

THE MSS LIAISON

VOLUME 63 NUMBER 1-2

January – February 2023

AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS:

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

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Missouri Speleological Survey- President's Message - March 2023

by Dan Lamping



The next MSS meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2023 at the Missouri Geological Survey in Rolla at 9:00 AM. Following the meeting there will be presentations, cave maps on display, and a cave files session. MCKC will meet on site later in the day.

Presentations are expected to include:

- Jeff "Spike" Crews on Missouri geology for cavers.
- Alex Litsch on the Valle Mines projects.
- Dan Lamping on the Love Cave.
- Mark Brooks on Blue River Cave: A Window into a Karst Aquifer.

For active cooperators of the MSS or those looking to get more involved, the cave files session includes a plan to put together runtimes of the Missouri Cave Database (MCD) for quads or regions of interest to take home and add to. Runtimes are stand-alone versions of the database that don't require the user to have the FileMaker software, which is what we use for the MCD. The hope is that people can add to the collective body of knowledge of speleology in Missouri by improving upon point locations, writing descriptions of caves, determining geology, adding faunal records, updating landowner information, etc. For those who are just looking to get started, a quad or two will likely get you going with more data to come as new information comes back in to the MSS. For those who are already active contributors, you may be able to get a whole county if there are plans to do something with the data.

On average we add about 100 new caves per year to the MCD. Knowing where caves are helps to determine where there are no known caves and in much of Missouri, looking where there are no known caves is a good starting place for finding new caves. But beyond finding new caves, there are many caves in the state, particularly those on private lands, where little is known. There's endless opportunity to get involved for those who are looking to plan their own projects and have the inclination to follow through while remaining consistent with the goals of the MSS, which include:

- A. To locate, record, conserve, and research the caves, of the state of Missouri.
- B. To provide a permanent, non-profit non-sectarian, cooperative organization for the pursuit of speleology.
- C. To disseminate knowledge of caves of Missouri through publications, conducting public forums, lectures and other similar programs.

- D. To establish and nurture a professional atmosphere among Missouri's speleologists.
- E. To cooperate with all individuals and organizations consistent with the forgoing purpose.

Potentially, on Friday, March 23 and Sunday, March 24, Scott House will lead trips to caves in the Mark Twain National Forest in the Rolla District. Those available and interested or those with questions should reach out to Scott at scott_house@hotmail.com.

Missouri Speleological Survey meeting at the Missouri Geological Survey



Directions:

From I-44 get off Exit 184 at Kingshighway - Go east
Go north onto Fairgrounds Rd.
West on Gale Dr.
Go to the second building on the south side of the road.

Site address is 1251a Gale Dr, Rolla, MO 65401 or 37.945685683747065, -91.78882525987515

Missouri Speleological Survey Files Report for March 1, 2022 by Ken Grush. 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. **Kirsten Alvey-Mudd sent:** -Seven new caves for Pike Co.: Bent Tree, Childs Play, Gravers

Digger, Pinnacle Peek Through, Raccoons Revenge, Ruhl Breaker and Twin Pop Dome Caves. Also, there was one new one for Lincoln Co.: Drought It's a Cave. The locations came with Directions and Brief Descriptions for the database. While working in the area of Lincoln and Pike County, she also collected 90 Faunal Records on 14 caves. -At least 13 hi-res photos and countless Facebook photos of her SWMO trip. One new cave with description and fauna was sent. About 150 new Faunal Records. -Records for STN County include 9 each with Faunal Records. -A return trip to north-eastern MO includes several caves that haven't been reported on since "first report" including Bryants Creek, Spring, Eds and Lubrecht (name finally corrected in database), Animal Den and at least 3 new caves (still processing). -There no official tally but she's reported on as many as 70 caves with over 500 Faunal Records so far this year. **Matt Beeson sent:** -Three new maps for Christian Co. for Dew Drop Pit (CL=18, VR=22), Down and Out Cave (CL=35) and Nine Hole Cave (CL=228). He also sent a "Trip Report" that had several good comments to add to Directions, Brief Description and Biology sections of the Main Table of the database. -A survey trip report for 4 caves in Christian Co.: Collapsed Dome Shelter (CL=21), Creep Block (CL=28), Peckout (CL=20) and Pine Holler (CL=52) Caves. Report included additional notes to add to Main Table of database like directions, hydrology and Faunal Records. Subsequently, all 4 cave maps were submitted. -A GPS location for a cave that has been in our database from the start, but was never GPS'd before. Location wasn't a lot different; it just wasn't a GPS location. -A round of new maps from a recent survey trip for 5 caves. Maps were sent for Blue Ridge (CL=34), Devreaux Ridge (CL=24), Devreaux (CL=32), Footbridge (CL=53), Garrison Ridge Mephitis (CL=42) and Groove Tube (CL=37) Caves in Christian Co. **Mark Brooks sent:** -Report on a survey trip to Blue River Cave, including survey notes, photos and 5 faunal records. **Martin Carmichael sent:** -Report on a trip to a Conservation Area in Boone Co. where the group monitored 6 caves and gathered 25 Faunal Records and GPS, along with entrance photos for each cave. **Karamea Christofferson sent:** -A report on Herako Cave in Jefferson Co. with photos and 3 Faunal Records. **Spike Crews sent:** -Report on survey trip to Carroll Cave in Camden Co. -3 "historic" 2017 Use Monitoring forms along with 2 Trip Reports, all archived. -Survey notes and Trip Report for Spanish Step Cave and SW Cavelet, both in Phelps Co. **Josh Cooper sent:** -An email reporting a Faunal Record for Bear Bed Cave in Perry Co. -Two videos of Crystal Pit in Perry Co. from a survey trip there (see McCain below). He also sent two Fauna Records for the pit. **Scott House sent:** -10 Use Monitoring forms and 20 Faunal Records for CRF work at the Winona facility in January. - new maps of Hydrangea Cave (Christian Co, CL=93); Bear Camp (CL=12), Grubb Landing Cave 1 (CL=15) and 2 (CL=13) of Carter Co.; Bay Nothing Landing Shelter (CL=17), Bay Nothing Shelter (CL=14) and Bay Nothing Tube (CL=18) of Ripley Co.; and Waterfall Cave (CL=72) of Shannon Co. (see Jones below). -3 entrance photos for a trip to Phelps Co. Also Use Monitoring and 3 Faunal Records for Huffman Cave, including a more improved location. They surveyed one, King Sink Tube (CL=17). **Mark Jones sent:** -34 cave Narratives, 114 Faunal Records, and 33 Use Monitoring forms. Several descriptions were added including reporting on 6 new caves split evenly between Ripley and Carter Counties. This was all CRF work from Winona on both ONSR and MTNF over 10 days in January. The six new caves were surveyed (see House above). **Dan Lamping sent:** -A map of Branson Spring Cave (CL=59) in Shannon Co. -4 Use Monitoring forms for 4 visited caves; while doing CRF work at the Winona facility. -7 entrance (different caves) photos from a recent trip to Shannon Co. and a LAD property. -4 (read also as 4 caves) Use Monitoring forms for work on LAD properties in Shannon Co. **Chad McCain sent:** -A report on a recent survey trip to Carroll Cave in Camden Co. -A new line-plot of both Berome Moore and Crevice Cave in Perry Co. -Report on Berome Moore making 25 miles of passage. -Survey trip for

Crystal Pit in Perry Co., along with 6 photos and 4 Faunal Records. -Sent Fauna Records from Karamea Christofferson on a recent Berome Moore Cave Trip, she sent 7 different fauna. **Kohl Mitchell sent:** -A revised/final map of Jackson Hole Cave in Ralls Co. Mitchell also keeps the MSS current with Chouteau Grotto's Foresight. -Survey report for 4 caves in Monroe Co! Who knew Monroe had any caves? Mitchell has over the past year tripled the cave count for the county. He confirmed a lead, found a new cave that had 2 caves nearby, so 4 caves with a county that had only 2 known caves. Each of the new ones has been surveyed. The 4 caves are: Bill Gray, Buzzard Arch, Marina Maze and Just Barely Caves. **Richard Orr sent:** -New information on a cave in Jefferson Co., enough to know it is a cave, Stone Face Cave. -A new cave and a cave lead for Gasconade Co. **Jack Ray sent:** -Reports on 8 caves in SWMO. **Marissa Schorr sent:** -A Trip Report, Use Monitoring, photos and 9 Faunal Records for Dead Coon Cave in Phelps Co. -A new GPS reading and 18 photos of Little Cave in Pulaski Co. **Mick Sutton sent:** -35 modifications to Faunal Records; plus his own 50 new Faunal Records. -18 Narratives of his many cave trips from 1990-1991. -77 additions to the Faunal Records, all were "historical" coming from 2009 and before. **Richard Young sent:** -Three Faunal Records for a brief visit to Crevice Cave in Perry Co.

Facts and Overview of Missouri Speleological Survey's Online Store

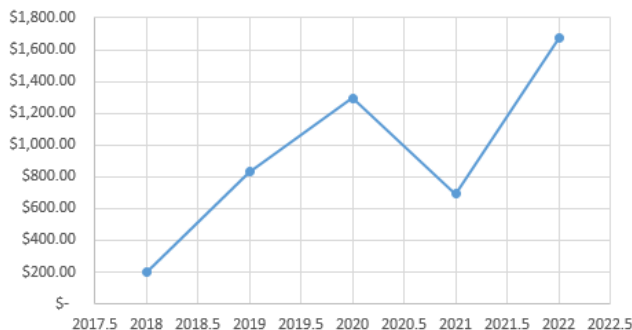
By Joe Light – Joe@JoeLight.com

The Online MSS store, which sells copies of our *Missouri Speleology*, has been online since February 2018. Ubercart, an open-source e-commerce solution, powers the store which is incorporated into the MSS website which is a Drupal framework. The MSS does not handle any financial transactions. Those are handled by PayPal.



YEAR	Total Dollar Sales	Total Number of Orders	Average Per Sale
2022	\$1673.81	102	\$16.41
2021	\$692.48	44	\$15.74
2020	\$1295.00	69	\$18.77
2019	\$830.50	39	\$21.29
2018	\$199.00	14	\$14.21

Total Dollar Sales 2018 - 2022



Our sales have continually increased over the years except 2021. The 2021 slump in sales is unexplained.

Total Sales: \$4,690.79
 Total Number of Orders: 268
 Average per Sale: \$17.50

Number of Journals Sold: 333

Our first online sale was for two journals for a total of \$13.50 to an individual in Ballwin, MO.

Our largest sale was \$276.50 on 01/18/2020 for 26 journals to an individual in Winona, MO. Our smallest order is for \$4.00 to several individuals in early 2021. Our top three journals account for 83.5% of all sales.

The sales statistics from the online store do not include the physical sale of journals at events by Don Dunham, which are significant. Don Dunham is the reason for the success of the online store. Don updates the web store, takes the orders, fulfills the orders, and responds to customer queries.



Print Cave Maps for Free

The St. Louis Public Library, through their Creative Experience Program, allows card holders to print one large format print for free, including cave maps. You can print a large format once a month (12 times a year). Simply upload your print to the library website. The library will print it and ship to any of their 17 locations for you to pick it up.

What if I am not a city resident? No problem! St. Louis City has reciprocal agreements with St. Louis County and St. Charles County so you can get a St. Louis City Library Card and enjoy all the perks. If you work or are a student within the City of St. Louis, you can also get a card.

<https://www.slpl.org/large-format-print-request-form/>

--Submitted by Joe Light as published in the *Meramec Valley Grotto Newsletter*.

Springfield Plateau Grotto (SPG). **Jan. 20th** - Matt Beeson and Sarah Peterson did some CRF mapping and inventory work in the Christian County Nine Hole Cave, Down and Out Cave, and Dew Drop Pit. Two healthy pipistrelle bats were observed in Nine Hole Cave. **Jan. 28th** - Nathan Burton, Dionne Springman, Ashley Mitchell, Heather Pyle, and Matt Beeson mapped 515' in Jeff Cave to tie Jeff Cave to the survey of Smallin Civil War Cave making it one cave system. **Also, in Jan.** - Jon Beard conducted 14 days of speleothem reconstruction in Fantastic Caverns (Greene Co.) Jon Beard conducted 8 days of speleothem reconstruction in Bridal Cave, Camden Co. **Feb. 3rd** - Matt Beeson surveyed some more passage in Old Spanish Cave in Stone Co., bringing the surveyed length to 1,317 ft. **Feb. 9th** - Matt and Amanda Beeson did more CRF work in Christian Co., mapping and inventorying Creep Block Cave, Peckout Cave, Collapsed Dome Shelter, and Pine Holler Cave. **Feb. 11th** - Matt Beeson, Heather Pyle, and Phillip Johnson started the resurvey of Indian Creek Caverns in Stone Co. They mapped 540 ft., starting at the entrance. It was just two days after a heavy rain and the water was waist deep in one place. Otherwise, most of it was knee deep. **Feb. 12th** - Jon and Alicia Beard

renewed their marriage vows in Bridal Cave. **Feb. 13th**- Matt and Amanda Beeson did more CRF work in the Christian Co., mapping and inventorying Blue Ridge Cave, Devreaux Ridge Cave, Devreaux Cave, Garrison Ridge Mephitis Cave, and Foot Bridge Cave. **Feb. 15th** - Matt and Amanda Beeson did more CRF work in the Christian Co., mapping and inventorying Groove Tube cave, Straight and Narrow Cave, Trickling Brook Cave, Flat Slab Shelter Cave, Broken Down Cave, and Wetbelly Cave. Four healthy pipistrelle bats were observed in Straight and Narrow Cave. **Feb. 18th** - Jim Cooley organized and led a Guide Training Trip to Cleveland Cave. Trip leaders Tyler and Becca Marlin also attended. Guides in training included Ashley Mitchell, Dionne Springman and Sarah Peterson. The trip leader took two groups of Boy Scouts into Cleveland Cave. The first trip was led by Tyler and the second by Sarah. Each trip lasted a few hours and went all the way back towards the end of the cave, allowing the boys to explore each side passage. Many of the boys seemed interested in the multitude of fossils found on the walls. The second group got to see the Jessie James signature. The final group exited the cave a little after 5 and returned home, while the Boys Scouts stayed and camped. **Feb. 25th** - Trenton Wells, Sarah Peterson, Treavor Bussard, Jessica Shew, and Matt Beeson continued the Indian Creek resurvey project by mapping 608 ft. The total of the resurvey is now 1,148 ft. **Also, on Feb. 25th** - Nathan Burton led the first SPG New Members/Family Trip into Old Spanish Cave (Stone Co.), with a total of 9 cavers. There were a total of 4 kids, all female from ages 4 to 11. SPG members attending the trip included, Ashley and Landon Mitchell and daughters Koda and Tamzen, Heather Pyle and her daughter Meagan, and Chris Gertson and his granddaughter Ivy. During the trip the group saw a few tri-color and big brown bats, but no one kept count. Several salamander larvae, two frogs and crickets were also seen. Almost every caver went through the muddy watercrawl to see the tall last room in the back of the cave. It was a successful Family Trip and SPG is planning more trips geared to bringing families and integrating a younger generation into caving with the grotto. **Also, in Feb.** - Jon Beard conducted 11 days of speleothem reconstruction in Fantastic Caverns (Greene Co.) and conducted 1 day of speleothem reconstruction in Bridal Cave, Camden Co. Eric Hertzler and Jon Beard took measurements of Neongwah Bear Cave for a proposed cave gate.--Report by Max White, Content provided by Jonathan Beard, Matt Beeson, Nathan Burton, Ashley Mitchell and Sarah Peterson

Lake Ozarks Grotto (LOG). March 25th – A work trip to Goodwin Sink was attended by LOG members, Ken Long, Gary & Alberta Zumwalt, who joined Klaus Leidenfrost, Jean Knoll & Elizabeth



Sutherland at the site. It was the first work trip since everything was stolen from the premises. It is very sad that someone would do that. Most of the items taken were donated by individuals. Elizabeth worked in the cave and managed to get a little farther into the cave. Photos courtesy of Ken Long. – Alberta Zumwalt

Kansas City Area Grotto (KCAAG). Jan. 7th - Bill Gee led one of his two annual data logger service trips into Carroll Cave, accompanied by KCAAGers Nathan Taylor and Mike, Candace and Chloe Kovacs. All of the data loggers were serviced. Details are at <https://www.mocavesandkarst.org/7-january-2023-data-logger-service-trip/>.



Another addition to our small portfolio

Feb. 4th - 5th - Jim and Julie led a survey trip that included KCAAGers Bill Gee, Dustin Schmidt, Peter Schnegelberger, Nathan Taylor, Kristen Vogel, and Tristin Whetstine, along with Chouteau cave surveyors Diana Dawson, Bryn Downes-Ward, and Kohl Mitchell, to survey a large, gated gray bat maternity cave on private property near the Lake of the Ozarks. First stop was Flippen Cave, to do map QC checks and to deliver a sign indicating that this cave is managed for the landowner by the Kansas City Area

Grotto. Flippen Cave was gated by KCAAG and other caver organizations in 2010. Then we moved on to the gray bat cave, which was gated by Cave Research Foundation (CRF) for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) in April, 2022. There our adventure was immediately complicated by the fact that wood rats had consumed ALL the perishable survey



Our maternity colony survey project

stations set in March, 2022, and by needing to run an extensive exterior survey up the hill (at the request of the landowner) to accurately characterize how the terminating sinkhole on the surface relates to the cave system. So, we started out the day recreating the survey lines from our four bullet-proof stations. (The sinkhole proved to be right where we thought it

would be.) **Feb. 6th** - Cooley led a reduced team of Bill Gee, Peter Schnegelberger, Tristin Whetstine and Cliff Gill to survey two small caves on a nearby MDC Conservation Area, and monitor four others

(previously surveyed) for human impacts. Feb. 18th - Jim Cooley led a caver team of KCAGers Becca & Tyler Marlin and SPGers Sarah Peterson, Ashley Mitchell, and Dionne Springman as guides to Cleveland Cave, where they hosted some 25 Scouts and their leaders from Troop 395, Leawood, Kansas. Troop 395 is led by Daniel Bilbrey, eldest son of George Bilbrey, a long-time CRF caver. This trip resulted in three more approved trip guides for Cleveland Cave, all from SPG. The 20 KCAG grotto helmets were used. **Feb. 25th** - Rick Hines, Carroll Cave Conservancy member #1, led a crew consisting of KCAGers Jeff Bowman, Bill Gee, Cliff Gill and his daughter, Marty Griffin, Shawn Kober, Mike Kovacs, John McGuire, Dennis Murphy, and Nathan and Sam Taylor, to put the roof on the Pic Walenta Memorial Pavilion at the Carroll Cave silo. Details on the adventure are found at <https://www.mocavesandkarst.org/25-february-2023-putting-a-roof-on-the-pavilion/>. -Jim Cooley

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Research Committee -Dr. Robert Lerch, Dr. Michael Sutton, Dr. Doug Gouzie and Jeffrey Crews.

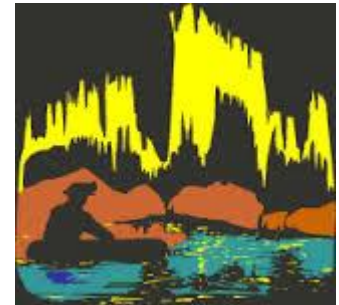
Cave Files Committee: Scott House (Chairman), Ken Grush, Mick Sutton, Dan Lamping, and Jeffrey (Spike) Crews.

Missouri Speleological Survey

Winter Board Meeting Agenda

March 25, 2023

*Division of Geology and Land Survey Annex Conference Room
111 Fairgrounds Road, Rolla, MO*



Morning Session

- Building opens at 8:00

Board meeting begins at 9:00 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

New Business

Projects and Announcements

- Cave files / Database
- Agency Reports

- *Mark Twain National Forest*
- *Ozark National Scenic Riverways*
- *Missouri Department of Conservation*
- *State Parks*
- *Others*
- **Affiliate Organizations Project Reports**
 - MCKC
 - Carroll Cave
 - Berome Moore Cave
 - Others
- **Public Outreach**
 - Facebook & Website

Next meeting

- Rockbridge State Park / Devils Icebox in September?
- Cuivre River State Park / Lincoln County in October?
- Other ideas

Adjournment

(Please note: MSS Affiliate fees of \$25 for 2023 are due. Please pay at the meeting or arrange to have it mailed to the MSS Treasurer: Don Dunham, 6014 Valley Creek Ct., Imperial, MO 63052. Checks/money orders should be made out to the Missouri Speleological Survey, Inc.)