning started off wet and severe, but it turned into a beautiful day with light rain and water either going into or coming out of every orifice to be seen. The creeks were booming, adding a sense of adventure and the spring wildflowers were starting to make their showing. The next day, on Saturday, it was a little wetter, but with the constant rain overnight, the rivers and creeks were considerably higher and the rainfall a steadier. Yet still, we were productive and got out into the field. Many thanks to Scott House for helping to organize and to Kirsten Alvey Mudd for taking care of the meals.



Our next meeting is scheduled for the first weekend in October in Boone County with the meeting itself to be held on Sunday, October 5. The area of focus will be mapping, monitoring and getting faunal records for caves along the Katy Trail. This includes plans to do a clean-up of Rocheport Cave, a large former tour cave. Though, if bats are present the Rocheport clean up may have to be cancelled and moved to a later date with the weekend's focus being given to other caves along the Katy. We are still working out plans in terms of camping and where the meeting itself will be held. Stay tuned.

In the last *Liaison* I shared a couple of Google Forms that we're trying to use. One is for reporting new caves to the MSS. This is important, because too often we get an email with little more than a location when someone reports a new cave. But, the strength of our organization and

the value we provide comes from having a much larger body of knowledge. We need those of you who go out to find new caves to provide the necessary details to confidently establish the existence of a cave. A great practical example of why this matters is that we share our data with the Missouri Department of Transportation. Before making new roads or highways or before doing any road projects, such as widening roads, etc. they evaluate the environmental impact. Too often we get contacted about information on a known cave and simply report that we know little to nothing about it, including whether it's actually there. Using this form and doing your best to fill it out to completion saves another volunteer from having to put the time in to track down information that you would likely be best suited to report, if you initially reported existence of the cave. Further, this form can also be used to simply submit a trip report to privately owned caves. The form can be accessed using this link. bit.ly/mospeleo Please save it. Note that for publicly owned caves which are accessed via agreements under the Cave Research Foundation (CRF) we still need a CRF trip report in FileMaker (CRF trip leaders have access to a runtime of the CRF Trip Report Database) and we need monitoring and faunal record forms. Filling all of this out can feel tedious, but it's one of the best ways that you as a caver can make a meaningful contribution, by documenting your trips and observations so that the knowledge you gain can be put to use in better understanding and protecting caves and cave life.

Lastly, I also shared this form bit.ly/MSS-Datarequest This is to be used by anyone who requests data from the MSS. It is certainly a balancing act to maintain the privacy of private landowners and fulfill data sharing restrictions required by our partner agencies, along with the needs and interests of cavers who wish to utilize information in order to expand upon it and better document the caves and karst of Missouri. I encourage you to start small if you're not already an active contributor to the cave files. Make a request for a specific area, then follow through and expand upon what's known or at least report any efforts you make so that they can be documented and to help justify future requests. You can see the list of individuals that Ken reports on each *Liaison* who make routine contributions. These people typically have access to anything they need simply because they put the time in to make the relationship with the MSS a reciprocal one.

Report of the MSS Treasurer - December 31, 2025: ACCOUNTS: General Fund \$8858.02; Subscriptions/Donations *Missouri Speleology* \$6549.65; Research Fund \$15579.18; Anne Johnson Data Fund \$14917.77; Affiliation Fees \$400.00; Subscriptions *Liaison* \$20.00 = **\$46324.62**
ASSETS: Interest Checking \$10324.62; Certificates of Deposit \$36000.00 = **\$46324.62**

Income Statement for the year ending December 31, 2024: INCOME: *Missouri Speleology* Subscriptions \$380.00; *Missouri Speleology* Sales \$1661.37; Organizational Affiliation Fees \$400.00; *Liaison* Subscriptions \$70.00; Bank Interest \$83.20; Bank Error .04. Total \$2594.61. EXPENSES: *Missouri Speleology* \$2230.72; *Liaison* \$280.00; Anne Johnson Fund \$807.00; Bank Fees \$110.00; General Fund \$1036.00. Total \$4463.72 Net Loss \$1869.11. – Don Dunham, MSS Treasurer

Files Report for May 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:** -5 new caves for Cooper and Howard Counties. Main Table of the database changes for 8 caves in Cooper (including 3 new) and 13 caves in Howard Co. (also 2 new). She included 10 Fauna records for Cooper and 44 Fauna records in Howard. -Six new caves in Ralls Co.: Wooten Holler, Easter Egg Spring,

Xtreme Recon Pit, Obstacle Course Pit and Wet Willy Spring. -An update on Reds Cave in Marion Co., which included a GPS location and over 25 photos. **Matt Beeson sent:** -New map for Spaghetti (CL=1223) Cave in Callaway Co. **Jim Cooley sent:** -2 Use monitoring forms for Big Mouth and Kelly Hollow Cave. 30 Faunal records for caves in Camden, Carter, Dent and Ripley Counties. -Nine new caves for Carter Co.: Valley Vista Shelter, Hole in the Bluff, Boo, Boo Annex, Flying Coyote, Tornado Reveal, More Has Been Revealed, Rock Right in Front and Three Hole Caves. Surveys were initiated on many. -New map for Danged Overhang Cave (CL=46), Canard Slot Cave (CL=47) and Valley Vista Shelter (CL=31) in Carter Co. **Nathan Curran sent:** -Sent a report on 13 features in Texas Co. (see also Huelsing). His reporting adds information that Huelsing sent earlier and provides almost 50 photos to further document the caves. -An update on 2 St. Louis caves: Tree Jam and Broken Mussel Cave. Entrance photos were also sent. -Another update, this one for Two Hole Shelter in St Charles Co. Brief directions, description, GPS, 3 Faunal records and entrance photos were sent. -New map of Dissolution Drop (CL=62) and Sifters Den (CL=30) in St. Louis Co. -New maps for new caves, the En Echelon Shelters #1 (CL=18) and #2 (CL=25) in St. Louis Co. -An update on Maggard Cave in Shannon Co.; he included entrance photos, GPS, 6 Faunal records, directions and brief description. -A map and supporting documents for 2 new feature Showerhead Shelf and Shaley Fold Shelter in St. Louis Co. He included GPS, entrance photos and directions. **Derik Holtmann sent:** -A Use monitoring form, 8 Faunal records, brief description and 125 photos for Paddy Cave in Texas Co. **Scott House sent:** -New maps for Little Hidey Hole (CL=13) in Shannon Co. and Big Paddy Creek Cave (CL=133) in Texas Co. **JJ Huelsing sent:** -Information for 3 new caves in Lincoln Co.: Two Entrance, Three Entrance and Sink Cave. -Sent reports on 13 features in Texas Co. (see also Curran). It appears that 10 are new caves ranging in length from 20 to 500 ft long. One is a small pit not worth reporting on its own, but may very well connect with a nearby feature directly under it. Besides the location, he sent entrance dimensions, some brief descriptions, 20 or so photos and 10 Faunal records. **Mark Jones sent:** -Reports on recent activity with CRF work on ONSR and MTNF, which included 92 Faunal records, 19 Use monitoring forms for as many caves, 3 new caves with GPS, entrance photos, entrance dimensions and reports describing the trip to the caves. -For the MSS (meeting rained out) weekend in Winona, 10 reports on caves monitored, Monitoring forms and 34 Faunal records for these caves. **Mary Kausch sent:** -4 monitoring forms and 18 photos for 4 caves whose entrances were checked for the Meramec State Park project in cooperation with Brian Wilcox and the park, who will be retiring soon. **Candace Kovacs sent:** -70 photos of Cleveland Cave in St. Clair Co. **Rob Lawson sent:** -(via Bobby Swain) A Narrative for 3 caves in Crawford Co.: Barrow, Doss and Von Arckle Crawl in the Huzzah CA. **Dan Lamping sent:** -6 Fauna records for Cliff Cave in St. Louis Co. -5 Monitoring forms, 5 Faunal records and 1 cave narrative for a survey trip and float trip while working in cooperation with CRF and ONSR and LAD. -For the MSS weekend in Winona, a use Monitoring form for Harley Crawl Cave, a new one for Shannon Co. He then sent 5 different entrance photos for the caves he visited during this weekend. **Joe Light sent:** -A 1961 Globe-Democrat article on Bomb Shelters on the use of Onondaga Cave and Meramec Caverns for that purpose. -A report of restoration work at Buzzard Cave in Texas Co., he included 7 photos (see Mann). -A report, 3 photos and 1 Faunal record from a visit to Indian Cave #1 in Franklin Co. **Alex Litsch sent:** -2 Trip Reports, 7 Fauna and 2 entrance photos, caves included Creek Side, Creek Bend, Rat Den, Burl and Bear Bed Caves; all in Pulaski Co. **Kyle Mann sent:** -A report of restoration work at Buzzard Cave in Texas Co., he included 4 photos (see Light). **Andrew Mayer sent:** -New maps for Vulture (CL=62), Indian Camp (CL=845), and Mosquito Crawl (CL=62) Caves in their respective counties of Jefferson, Perry and Washington. He included an entrance photo for Mosquito Crawl. -3 Monitoring forms, 3 Faunal records and

descriptions for 3 caves surveyed in Texas Co.: Moccasin, Short Dig and Trepidation Caves. **Chad McCain sent:** -Details on rigging set up in Pentagon Pit, in Ste. Genevieve Co. -An entrance photo and GPS for Jakes Cave in Madison Co. He and team started a survey of the cave. **Kohl Mitchell sent:** - Maps of Up High (CL=26) and Dogleg (CL=34) Caves, a new cave in Callaway Co. -3 new caves for Callaway Co., he included Descriptions and entrance photos. Names are Joint Cave, Hippie Hole and Scenic Bluff Shelter. He followed this up with final maps for Joint Cave (CL=21), Hippie Hole (CL=29) and Scenic Bluff (CL=51). -New reporting for 2 caves in Phelps Co.; both Arches Crawlway and Arches Springs Caves were surveyed. He followed up quickly with maps for Crawlway (CL=40) and Spring (CL=177). -New maps for Cooper County: Upper Deck (CL=46) and Green Flow (CL=24) Caves. -Main Table exports for 4 new caves for Callaway Co.: Left Fork, Right Fork, Rimstone Mound and Tight Trickle Tube. The Main table entries included directions and brief descriptions. He surveyed all four; maps to come. He did include Use Monitoring forms, entrance photos and 8 Fauna records for the caves. -Sent 2 maps, but one had 3 caves on it, they are: Jackman (CL=51), Jackman Cellar (CL=26), Wasp (CL=21), and Practice Pitch Caves (CL=34), all in Howard CO. **Caleb Mundwiller sent:** -Turkey Creek Shelter (CL=23), Scat (CL=131) and Salamander Speakeasy (CL=117) Caves, first 2 in Boone Co. and last in Gasconade Co. -A new map for Gasconade County: Salamander Speakeasy Cave (CL=117). -Two new caves in Gasconade Co.: Porthole and Pillar Caves. **Jim Ruedin sent:** -4 new caves in Shannon Co, caves were surveyed, entrance photos and Use monitoring forms were included. **Tony Schmitt sent:** -One new cave in Shannon Co., one cave lead and a GPS location for a cave that's been in our database since 1970, but never had been GPSed. -For the MSS weekend in Winona, 3 new caves with entrance photos and GPS locations. **Marissa Schorr sent:** -2 Use Monitoring forms, 19 Faunal records and 2 reports for Frisco and Zorumski Caves in Phelps Co. -For the MSS weekend in Winona, Monitoring for 3 new caves Rough Crawl, Rainy and Duplex Caves all in Shannon Co. She shared survey notes on the caves too. -A Narrative with brief Description for the database for Smelly Belly Cave in Texas Co. An entrance photo was sent for Smelly Belly with a bonus entrance photo that included nearby Trepidation Cave. **Bobby Swain sent:** -2 maps for Snowblower and Scotia Annex Caves in Crawford Co. **Craig Williams sent:** -A report on 6 caves in the MTNF while working with CRF in Pulaski Co.: Bear Bed, Blowing Hole, Burl, Creek Bend, Dusty Ledge and Rat Den Caves. **Richard Young sent:** -An updated assessment of Weinrich Beer Cave in Perry Co.

Chouteau Grotto. Mar. 8 - Kohl Mitchell, Shawn Williams, and Kirsten Alvey surveyed Obstacle Course Pit (42ft); Easter Egg Spring Cave (86ft); Extreme Recon Pit (56ft); Wrangler Sink (153ft so far, with about that much more remaining); and Rubicon Canyon Cave (34ft). These caves were all found associated with a previously unreported sinkhole plain in Ralls Co. **Mar. 9** - Kohl, Shawn, Jack Rufener, JJ Huelsing, Kirsten Alvey and Dawn Martin returned to the area and surveyed Wet Willy Spring Cave (115ft). They also surveyed Shale Spring Cave (74ft) and located Bear Branch and Althon Caves. **Mar 15** - Carroll Cave - Kohl Mitchell, Caleb Mundwiller, Jack Rufener, and Maria Rodriguez went into DR4 to investigate a grim lead near the back. After a few hundred feet of muddy belly crawl it opened into large passage, probably a continuation of the DR4 stream. The team surveyed over 600ft, calling it a day at a 25ft waterfall they dubbed Cascada Negra. **Mar. 16** - Carroll Cave - Rita Worden and Jerel Waters attended Bill Gee's trip leader training along with Marty Griffin and Shane McCurdy. Emergency procedures were reviewed and problems identified; at this date the key issue has been resolved. **Mar. 22** - Kohl Mitchell, Nevin Dubinski, Caleb Mundwiller and Rita Worden did monitoring at Arches Cave and Arches Tunnel and surveyed Arches Crawlway Cave (30ft) and the exceedingly miserable Arches Spring Cave (177ft). **Mar. 23** - Kohl and Caleb did some ridgewalking in

the MTNF in Callaway Co. Three new caves were found and surveyed: Joint Cave (21ft); Hippy Hole (29ft); and Scenic Bluff Shelter (51ft). **Apr. 5** - MSS weekend projects: Kohl Mitchell, Rita Worden and Caleb Mundwiller surveyed Wine Cave (136ft), barely getting out in time to cross the rising stream and head straight up the hill to the vehicles in the rain. **Apr. 12, 13** - Shawn Williams and Rita Worden, along with Treavor Bussard, Nathan Curran, Meghan Gallo, Derek Thompson and Jessica Shew started the re-survey of Fourteen Forty Cave (WRI-013) completing several hundred feet the first day and the remainder of the main passage the second day. **Apr. 26** - Martin Carmichael, Kohl Mitchell, Jack Rufener, Bill Gee, Laurel Dunn, Dani Lotz, John Roth and Nathan Curran began the re-survey of Railroad Cave (PUL-110). The three teams netted over 2000ft of survey, completing the main passage. --Rita Worden

Springfield Plateau Grotto (SPG). **Mar. 8**--- Mike and Candace Kovacs led an SPG trip to Cleveland Cave (St. Clair Co.) The trip included Sarah Peterson, Steven Hoffman, Kathryn Nelligan, Schuyler Richards, Jessica Wilson & some very young new cavers - Serenity Hays, and Tatiana Hornbeck. **Mar. 16**--- Mike and Candace Kovacs joined Matt Beeson on a CRF mapping trip to In-D-Pendants Cave (AR). **Mar. 29**--- Candace Kovacs led a group including Mike Kovacs, Sarah Peterson, Marty Griffin, Justin Smith & Robin Barnes on a trip to Carroll Cave (Camden Co.) -round room rescue cache service trip. -Content by Mike Kovacs. **Apr. 1**--Alicia and Jon Beard accompanied Eric Hertzler in Bridal Cave so Jon could show Alicia the speleothem repairs done in the cave. **Apr. 12**--Chris Lewis took Jon Beard to visit Coyote Cave, (Christian County) a 300-foot cave on land owned by Chris. **Apr. 26**-- Ashley Mitchell, Heather Pyle and Max White participated in a CRF monitoring trip in Arkansas. Monitoring 3 small caves and one shelter. Content provided by Jon Beard. **Apr. 3 - 6**, On Thursday, Charles Rey headed out, to participate in a series of ridge walking trips to locate, bio count and map some caves in the Ozark National Scenic Riverways. He met up with 12 other MSS/MCKC/CRF cavers on Friday and they divided up into 3 groups to ridge walk and locate caves on ONSR. The downpour of rain all weekends made river crossings difficult and dangerous. Charles' team located three caves on Friday. They mapped two of the caves and did bio counts. The third cave was saved for Saturday. The group formed 4 teams since 4 more people joined them on Friday night. Charles' team headed to a valley that is a feeder stream to the Jacks Fork River. They located 4 caves and did bio counts, and another team went to Pete's Cave to map and do the bio count. It was still raining! The meetings of MSS and MCKC was canceled due to high water. So, Sunday after cleaning the cabins, the cavers headed home. -Content by Charles Rey. – Submitted by Max White.

Stygian. Mar. 15 - Grotto member, Ian Pelletier (who is an Internal Medicine Doctor and NCRC level 1 trained) organized and conducted a basic Cave Rescue training session with a group of 8 medical students and 1 resident doctor from the Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis. They started with a session above ground reviewing various aspects of caving, proper gear and the inherent risks. Then spent the rest of the day participating in a couple of mock injury scenarios involving stabilizing and moving an injured person utilizing a rescue SKED. The cave chosen for the training was a multilevel cave with some reasonably large vertical drops and some low and narrow passages as well, to give the doctors a very realistic example of the challenges faced by trained rescuers. The actual high lifting of a person was not performed during this level of training but could be worked in at a later time. The students were very thankful and really enjoyed both the training and a little recreational caving too. Most had never been underground, let alone in a non-commercial cave. Grotto members Richard Orr, Allan Breite, Kevin Berdak, and Mike Cornman who had completed a NCRC OCR, assisted with the training.—Submitted by Allan Breite

Lake Ozarks Grotto (LOG). **Apr. 6** – Ken & Monica Long with Grandson, Wyatt, joined Klaus Leidenfrost and Jean Knoll at Goodwin sink to check out the premises after 4 inches of rain. The week before, they visited Slaughter and Conical Sink, along with Onyx Mountain Cave. **Apr. 8** – After our regular grotto meeting, members visited the Memorial bench at Stark Caverns to attach a name plate for Frank Hurley, long-time member and co-founder of LOG. – Alberta Zumwalt

Kansas City Area Grotto (KCAG) report for March-April, 2025. **Mar. 15:** Bill Gee led a Carroll Cave trip consisting of Jerel Waters, Ashley Mitchell and Shane McCurdy to service the rescue caches in downstream Thunder River. Bill's complete trip report is on the MCKC website. The rescue cache at Jerry's Cairn was replaced, while the second cache at the entrance to DL7 was not found. Presumably it had washed away. The cache at Jerry's Cairn, about ten years old, had water in the dry bags designed to preserve it, and all fire-making materials (lighters and matches) were inoperable. It was removed. Two new caches were left behind, tied down to avoid removal by high water. The trip took 7.5 hours. **Mar. 21:** Jim Cooley, Mike Kovacs, and Peter Schnegelberger arrived late in the afternoon at the Casa de Vida, the guest house of one of our private landowners in Carter Co. Half of



Rock Right in Front Cave (upper, with figure) and Tornado Reveal Cave

the sheet-metal covering the roof of the Casa de Vida had been blown away by the EF3 tornado that flattened Fremont, Missouri at 9:58 p.m. on the night of March 14th. This guest house was also our landowner's new primary residence, as the tornado had also **completely** obliterated his previous primary residence. Fortunately, Cooley brought plenty of 30# roofer's felt and roofing nails, so we secured half the exposed roof against rain that evening before darkness fell. (We are deeply indebted to Max White of SPG for guidance and directions on the best way to secure a roof against rain after severe tornado damage.)

Mar. 22: The next morning, Cooley, Kovacs and Schnegelberger finished roofing the guest house with 30# felt. By noon we were headed to the field. First, we finished running the line plots in a large-entrance spring cave that has been altered to provide an adjacent landowner and his wife with their drinking water. We then turned our attention to a hillside we had been shown in February, that was reputed to have three or four shelters or caves on it. We had planned to go ridgewalking to see if we could locate these karst features. Thanks to the tornado, though, which also completely destroyed this adjacent landowner's new, very nice second residence, the hillside harboring the cave leads was largely clear-cut of

timber and denuded of undergrowth. We could now easily see, from the valley below, four obvious new cave entrances, all previously unknown to the MSS. These caves we named Tornado Reveal Cave, More Will Be Revealed Cave, Rock Right in Front Cave, and Flying Coyote Cave. Flying Coyote was named after a slightly decomposed and partially scavenged coyote found in the creek bed 75 feet directly below the entrance. We surmised this unlucky fellow would have been visible flying past the

cave entrance during the tornado the night of March 14th, just like in the Wizard of Oz – that is, if the tornado not been totally rain-wrapped, and had it not occurred at night. We also located yet another



The Flying Coyote (after a hard landing).

three new cave entrances further up the valley, on a bluff, which were revealed by the storm. **Mar. 23:** We were joined by Candace Kovacs, who'd had to work Saturday (March 22). We ran 300 feet of line plots in the three apparent new caves, which turned out to be only two caves. These were named Boo Cave and Boo Cave Annex. We also further explored the recently discovered Hole in the Bluff Cave, reachable only by rope or ladder. **Mar. 24:** Jim Cooley and Peter Schnegelberger took GPS readings and photographed the entrances of various new caves, then ran 183 feet of line plot in Flying Coyote Cave. **Mar.**

25: Jim Cooley and Peter Schnegelberger did map QC on Danged Overhang and Massey Caves, and located another new cave lead nearby, which we will call Square Mouth Overhang Cave if it goes. A 40-foot ladder will be required to explore it. **Mar. 26:** Jim Cooley and Peter Schnegelberger surveyed 96-foot-long Tornado Reveal Cave. **Mar. 27:** Jim Cooley and Peter Schnegelberger gave a multi-part PowerPoint presentation entitled ***Speleology: A Citizen Science*** at Southwest Baptist University (SBU) in Mountain View, Missouri, to a **Teaching Methods for the Physical Sciences** class in SBU's School of Education. Topics covered included an introduction to caves and karst; recreational and project caving organizations and their relationship to agencies that manage natural resources; ridgewalking; cave mapping and cartography; and cave gating. **Apr. 11:** Jim Cooley and Peter Schnegelberger did map QC checks and biological inventories of five caves on private property in Shannon Co. **Apr. 12:** Jim Cooley, Bill Gee, Mike Kovacs and Peter Schnegelberger continued the survey of a large cave on private property in Shannon Co. During preparation for entering the cave, Cooley and Schnegelberger had two long and very fruitful conversations about local caves. The first was with the local game warden, who was checking to make sure we were not planning to hunt illegally under the guise of youth turkey season. The second, very exciting conversation was with a logger. his wife and two dogs, one of whom was named Wiggles. This logger had grown up in the immediate area. He seemed to know ALL about every single cave we knew of, and about equally as many more that we (and the MSS) had never heard of. **Apr. 13:** Jim Cooley, Bill Gee, Mike Kovacs and Peter Schnegelberger continued a different survey of another large cave on private property in Shannon Co.



Breached, substandard gate at Cuivre River State Park (note – buzzard egg, center-left).

Apr. 14: Schnegelberger, acting on lead information provided by our new logger friend on the 12th, located the entrance to an obscure cave that we'd only heard rumors of before. Our logger's data was spot on. Because he was ridgewalking by himself, Peter did not enter the cave. **Apr. 22:** Jim Cooley, Peter Schnegelberger and Allan Breite of Stygian

Grotto visited two caves at Cuivre River State Park, which the park would like to regate with better, bat-friendly cave gates. The current gates are in breeched status. Cooley will be designing new, standard gates for these caves. **Apr. 23-24:** Jim And Julie Cooley attended an MDC/MoDNR-sponsored "Cave Manager's Workshop," where Jim gave a PowerPoint presentation on 'To gate, or not to gate? THAT is the question...' **Apr. 25:** Jim Cooley and Peter Schnegelberger entered and verified appreciable extent in Logger's Lead Cave. **Apr. 26:** Peter Schnegelberger, Mike and Candace Kovacs, and Marxe Altman-Orbach (SPG) ran 336 feet of line plot in the main passage of Logger's Lead Cave. **Apr. 27:** Jim Cooley, Peter Schnegelberger, Mike and Candace Kovacs, and Marxe Altman-Orbach continued the survey of another large cave on private property in Shannon Co. – Jim Cooley

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Research Committee -Dr. Robert Lerch, Dr. Michael Sutton, **Bob Weck** and Jeffrey Crews.

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

CALENDAR:

July 10th - Next Liaison deadline

October 5th – Fall MSS Meeting, Boone Co.

MSS Affiliate Fees were due in January. Please send check or money order for \$25.00 to: MSS Treasurer, Don Dunham, 6104 Valley Creek Ct., Imperial, MO 63052. Still owing for 2025 are: OHG and SPG. You might want to pay for 2025 & 2026 at this time.