

THE MSS LIAISON

VOLUME 66 NUMBER 5-6

May - June 2026

AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS:

CAIRN – CHOUTEAU – DAEDALUS – KCAG – LEG – LOG – MCKC - MMV

MSM – MVG – OHG – PEG – SEMO – SPG - Stygian

Distributed free on the MSS website: <http://www.mospeleo.org/>

Subscription rate for paper copies is \$10.00 per year. Send check or money

order made out to the Missouri Speleological Survey to the Editor, Gary Zumwalt, 1681 State Route D, Lohman, MO 65053. Telephone: 573-782-3560.



Missouri Speleological Survey Vice President's Message by Kohl Mitchell.

The next meeting of the MSS will be held at Cuivre River State Park in Lincoln County from September 11-13. While exact details are still in the works, there will be numerous opportunities for project caving associated with the meeting, with trips suitable for all skill levels, from easy walking passage to truly awful water crawls. Many of the caves we plan to visit are on private land and are seldom seen by cavers, and there is a lot of project work to be done in the area. A sign-up form for cave trips, with more specific details, will be sent out prior to the meeting once plans have been solidified.

Free camping will be available Friday and Saturday nights at Special Use Camp Site A within the park for participants (39.030933, -90.913781). Showers and bathrooms are available on-site. This site can accommodate tent camping and small camper vans, but not large RVs or travel trailers - participants bringing those will have to reserve a spot in the general campground. The MSS meeting will be held at 10 AM on Sunday, September 13 with the MCKC board meeting to follow.

Elections for president and vice president will be held at the MSS meeting. Dan Lamping, who has done an awesome job serving as president for the last 11 years, will be stepping down. I have been vice president for the last two years, and plan on running for president. While Dan has left big shoes to fill, I hope to follow in his footsteps and help the MSS to continue to be successful in the future.

Files Report for July 1, 2026 - By Ken Grush. We are approaching another milestone, here in our 70th year anniversary, we currently have 4920 different caves mapped. We generally have 100 maps added to the records every year. For the past 3 years, we have turned in more than 100 different cave maps for each year. Last year was a banner year, with 184 different caves mapped. We have a decent shot at making 5000 maps during our 70th anniversary. This year has already been very productive with 99 maps already turned in; if we maintain the effort that has already been shown, we will reach 5000 caves mapped this year. Ultimately, we will have 5000 caves mapped regardless, but can we do that this year? That's only 80 maps yet to go this year. Keep watching!

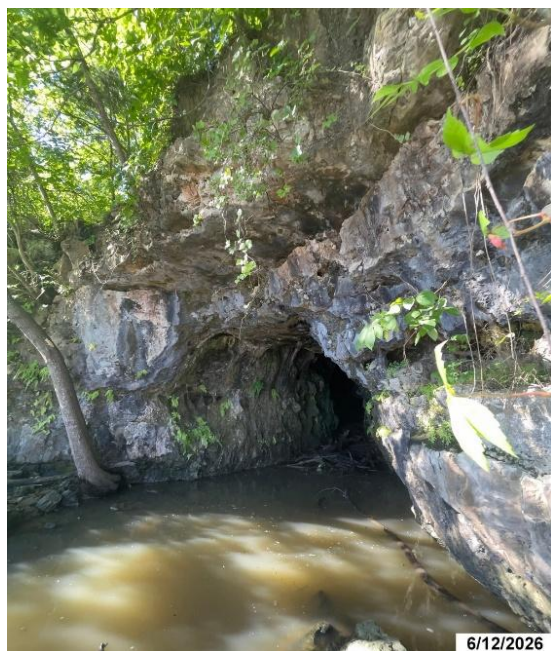
If you have **new information** on any Missouri caves, my email address is slak@grush.org. We need your help to improve the database and make it more complete. I can and do work with Facebook entries, but for information or photos to be incorporated I need to be "private messaged" with the cave name and county. **Brian Biggs sent:** -A report on survey in Berome Moore of Perry Co. (see Brooks for day 1). **Allan Breite sent:** -A detailed report on a new cave in St. Louis Co. including all the detail to fill out the Main table of database, and an entrance photo. (See Swain below for the map.) **Mark Brooks sent:** -A report on survey in Berome Moore of Perry Co. (see Biggs for day 2). **Jim Cooley sent:** -3 Faunal records for Perkins Cave in Camden Co. -24 Faunal records for 6 caves in Shannon Co. -11 Faunal records for 3 caves, 2 in Oregon and a new one in Carter Co.; a main table entry for new cave, Stolen Beer Cave in Carter Co. -New map for Camp Rising Sun Cave (CL=140) in

Camden Co. -New map for 2 adjacent caves and a shelter: Camp Hawthorn Cave #2 (CL=34) and #3 (CL=20) and adjacent shelter. -20 Faunal records, mostly for Robbers Cave in Benton Co., but also a few in Carter Co. caves. **Josh Cooper sent:** -12 Faunal records for Soehl Cave and 8 Fauna for Crevice Cave in Perry Co. -Report on the calf "recovery" operation in Perry Co. (see McCain). -Survey notes (300+ ft) and 10 photos of a recently reopened Perryville cave. Cave was last visited in 1997. **Nathan Curran sent:** -6 Faunal records and 1 Use monitoring form for Woods Cave in St. Louis Co. -New map of new cave, Reprieve Ledge Cave (CL=46) in Shannon Co. He sent 2 photos of the entrance, a Use monitoring form and 2 Faunal records. -New map of Auburn Cave (CL=189) in Texas Co. -3 Use monitoring forms for 2 - Dark Hollow Unnamed Cave and Moss Spring Cave, plus 2 Fauna records for one of the Dark Hollow Caves, now given the name Sand Trap Cave along with a map of this cave. -34 Faunal records for 3 caves in Shannon Co.: Moss Spring, Flat Hole and Bunker Hill Caves. -A new cave record for Blood of the Turtle Cave in Shannon Co., right next door to a cave long visited before this discovery. He sent his records that were easily imported into the database to the different tables we document: Use, Fauna, Narrative and of course the Main table. It does pay to look for caves when looking for the known cave; more caves are out there waiting to be documented. Easy to say, when I've been to this cave and never went further than the bigger entrance next door...guilty as charged! (See Mitchell for map below.) -86 Faunal records, 3 cave Narratives and 15 Use monitoring forms for Shannon Co., while working with CRF to monitor caves on ONSR. -New Map of Federal Cave (CL=27) in St. Francois Co. **Ken Grush sent:** -135 historical cave reports for Perry Co. from hardcopy archives. One new sketch map, with some survey notes, was added to database. I've been trying to inventory the Rolla files while capturing any undocumented cave data for the database. A few instances were found where old survey notes existed but final cartography was never done. Can't remember exactly but 15 or so 5-drawer file cabinets exist. Three more counties need to be inventoried yet; over 16,000 files were generated including pdfs for OCR work and those resulting transcripts, so far. -New map for Baker Cave No. 2 (CL=154) in Ste. Genevieve Co. (see McCain). **Derek Holtman sent:** -12 (via Tony Schmitt) Faunal records for Federal Cave in St. Francois Co. **Scott House sent:** -Map of Fern Shelter (CL=65) in Shannon Co. -New map of Tater Hill Cave (CL=223) in Oregon Co. (see Novicky below). -187 Fauna records, 26 Narratives, 27 Use forms and over 400 modifications to the Main table of the database, for almost 2 weeks, at least, partly in Winona with many cavers contributing. **JJ Huelsing sent:** -2 land plats showing 2 MSS caves in Lincoln Co. The interesting part is that the plats are from an 1878 atlas. **Mark Jones sent:** -15 Use monitoring forms, 15 cave Narratives and 64 Faunal records for 15 caves, with most on the MTNF and a few on the ONSR, in Carter, Oregon and Shannon Counties. He was working out of the Winona joint MTNF/ONSR office for 4 days. **Candace Kovacs sent:** -145 photos/videos for 2 caves in Barry Co.: Brock and Mushroom Rock Caves. -Another cache of 150 or so photos for 5 caves, she visited over the past month in Stone Co.: Buzzards Den, Coon Hollow Crack, Coon Hollow Dripping and two Horse Creek Caves. -17 Faunal records for Panther Cave in Laclede Co. **Mike Kovacs sent:** -A new map for Buzzard Den Cave (CL=30). The early information labeled this as Horse Creek Sink Cave in Stone Co. -Another new cave for Stone Co., this one is named for the owner's husband, Lt. Commander John's Cave. Mike later submitted the map (CL=38). -6 photos of Brock Cave in Barry Co. -New cave record for new a new cave, Terrapene Cave in Ozark Co. A map is in progress. -Survey data in Walls, a KML files and entrance photo for Panther Cave in Laclede Co. -New map of Panther Cave (CL=1202) in Laclede Co. The new map includes a nice profile through the length of the cave and more clearly displays the 2 levels present in the cave. **Dan Lamping sent:** -8 Faunal records and 4 Use monitoring forms for a float trip on ONSR. -24 Faunal records and 7 Use monitoring forms and 1 cave Narrative for a second June float trip on ONSR. -A Narrative, a Use form and one Faunal record for a trip to The Gulf in Wayne Co. The entrance was

flooded enough to obscure the entrance when they arrived. **Dani Lotz sent:** -New map of relatively new cave, Rat Loop Cave (CL=34) in Shannon Co. **Andrew Mayer sent:** -2 new maps for Shannon Co.: Window (CL=25) and Tannenwong (CL=53) Caves. **Chad McCain sent:** -Report on the calf “recovery” operation in Perry Co. (see Cooper). -Report on Berome Moore’s passing the 27-mile hurdle! -Sent survey notes for Baker Cave #2 in Ste. Genevieve Co. -3 pages of survey notes in Crevice Cave, Perry Co. **Kohl Mitchell sent:** -A re-map of Moore Cave in Pike Co. There are still a few leads and known passage to complete the map. -A report on a “lost” cave in Monroe Co.; to all appearances the cave must have been flooded by Mark Twain Lake. -New map of Blood of the Turtle Cave (CL=22) in Shannon Co. (see Curran above). **Dennis Novicky sent:** -Via Scott House, a Use monitoring form and 2 Faunal records for Tater Hill Cave in Oregon Co. He surveyed the cave (see House above). **Jen Sutherland sent:** -A description for new cave, Lodder Spring Cave, in Shannon Co. **Mick Sutton sent:** -A bio-summary of the cave habitat of Kelly Hollow Cave in Oregon Co. Our Biology Assessment section of the database has long been a container for a lot of different reporting of the cave usually by species. The assessment of the cave is a little bit different in that it attempts to summarize the available suitable habitat and what species are suitable there. In part, that is documented by the species present, which are now reported in our Fauna records. Mick has recently been concentrating on the larger cave systems that do support more species. At least 5 other large caves have received very detailed summaries. Many others have been covered previously focusing on some counties. It’s a long road to travel, but Mick is working on it. -11 Faunal records (most newly found but older records) and 11 Narratives that were moved from the biologic summaries that he is replacing. And he added 12-13 new biologic summaries. -24 new Faunal records for a cluster of 4 caves in Oregon Co. close to the Eleven Point River. A new Narrative for White Pine Cave in Phelps Co. He was also updating the Bio-assessments of Phelps Co.; this round included 10 caves. In addition, he also sent in cave Narrative for trips in 1995-1996 that he captured from his personal “cave logs”. He sent 17 Word documents which included multiple caves on some of the trips; the result was 34 new cave Narratives from 1995-1996. **Bobby Swain sent:** -A map of new cave, Litzsinger Cave (CL=205) in St. Louis (see Breite above). -A report on a visit to an ONSR cave. **Angela Swan sent:** -Narrative, her first reporting, for a SEMO public-outreach group-trip to Streiler City Cave in Perry Co., Seven different fauna were observed and reported. -A Narrative for Indian Camp Cave with 3 Faunal records, in Perry Co. **Richard Thompson sent:** -About 20 photos for 3 caves in Polk Co.: Buzzard, Horseshoe and McConnell Caves. Fortunately, he also sent a map of McConnell Cave (CL=233), **Jessica Wilson sent:** -Via Candace Kovacs, 7 photos of Brock Cave in Barry Co. -New map of Terrapene cave for Laclede Co., Cub Cave. She included location, directions, description and photo.

Kansas City Area Grotto (KCAG): **May 4th:** Jim & Julie Cooley checked a cave on private property in Shannon Co. that is normally flooded this time of year, only to find that it was as dry as they’d ever seen it. In addition, the landowner provided a faunal observation of a cavefish (*Typhlichthys eigenmanni*) made in this cave, complete with good confirming cellphone video. They set stations and shot survey lines on another low-ceilinged cave on the same property. **May 5th:** Jim Cooley and Allen Deuschle worked on the survey of a privately owned cave in Shannon Co., focusing on map QC and survey training. **May 6th:** Jim Cooley continued working with Allen Deuschle, doing survey training and bio monitoring in two caves on private property in Shannon Co. **May 8th:** Jim Cooley led a team consisting of Bill Gee and Palmer Bowles to continue surveying in the normally flooded cave mentioned in the May 4th entry. The main achievements for the day were the sketching of three 150-foot-wide “cross sections” in two-foot-deep boot-sucking mud, and the observation of an additional five cavefish. **May 9th:** Cooley, Gee and Bowles continued surveying in another

privately owned cave in Shannon Co. **May 10th**: Jim & Julie Cooley returned to the low-ceiling cave visited on the 4th and sketched it. Meanwhile, Bill Gee and Palmer Bowles donned wetsuits and attempted to push the survey of a low watercrawl at the back of another cave, only to be thwarted by the unexpected presence of a large quantity of colonial bats that had decided to roost in four-foot-high (and lower) passage. Never seen that before! That twist of events turned the trip into a bio monitoring trip in other, distant parts of the cave. **May 18th**: Jim Cooley searched for a landowner-reported cave on private property in Carter Co., but didn't find it. **May 19th**: Jim Cooley got more concise directions from the landowner, searched again for the landowner-reported cave on private property in Carter Co., and found it this time. This new cave was reported to the MSS cave database as Stolen Beer Cave (CTR-117). **May 20th**: Jim and Julie Cooley and Allen and Laurie Deuschle monitored High Canyon Cave (ORE-170) and Root Cellar Cave (ORE-098) for CRF on the Mark Twain National Forest. **May 21st**: Jim Cooley, Allen and Laurie Deuschle returned to Stolen Beer Cave (CTR-117) and explored it with a distometer, resulting in approximately 285 feet of cave being discovered. **June 2nd**: Jim & Julie Cooley gave a multi-part Powerpoint presentation entitled ***Speleology: A Citizen Science*** to a Scout troop in Blue Springs, Missouri, in preparation for the group's upcoming visit to Perkins Cave. 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. **May 31st**: Jim & Julie Cooley introduced Peter Schnegelberger to several caves near Peter's new home in Benton Co., which are accessible only by boat. Some of these have active, on-going survey projects. **June 10th**: Jim & Julie Cooley checked the



One of the Benton County Caves being

survey stations that were marked in 2021 in a cave in Benton Co., and rather amazingly, found all of them intact in a cave that one would have assumed was frequented by the public. Apparently not. **June 11th**: Jim & Julie continued setting survey stations in the cave visited the previous day, and created line plots. **June 12th**: Jim & Julie conducted a photo trip in this cave. **June 14th**: Jim & Julie continued their survey work in this cave. **June 28th**: Jim Cooley and Jennifer Jackson set stations and took shots for line plots in a privately owned cave in Benton Co. **June 28th**: Jim Cooley, Dillon Bond and Noah Ayers continued to set stations and take shots for Cave (CL=22). -New line plots in the same privately owned cave in Benton Co. Afterwards, to whet their appetites, Cooley introduced Bond and Ayers to two other privately owned caves in Benton Co., one of which has an on-going survey, and the other of which is a future survey candidate. **June 29th**: Jim and Julie Cooley introduced a new landowner to his cave in Benton Co., which cave is currently being surveyed.-- Jim Cooley

Lake Ozarks Grotto (LOG). Dillon Bond organized a trip into Skaggs Cave – 10 people signed up but only 7 people went. Buzz Caldwell donated a weed eater to Klaus Leidenfrost for use at Goodwin Sink and property. A grotto picnic was held on June 20th at Stark Caverns pavilion with 14 in attendance plus baby Sydney. Chairman Ken Long led a trip into Kiesewetter with grotto members Dillon Wood and Noah Ayers and two others – Ian Cooper and Larry Franklin on June 27th. New LOG member, Noah Ayers reported on a trip with Jim Cooley and LOG member Dillon Bond. on June 28th.- Alberta Zumwalt

Stygian Grotto. May 9 – 16 - Stygian Grotto members Ian Pelletier, Bobby Swain, Rob Lawson, Kyle Mann and Eric Basinger attended the week long NCRC training in Mentone, Alabama. Rob has now completed Level 3 - Rescue Instructor which includes Incident Command. Ian has completed Level 2 - Bridge, which is additional training beyond the Advanced Level 2 training, Bobby has completed Level 2 - Advanced and Kyle and Eric have completed Level 1 - Basic. Several other members have completed (OCR) the weekend course, Orientation to Cave Rescue as well in the past. Jack Rufner of Chouteau Grotto and Eric Basinger of Stygian were this year's recipients of the NCRC training scholarship started by grotto member Ian Pelletier. The scholarship covered the course costs of the week-long Level 1 training. **May 17** - While performing an MDC/ MO Stream Team biological survey, Allan Breite located 2 potentially new cave leads in Lincoln Co. A discussion with the property owner to return is ongoing. **May 18** - Bobby Swain, Ian Pelletier and Allan Breite completed the survey of a new St Louis Co. cave on May 1 and Bobby has now submitted the completed map to the MSS caves files. **May 30** - Allan Breite led a trip in IL Caverns with newer members Emma Huff, Peter Carlson, Gil Ouelette and Kylee Cook who had not been there previously. A usually large number of larval salamanders were observed on the trip. **May 31** - Bobby Swain led a trip into Berome Moore with a group of folks new to caving. **June 12** - Bobby Swain led a group from the MO Master Naturalist Conference into Cliff Cave. **June 24** - Bobby Swain led a youth group trip into IL Caverns. MVG member Dan Lamping assisted Bobby. **June 27** - Grotto members Ian Pelletier, Bobby Swain, Rob Lawson, Kyle Mann and Eric Basinger executed a mock rescue training at Cathedral Cave in Onondaga SP. Bobby's report has also been submitted to the Liaison. Allan Breite did landowner outreach with several landowners in Crawford Co. One landowner has confirmed continued support of MO cavers and access to his property. A follow up trip has been planned.—Allan Breite



Cathedral Cave - Mock Rescue by Bobby Swain. On Saturday, June 27, 2026 over 50 cavers representing at least 5 Missouri grottos, MO State Park employees as well as personnel from North Crawford County Ambulance Services, Leasburg, Cuba and Union Fire Departments descended on Onondaga Cave State Park to participate in a much-needed mock rescue training scenario. This scenario was designed to teach regional cavers, the state park personnel, and responding agencies what would happen in the event of a situation on either a wild cave tour or public cave tour where a person was unable to get themselves out of the cave. In this simulation, a patient with a broken leg, a lost person (who then conveniently broke an ankle when found), and a rescuer who had overexerted themselves were used as examples of problems to be handled by cavers

and Incident Command. A full-scale rescue operation was set up, with rescue boats waiting on the river at the natural entrance of Cathedral Cave to take extricated patients to the EMS staging location at the boat launch downstream. This event was coordinated by Bobby Swain of Stygian and MVG Grotto with assistance in planning and logistics by Rob Lawson of Stygian/MVG Grottoes, Ian Pelletier of Stygian Grotto, Kyle Mann of Stygian/MVG Grottoes, Jack Rufener of Chouteau Grotto and Eric Basinger of Stygian Grotto assisting as instructors. Techniques taught by the National Cave Rescue Commission (NCRC) were employed and modified where needed and demonstrated to cavers and agency personnel. After a quick field session packaging patients and moving them in litters on the surface, they were able to employ these techniques in the cave environment. Despite almost



everyone doing this for the first time as a new team, everything went impressively smoothly and all patients were removed from the cave fairly quick. The teamwork, persistence and communication were absolutely incredible to watch. Everyone involved learned something new, and many cavers returned to their hobby as valuable assets, even just with the experience of having done this once. More mock rescues are planned for the future, so stay tuned.