

THE MSS LIAISON

VOLUME 61 NUMBER 1-2

January – February 2021

AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS:

CAIRN – CCC – CHOUTEAU – DAEDALUS – KCAF – LEG – LOG –
MCKC – MMV – MSM – MVG – OHG – PEG – RBX – SEMO – SPG.

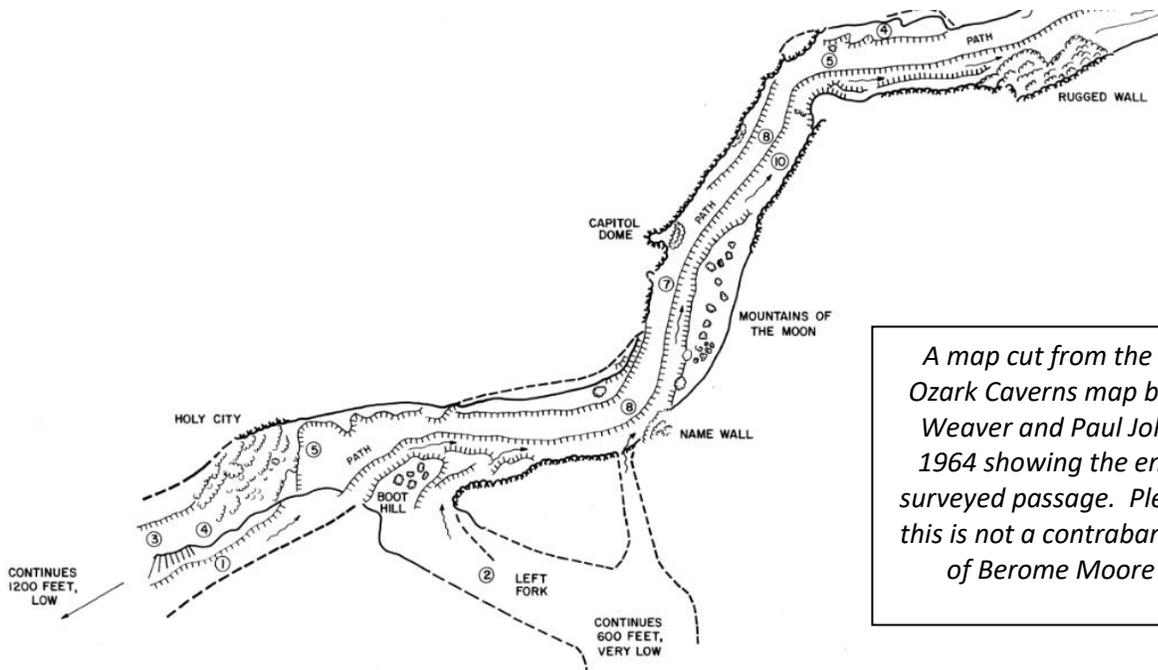
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Missouri Speleological Survey. President's Message March 2021 by Dan Lamping

It's been a year now since COVID first hit and in that time, we've all fared a bit differently. The effects which the disease and its spread has had on our lives has varied from person to person, family to family and region to region. Some of us have lost friends and family members, or maybe even jobs along the way. Unfortunately, the caving community has not been without loss from the devastation of COVID. With vaccines now slowly making their way through the state, some may be feeling like a return to normalcy is well on its way, some are already there, and others will continue taking necessary precautions to limit their interpersonal contact until this scourge has long passed. For the most part caving activity has slowed down over the past year though some trips have still occurred, just in smaller groups. We've found that having in-person meetings has been difficult in winter since we can't really count on warm weather to practice social distancing outdoors. With that in mind, we decided to cancel the winter MSS meeting, with tentative plans to meet in-person in the spring. Spring is now approaching and plans are underway for a spring meeting. We've also initiated the conversation on what MSS meetings should be, and how we could potentially change them. One significant change that's occurred over the past several years has been roving meeting locations in the fall and spring to accommodate projects and field work in support of the goals of the MSS. It's looking like that will be the case for our upcoming meeting.



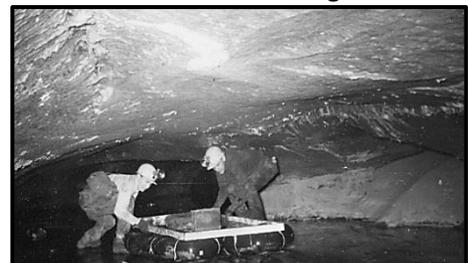
A map cut from the original Ozark Caverns map by Dwight Weaver and Paul Johnson in 1964 showing the end of the surveyed passage. Please note, this is not a contraband overlay of Berome Moore Cave.

While plans are not final yet, we're working on holding the spring MSS meeting at Lake Ozarks State Park the first weekend of June. The event will be centered around an effort to survey Ozark Caverns (CAM 002), a tour cave operated by the state park. The existing map, which dates back to the 1960s only shows the developed tourist trail. However, at the end trail the passage splits and the map states that the right passage continued for 1,200 feet, low and the left fork continued 600 feet, very low. Since the main tourist trail is not very long, a single crew could likely map it in a day. We'll need a few crews willing to work in "low" or "very low" conditions to extend the survey into unmapped passage. Assuming all goes according to plan, the MSS meeting will then be held on Sunday, June 6 at 10:00 A.M. with the precise location to be determined as we further solidify plans with the park. It's looking like we may get a primitive area, nearby the cave for camping. If weather allows, we'll probably have the meeting at the camp. We're trying to also arrange for a shelter to be available for our use if it ends up raining, though the shelter may be at a slightly different site than the camp. As those details are worked out, we will communicate them in the May issue of *Liaison*. In the meanwhile, if you have questions about the cave survey, please contact myself or Scott House and if you have questions about camping arrangements or the meeting site, please contact Krista Bartel.

If for some reason we encounter a hitch in this plan, we'll of course conjure up another site with different objectives where we can still get together, get some caving in, and have a meeting.

Remembering H. Dwight Weaver. Dwight was born May 29th, 1938 in Centralia, Illinois. He discovered his love for caves when the family moved to Hannibal, MO. He was nine when he and his father got permission to explore passages not on the Mark Twain Cave commercial tour, using flashlights and a Coleman lantern. More exposure to wild caves came when his family moved to Ashland, Missouri when he was eleven. Dwight and his friends made their own lights with 6-volt batteries and sealed beams.

At the age of thirteen, Dwight mapped 600 ft. of Hunters Cave, Boone County. He went back in 1959 and mapped it for real. One of the first big caves that he explored was Devil's Icebox. Since they didn't have a boat, Dwight got a bunch of empty paint cans from a house painter. He burned them out and soldered the lids back on. He made a wooden frame with partitions and secured the cans under it. The homemade raft weighed 100 pounds with door handles on each end to carry it. Dwight and his Dad went about 1 ½ miles back into the cave. On the way out, they started losing cans which showed up later on other trips into the cave. Later, Dwight used 6 inner tubes and put a plywood sheet on top and secured them with rope.



Jerry Vineyard and Dwight Weaver (right) work their raft over the frozen cave stream near the entrance of the Devil's icebox in 1957.

In 1955, Dwight joined the National Speleological Society (NSS 3753FE). The NSS sent him a list of members. From that list, he became acquainted with Dr. Oscar Hawksley of Warrensburg State Teachers College and Jerry Vineyard, a graduate geology student, who were in the process of forming the Missouri Speleological Survey (MSS), along with Frank Dahlgren from St. Louis. While at Hannibal in 1962, Dwight met and talked with Dr. J Harlen Bretz who wrote *Caves of Missouri*. That's when he realized that he had seen him years earlier at Cameron Cave when Dr. Bretz was doing his research.

Dwight joined the Missouri Speleological Survey (MSS) when it was founded in 1956. He served as a past President and past Editor of *Missouri Speleology* and *MSS Liaison*. In 1980, he received the Lester B. Dill Award for significant contributions to Missouri speleology. In 1985, the MSS was awarded the President's Volunteer Action Award and Dwight (MSS President) and Tex Yokum (MSS Board member) went to Washington, D.C. to accept the award from Pres. Ronald Reagan. Before their trip to Washington, Jerry Vineyard (a close friend of Dwight's) told Dwight that he couldn't go to Washington with a beard and mustache so he shaved it off. As a result, no one recognized him in the pictures without the beard. He had been pranked by Jerry! The two often played tricks on each other.....

In 1967, Frank Hurley (owner of Jacob's Cave) and Dwight organized the Lake of the Ozarks Caving Club which later became Lake Ozarks Grotto. In the beginning, Dwight was program and projects director. An early project was an archaeological dig at Dry Cave in Camden County under the direction of Kent Buehler. Another

project was Project Auglaize, a search for caves in karst areas west of Carroll Cave, directed by Dwight. The April 1970 issue of Missouri Speleology (Vol. 11 No. 2) contains "A History of the Caves of Camden County, Missouri," written by Dwight. Dwight Weaver, along with Tex Yokum and Leonard Butts of MMV Grotto, completed an MSS project to develop a new interpretive tour for the guides at Fishers Cave in Meramec State Park. Dwight was also a past Editor of LOG's publication, *Ozark Speleograph*. When the grotto joined the MSS, he was the first MSS Representative. In 1992, Dwight was one of the seven members of Lake Ozarks Grotto that founded the Missouri Caves and Karst Conservancy (MCKC) and served as the organization's first Secretary. Dwight continued to be a dedicated LOG member, never missing a grotto meeting or function. He had been a former member of Western Missouri Grotto of the NSS, one of the state's first grottoes and Chouteau Grotto.

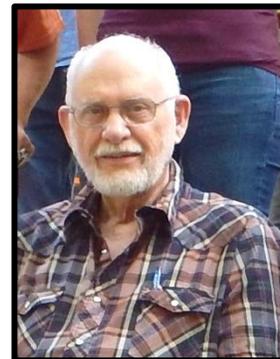


Photo courtesy of Jim Sherrell

Finding a lack of books published on Missouri caves in the early days, Dwight vowed in 1956, that he would write a book on the history of Missouri caves. That didn't happen until 1972 with a book on Mark Twain Cave. He and a caver friend, Paul Johnson, were mapping Mark Twain Cave when he was asked to write a book on the history of the cave. Dwight was asked by Lester B. Dill, the owner of Onondaga Cave, to write a book about the history of the cave that he could use to get the cave on the National Register of Historic Sites. So, Dwight wrote *Onondaga – the Mammoth Cave of Missouri* in 1973. Dwight wrote a total of thirteen books including these cave-related books: *Meramec Caverns in Legend & History*; *Missouri – The Cave State*; *Wilderness Underground, Caves of the Ozark Plateau*;

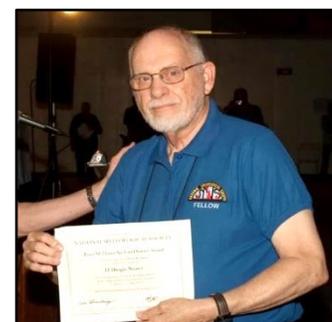
Missouri Caves in History & Legend. Other books include *A Pictorial Guide to HahaTonka State Park* and books on history in the Lake of the Ozarks area.

From 1964-1984, Dwight was associated with Missouri show caves: Ozark Caverns, Stark Caverns (which was renamed Enchanted Caverns, then Fantasy World Caverns and back to Stark Caverns), Meramec Caverns, Mark Twain Cave, and Bridal Cave. He was a former editor of the Cave State Courier, newsletter of the Missouri caves Assn., and editor of Down Under, the newsletter of the National Caves Assn. While active members of the Missouri Caves Assn., he and Frank Hurley worked on a cave protection act to be proposed by the show cave operators of Missouri. In 1977, Dwight gave testimony before the legislative committee on behalf of the Missouri Cave Protection Bills in the House and the Senate. He and Jerry Vineyard took a bus load of legislative representatives on a trip through Mark Twain Cave and Cameron Cave in Hannibal and several other caves in the state, in order to acquaint the legislators with Missouri cave resources and show them why a cave protection act was needed.

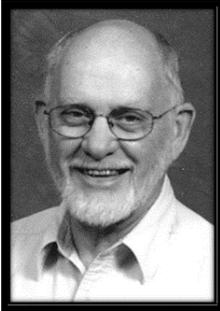
In 1985, he went to work for Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) as a public information specialist, winning national and regional awards for his articles and documents about caves and karst in Missouri. He retired from the Division of Geology in Rolla in 2000.

In 2006 he received a Historic Preservation Award from the Eldon Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and awards from the Bagnell Dam Strip Association and the Lake Ozark Betterment Committee for contributions to local history.

Dwight was a charter member of the American Spelean History Assn. He was presented the Peter M. Hauer Spelean History Award, an award for outstanding contributions in the field of Spelean history, at the 2015 NSS Convention held in Waynesville, MO. That same year, he received the Exemplary Community Achievement Award from the Missouri Humanities Council.



Dwight served on the Missouri Board of Geographic Names as a governor appointee representing Lake of the Ozarks. He was a member of the Missouri Writer's Guild and the Ozarks Writer's Guild. He was a member of the Camden County Historical Society, the Miller County Historical Society and a columnist for Lake of the Ozarks Business Journal. He was a contributing member of the Ozark Mountain Pepsi Collectors Club. Diet Pepsi was his beverage of choice!



Dwight passed away on November 27th, 2020 while he was home recuperating from triple bypass surgery. He leaves behind his loving wife of 61 years, Rosie and daughter, Karen.

Dwight touched the lives of so many people. He was a walking history book with a wealth of knowledge on caves and had many great stories to tell. He will be truly missed.
—Alberta Zumwalt

Missouri Speleological Survey Files Report for March 1, 2021. 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. **Nathan Aaron sent:** -Six entrance photos, 4 photo-views from the entrance and 7 GPS location for caves in Phelps Co.: among them are Gourd Creek (previously not GPS), Pack Rat and Hudgens Spring Cave. -A fourth GPS location for what is believed to be a cave lost since Bretz's, the four caves are Rattlesnake, Goat Ranch, Ranch Caves and now Wildcat Cave. Hmm! All are in Texas Co. -2 GPS locations and descriptions in Pulaski Co. for McMillen and Gottfried Caves. He also sent entrance photos for both caves. These caves have been reported on since 1975, it's a good idea to refresh the reporting on caves that haven't been heard for 45 years! GPS locations are a huge improvement over the Public Land Survey System locations. Over half of our "known" caves don't have GPS. He also sent 14 faunal records for these 2 caves, plus records on a new Salem Cave Crayfish site in Phelps. -3 videos of Slaughter Canyon being filled from 2 nearby spring outlets low on the sides of the huge sink. -An update of the Main Table entries for Hudgens Spring Cave in Phelps Co. Lots of good information. -Sent documentation, photos, descriptions, directions, fauna, for Hidden Nest Cave and new Latrine Cave in Crawford Co. Hidden Nest, an older record, was short enough that it was overlooked on the first trip but was confirmed as a cave on the follow up trip. A third new cave hasn't been named yet in the same area. -Updated information on Brown, McMillen, and Gottfried Caves in Pulaski Co.: GPS, new description, ownership and faunal records. -Seven new leads: 3 in Pulaski Co. and 4 in Phelps Co. Aaron has plans to further document these leads and has a team of cavers to help him get them surveyed. -New information for the Main Table in the database for Hamilton Cave of Phelps Co., including GPS, description, photos and 6 faunal records. **Kirsten Alvey-Mudd sent:** -33 new Faunal Records for Bluff Dweller, Kettle, DOTY, Fledermaus, Skylight and New (name pending) Caves in McDonald Co. -Almost 50 new Faunal Records for 8 caves on Cloud 9 Ranch in Ozark Co.: Bat, Bear, Bear #3, Cave Hole, Cold, Dani, Fogey and Frank Caves. -8 Faunal Records for Old Spanish Cave in Stone Co. -An entrance photo and 11 Faunal Records for Russell Cave, while in Ozark Count. -16 Faunal records for Gideon and Maddox Caves in STN Co. -A new cave with 5 Faunal Records in Stone Co., Lost Fox Cave. In addition to location Alvey-Mudd provided a description. **Matthew Beeson sent:** -A revised map of Natural Bridge Cave in Barry Co., to show the Pierson formation as the host rock. -New map of new Blankenship Cave (CL=713, CD=62) in Barry Co. He also supplied the appropriate "geologic formation" (not speleothems) as Ordovician Cotter. -Two maps that are "works in progress" of Mary Lawson Cave in Laclede Co. and Ash Grove Cave in Greene Co. It's always good to have a backup of data somewhere other than the same computer. As WIPs, I don't yet have survey lengths yet. **Seth Colston sent:** -A preliminary map of Geronimo Springs Cave in Camden Co. He included a link to an overlay of the lineplot on an aerial photo. **Jim Cooley sent:** -A collection of map files for Buddha's Shrine Cave in Shannon Co. Cooley always included the sketch and notes from the survey, color and black and white and Walls data on his map submissions. Always good to have. -Reports on activities down in Shannon Co.: 48 new Faunal Records, 3 Monitoring forms and 2 new cave Main Table Records; all Filemaker exports ready for easy import. -2 new photos (with credit to Grush, shame on me) for two of the five Bear Caves in Ozark Co. **Dillon Freiburger sent:** -2 reports, 2 entrance photos,

some changes to the Main Table and 15 faunal records for 2 caves in Taney Co. He also provided a LIDAR image to show it proper position/location. -Report on China Hole in Taney County with an entrance photo, directions and description. Unfortunately, a live, "trapped" skunk was at the bottom of the pit. -2 new cave reports and 1 known cave, all with entrance photos in Hickory Co. Freiburger uses the Main Table export from Filemaker, makes it a lot easier to import data to the archives. He followed this up with 2 detailed reports on 2 of the other known caves on this property. **Ken Grush sent:** -40 photos of 3 caves visited in Jefferson Co., specifically for entrance shots. -While House had the operative database, 12 new accession numbers (mostly Shannon), 17 Faunal Records and 17 Reports. And then imported these records into the operative database when it was returned. -Updates to database. After S. House returned the operative database, I was able to add 11 new caves (all Shannon Co.) 68 fauna records, 9 monitoring forms, 44 reports and 14 maps to database and to archives. After 3 days, I had to return the database to House for his next venture in Winona. -150 historic and 6 new Reports; largely historic reports from Christian Co. Also, in Christian Co., 53 new Faunal records were added from these historic records. **Sam Grush sent:** -20 photos for the same 3 Jefferson Co. Caves, and he also captured 3D images and models of 2 of the caves. **Derik Holtmann sent:** -Over 100 photos collected from the group of cavers that found 9 caves in Shannon Co. over a weekend. **Scott House sent:** -About 21 caves had their main table updated in Oregon Co., about 20 caves in Shannon; and about 10 in Perry Co. These changes included adding survey length or geology; a lot of additions of directions and descriptions from the many new caves in Shannon and in Perry Co. Made changes to the accession numbers for leads; Shannon and Perry Co. have lots of leads that need verification; so, 3 numbers are allotted for accession number tracking. And House was able raise Stanley Death Cave back to life as a cave; last *Liaison* report, we mistakenly removed this cave. Added 3 Monitoring Reports, 19 Faunal Records and 22 new Accession Numbers (largely more "new," not down-graded cave, leads in Perry Co.). -A new cave record for Douglas Co. by the name of Mercer Cave. We have a problem with a lost cave in this same section and within half a mile. Without further documentation on Weitzel Cave, it will become a lead in our database. If anyone knows where Weitzel Cave in Douglas Co. is, please send me an email. And we will add it back to database if we can confirm it is a separate cave. -Modified Main Table records for 27 caves in the database, including information from several surveys, updated GPS locations, directions, biology, geology, "cultural", ownership, 13 Monitoring reports and about 56 faunal records. And he added two new caves for Shannon Co.: Island Branch Blowing and J K Caves; with all the attendant information for the Main Table for each of these caves. -A new map for Hobbit Rest Cave (CL=27) in Shannon Co. **Mark Jones sent:** -12 cave Reports, 60 Faunal records and 12 Monitoring Forms for work done mostly on the Scenic Riverways but also in conjunction with MDC, while working at the facility in Winona. -45 pages of field survey notes for 3 caves in Texas Co. and 1 in Howell Co. **Ed Klausner sent:** -A map of newly re-found cave in Texas Co.: Ranch Cave (CL=172). It's only been lost from our records for 60 years. Use LIDAR, increase your chances of finding new caves! **Dan Lamping sent:** -9 new cave entries for Shannon Co., the caves are: Blair View Crawl, Blue 22, Dripping Ledge, Fallen Tree, Lidar, Lidar Pit, Social Distance, Tim Harrison and Window Caves. All data was in Filemaker export format, easy to import and update the database! -Update map of Tumbling Creek Cave (OUL) in Taney Co., this is a remap of the cave. Latest mapping reflects 8352 ft completed of 9710 ft from previous survey. -A new map of Wallace Cave (CL=1779, VR=37) in Shannon Co. **Joe Light sent:** -All the data to update the file for Coldwater Creek Cave in St. Louis Co. Four pictures of the cave were included, 2 for the cover photo in the database. -A link to a blog about Berry Cave in St. Louis Co. The blog itself largely just re-posted the 1890 article from the St Louis Post-Dispatch about a rescue of boys lost in the cave. Luckily, we already had the 1890 article transcribed and in the database. -Report and photos for Fort BelleFontaine and a correction to the name, it is "Font" not "Fount" as many including myself thought (SPG might understand my confusion). -A page from the internet where Cherokee Cave is ranked #2 out of 22 of St Louis' Creepy Urban Legends. -New cave location in St. Louis Co.: Sedition Cave. Light wrote a summary report filling in most of the blanks in the Main Table of the database for this cave. He included a picture of the entrance that will become the "cover" photo for the cave to know what to look for when in the field. -2 news clippings from 1954 and 1974 on Meramec Caverns and Mushroom Cave respectively. -Almost 30 different newspaper clippings from newspapers across the state on Onondaga Cave in Crawford County. Most were from before 1950. He also sent a handful of clippings for various caves around the state. -A new cave report for Cherokee Brewery Cave. Yes, it is on Cherokee, but no it is not

the same. They did recently have an active brewery. -A news clipping for “lost boys” in Muench Cave in Phelps Co. from 1960. Two clipping for Meramec Caverns in Franklin Co. from the 1940s. Two reports on caves around Perryville in Perry Co., but not very specific as to the caves discussed. Two newspaper articles from the 1860s that mentioned more than 20 known caves, about 90 years before Bretz! -A link to a site highlighting low resolution images of old “picture” postcards. I collected over 75 post cards for Onondaga Cave, Meramec Caverns and Missouri Caverns for the archives. **Chad McCain sent:** -Trip reports for the recent survey in the Tom and Berome Moore Caves (connected) currently at 23.03 miles. They had 4 teams surveying on the first weekend of the New Year. -New cave map for Via Pit in Jefferson Co. -Via Facebook, McCain sent 7 maps of the Berome Moore Cave System. At 23.04 miles, 5% of Missouri’s cave mileage, this submission has to be some kind of record! And just like that they’re out of date already...well by 0.01 mile! -Survey report, first in 2021, for the Berome teams, now broke 23.33 miles total. -New map of Gegg Cave in Ste. Genevieve Co. The map includes relative positions of 9 other “caves” but 2 Pits are far enough away, without passage that only the relative location is shown. Two caves are acknowledged as directly connected Esoteric and Calf Killer are connected for a total mileage of 4.5 miles. **Rhonda Rimer sent:** -Notes on two caves found back in 2008 but not reported: Denny Hollow and Keyhole Caves in Oregon Co. We were trying to clear up a mystery on another cave attributed to Rimer in Oregon and instead found these 2 new ones. **Jim Sherrell sent:** -Bat count for Berome Moore Cave in Perry Co. Tri-color bats are way down from 2011 reporting. **Tyler Skaggs sent:** -Entrance photo for Indian Cave in Texas Co. -3 faunal records for Bat Cave in Laclede Co. along with some photos of the entrance. **Isaac Smith sent:** -5 Faunal records for an MDC cave (“first” fauna records for this cave) in Shannon Co., in this case in close cooperation with Monitoring on the Scenic Riverways while at the Winona facility. **Mick Sutton sent:** -biologic assessments of the environments for 4 caves in Shannon Co. So, the distinction here is how is the environment conducive to cave life, not just reporting the cave life, but reporting the environment. How much dark zone, stream or not and energy inputs are potential topics for any given cave. -8 Monitoring forms and 14 Faunal records for historic visits to MDC Caves in Shannon Co. -Biology summary and Trip Report for an MDC Cave in Shannon Co. -14 historical reports for caves that he visited between 1977 and 1983 including Carroll Cave, Jason Isgrig, White Creek, Kaintuck School and 2 nearby Coon Caves, Miesner Crevice, Seventy-Six, Cox, Parker, Round Spring, Wind and Georges Hole Caves. **Shawn Williams sent:** -Five cave reports for work done in Shannon Co. while working at facility in Winona. **Richard Young sent:** -2 nice reports with “entrance” photos focused on the karst in the Altenburg area of Perry Co. Two known caves, Chevy Pit and Scholl Cave and Spring, were identified and updated with GPS locations; and then they located almost 10 more “leads” that are distinct karst, have some promise of opening up but offer little access at the current time. —Ken Grush

Meramec Valley Grotto (MVG). Jan. 16th: Several MVG members and others surveyed 2,300 feet in an undisclosed location in Jefferson County, MO. **Jan. 23rd:** Chad McCain, Alex Litsch, Matt Bliss, and Isaac Smith successfully dug into some virgin cave in Ste. Genevieve County after 3 trips. **Feb. 5th – 7th:** Several MVG Members camped out on a cold, blistery weekend in Shannon County. Cave was surveyed on the 6th and lots of ridge-walking was done on the 7th. —Alex Litsch

Springfield Plateau Grotto (SPG). Jan. 9th—Charley Young, Max White, Brandon Van Dalsem, Treavor Bussard, Nathan and son Jacob Burton, Matt Bumgardner and Jon Beard participated in a trip to repair vandalized cave gates in Barry and Stone counties. First cave was Crystal Caverns (Barry Co), the MCKC-leased former show cave. While there, Jon and Matt reviewed the vandalism of late last year. Small damage, but lots of it. The inner gate was repaired and one of the deadbolt locks on the outer door was repaired. Jon and Matt checked out two impressive sinks west of the cave, but as impressive as they were, no entrance in either. The next gate repair was to the upper entrance to Cathedral Cave (Stone Co. - owned by Nathan). While Charley and Max worked on that, Nathan and Jacob showed nearby Belle Starr Cave to Jon and Matt. The short, but impressive, cave was mapped by Bob Taylor and Don Rimbach in 1967. It is less than 80 feet in length, but much of it is a vaulted dome issuing a nice waterfall. **Jan. 23rd—**Max White, Cheryl Paulson, Dillon Freiburger, Matt Bumgardner and Jon Beard were shown some vertical karst features by a landowner in Stone Co. Although speleothems could be seen down the fissure, it was too narrow to enter. Nearby, a small sink with a

metal structure was found. The “gate” didn’t prevent human entry, but may have been built to prevent livestock from falling in and getting trapped. The sink led to a small cave nicely decorated. Max took some photos. The cave was named Little Sink Cave. **Jan. 27th**—Brandon Van Dalsem, Nicole Ridlen and Jon Beard visited Fitzpatrick Cave (Christian Co) so that Nicole could video Jon regarding cave restoration in that cave for an educational series she has been producing, available on the Bluff Dwellers Cave Facebook page. While there, the group counted fauna in that cave as well as adjacent Breakdown Cave. **Feb. 5th**—Matt Bumgardner and Jon Beard checked out a cave lead brought to their attention by a landowner in Dallas County. The cave is located on a small dolomite bluff along a river. The cave is only 27 feet in length but issues a small perennial spring. It was named Wild Acres Cave. It consists entirely of a wet bellycrawl. Some of the water was issuing from its sand floor in minute boils. --Report by Max White, Materials provided by Jonathan B. Beard

Kansas City Area Grotto (KCAG). Jan. 9th, Bill Gee led a trip consisting of Krista Bartel, Martin Carmichael, Kayla Heady and Sandra Galloway to service data loggers in Carroll Cave. This trip completed the data collection for events in 2020. The link on the CCC website where the hydrology data for 2020 is discussed is: <https://carrollcave.org/?p=3881>. **Jan. 13th**- Jim Cooley met with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Private Lands Biologist Byron Mitchell and the landowners of a privately owned cave in Camden County, to work on details for building a large fly-over bat gate for a tier one gray bat maternity colony known to house up to 115,000 bats in the summer. Measurements were taken for an alternate site for the gate, deeper into the cave. **Jan. 23rd-24th** -Seth Colston and Matthew Hernandez participated in a two-day KCAG cave survey trip organized by Tyler Skaggs at Stallcup Cave (TEX-011) in Texas Co., west of Houston. Also participating in this effort were Mark Jones, Dennis Novicky, Brenda Goodnight, Krista Bartel, Treavor Boussard, Kirsten Alvey-Mudd, and Jill Lewis, which netted 1,523 feet of new survey, for a final interior survey length of 2,148.6 feet. This length represents the entire length of the cave ... uh, except for a few side passages which have yet to be explored and surveyed. **Jan. 22nd - 24th** - Lee Krout organized and led KCAG’s annual bat census trip to various caves at Cloud 9 Ranch, a



6,500-acre ATV and camping ranch in Ozark County that has 32 caves on the property. Nine inches of snow on the ground and sub-zero temperatures made the trip challenging. But three intrepid explorers and bat counters braved the deep snow and sub-freezing temperatures, using hand-lines to descend and ascend icy hillsides, to inventory the seven largest of these caves, included Kirsten Alvey-Mudd of Missouri Bat Census, supported by Kyle and Jill Lewis. While counting bats, the census team also hung new cave name signs on Bear Cave, Cave Hole Cave, Bear Caves #1, #3, and #4, Fogey, Cold, and Cloud 9 Bat Cave. These signs included the MSS accession number for the cave. Dani and Frank Cave

were also inventoried. Lion and Moonshine Cave were down such steep slopes that they could not be safely accessed, and so were skipped this year. The team found the entrance to Bear Cave iced completely shut (photo). However, since the team was hanging signs, they were carrying a hammer, which allowed them to force an entry through two thick curtains of solid water. Bat numbers stayed about the same as last year, while still representing a 95% decrease from pre-WNS times. A comprehensive guide and set of maps to these caves, similar to a large Missouri Speleology volume, are being prepared for the Ranch by KCAG, a project that has been on-going since 2012. We’re now on the home stretch! --Jim Cooley



Bear Cave entrance, Cloud Ranch...Not such a paradise THIS time!

Missouri Speleological Survey, Inc. - Report of the MSS Treasurer - December 31, 2020

ACCOUNTS:

General Fund	\$10283.07
Subscriptions/Donations Missouri Speleology	6432.27
Research Fund	9284.78
Anne Johnson Data Fund	18154.77
Affiliation Fees	877.00
Subscriptions Liaison	<u>461.00</u>
	\$45492.89

ASSETS:

Savings Bonds	\$ 2000.00
Interest Checking	7492.89
Certificates of Deposit	<u>36000.00</u>
	\$45492.89

Income Statement For the year ending December 31, 2020

INCOME

Missouri Speleology Subscriptions	\$220.00
Missouri Speleology	1995.78
Organizational Affiliation Fees	427.00
Liaison Subscriptions	150.00
Book Purchase	60.00
Amazon Smile	<u>5.00</u>
	Total
	\$2857.78

EXPENSES

Missouri Speleology	\$5188.00
Liaison	0.00
Anne Johnson Fund	0.00
Bank Fees	120.00
General Fund	40.00
Research Fund	<u>0.00</u>
	Total
	\$5348.00

Net Loss \$2490.22

Balance Sheet For the year ending December 31, 2020

ENDING BALANCE	12/31/2020	
Interest Checking		\$7492.89
Savings Bonds		2,000.00
Certificates of Deposit		<u>36,000.00</u>
	Total	\$45492.89

BEGINNING BALANCE	01/01/2020	
Interest Checking		\$9983.11
Savings Bonds		2,000.00
Certificates of Deposit		<u>36,000.00</u>
	Total	\$47,983.11

Net Loss \$2490.22

--Submitted by Don Dunham, MSS Treasurer.

MSS OFFICERS:

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Secretary - Alberta Zumwalt, 1681 State Route D, Lohman, MO 65053. 573-782-3560 Gzumw@aol.com

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Cave Files – Ken Grush, 32 Circle View Dr, Fenton, MO 63026. 636-600-0369 slagrush@gmail.com
MSS Liaison Editor - Gary Zumwalt, 1681 State Route D, Lohman, MO 65053. 573-782-3560
Gzumw@aol.com
Research committee -Dr. Robert Lerch, Dr. Michael Sutton, Dr. Doug Gouzie and Jeffrey Crews.
Cave Files Committee: Scott House. Ken Grush, Mick Sutton, Dan Lamping, and Jeffrey Crews.

Attention: The MSS affiliate fees were due in January. There are still some organizations that have not paid their fee: MVG, MSM, Roubidoux & SPG. Please send a check or money order for \$25.00 to the MSS Treasurer, Don Dunham, 147 Ron de Lee, Arnold, MO 63010.
To contact Don - email: don_g_dunham@yahoo.com or call: 402-203-3191

A thank you from Rosie & Karen Weaver:

Thank you for your kind words of sympathy during our time of loss. It gives us much comfort to know that you are thinking of us as we grieve Dwight's passing. It was so nice to see all of the comments you sent about him. Most comments were spot on about Dwight. He was a walking encyclopedia of Missouri caving history up to the final days.

We still struggle with the thought that he is no longer with us. A lot of the times when he was in the process of writing, we would not see him most of the day and night, because he was in his room working. We would have to check on him from time to time and make sure he was ok. But now we can't do that. His room is empty. There is no one to talk to and get the answers to questions whether it was on caves or the Lake of the Ozarks.

As we go through and sort all of his collections, it has been amazing to see all of the friends and business contacts he had made over his lifetime. With those contacts, he was able to write what you see in the books and articles he has published over the years. Those memories will live on for many years. Always cherish the memories of your loved ones. Warm Regards, Rosie & Karen

Calendar:

May 1st – Next *MSS Liaison* deadline.

June 5th – 6th – MSS weekend at the Lake of the Ozarks. Work trips will be planned for the weekend. Camping possible. The Spring MSS meeting will be on Sunday, June 6th at 10 am. More info later.

