

THE MSS LIAISON

VOLUME 64 NUMBER 5-6

May – June 2024

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- July 2024 by Dan Lamping

The Fall 2024 MSS Meeting will be held at Pleasant Valley Nature Preserve in Jefferson County, just south of St. Louis (6701 Twin River, Rd, High Ridge, MO 63049) on Sunday, September 15 at 10:00 AM. This is the site for Pleasant Valley Cave, which is owned by the Jefferson County Parks Department, but as of recently has come under the management of the Missouri Caves and Karst

Conservancy (MCKC). As a caver, it's highly likely that you have a yellow bat sticker on your vehicle. This is a symbol used by cavers across the U.S. and has international recognition. So, the story goes, the design for the bat stickers was created by caver Earl Biffle in the 1960s, who made it a letterhead for MMV Grotto. While the design was rejected for the grotto letterhead, it would later be used as a fundraiser to help purchase Pleasant Valley Cave to help protect it. Eventually, the cave was purchased by the Nature Conservancy, who donated it to Jefferson County Parks. Last year, MCKC worked out an agreement with Jefferson County Parks to take over management of the cave with plans underway to do a cave clean-up, install a bat friendly gate, resurvey the cave to make a complete map, and open the cave to limited recreational caving. The plan for the weekend includes cave trips into Pleasant Valley Cave on Saturday, September 14, to work on clean-up of the cave by removing trash and possibly begin the resurvey. For the Saturday trip, meet at the pavilion (go through the gate) at 10:00 AM. For the Sunday Board meeting, the gate to the pavilion will be open by 9:00 AM. The pavilion is located here **38.462621, -90.571731**. Note, this cave does have a vertical, pit entrance. You must be proficient in SRT to enter and exit the cave. It is likely we could use surface support as well, to haul out trash, so if you'd like to help, but don't possess the skill set to safely enter/exit, your help could still be needed. Camping for the weekend will be available on Friday and Saturday nights at West Tyson County Park, a short drive from Pleasant Valley. The campsite is located here **38.510023, -90.587697**. Enter West Tyson Park and go right at the first intersection. The campsite is on the left just past the maintenance shed, with bathrooms a short distance beyond. Note, I will not be staying at the campground and there are no current plans for a group meal but there are numerous restaurants nearby in Eureka. If you are planning to camp and / or go to Pleasant Valley Cave on Saturday, please RSVP to Dan Lamping (danieljlamping@gmail.com) and Tony Schmitt (tonymary2601@yahoo.com).

For the upcoming meeting, we actually do have some business to attend to. The current framework for the MSS website is expiring and will no longer be supported. Joe Light has managed our website for the past 10 years. He'd like to pass that torch on to someone else. So, the MSS is

looking for someone with web design experience who can help build a mobile friendly website using WordPress. Please let me know if you are interested. We also need to formalize our Cave Files Committee. This has been an ad hoc committee for some years and has worked well. But we really should include the committee in our Constitution. Elections will also occur for president and vice president. If nominated, I would be willing to serve another term. The treasurer position will also need to be reappointed.

At the most recent NSS Convention in Sewanee, TN, I attended a state cave survey round table discussion, with representatives from Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Virginia, and West Virginia, along with cavers who are organizing a cave survey for California. It was interesting to hear how each state operates. There were definitely similarities and regional differences. Ultimately, I came away feeling pretty confident in how we operate in Missouri.



I hope to see you all in Jeffco in September.

Missouri Speleological Survey Files Report for July 1, 2024 - 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. **Karamea Christofferson sent:** -15 Faunal Records and 7 bio-pix for a trip to Crevice Cave in Perry Co. -A map of Buzzard Babies Cave (CL=46) in Shannon Co. Along with his map submittals, Jim includes his Walls data, survey notes and Xara files. **Jim Cooley sent:** -(from Garrett Bell, MSM) A report and 6 photos from Lewis Cave in Ripley Co. -10 Faunal Records from Camden, Carter and Shannon Counties. -A map of Midco Spring Cave (CL=81, VR=18) in Carter Co. -2 new caves, Turner Bluff Tunnel and Turner Bluff Slab Cave in Oregon Co. Caves were surveyed and maps are in progress. -2 new caves for Shannon Co. -Map of Tunnel Den Cave (CL=38) in Carter Co. -Map of Goat Cave (CL=57) in Shannon Co. -46 Faunal records and 6 Monitoring forms for Carter, Oregon and Shannon Co. **Jeff “Spike” Crews sent:** -A geologic report on features in Mushroom Cave in Franklin Co. **Nathan Curran sent:** -Narrative of survey trip to an urban cave in the St Louis region, and 5 Faunal records. - Corrections to the database for Kiefer Creek Estavelle Cave in St Louis Co, and for Wade Cave in St Charles Co; both caves had bad latitude/longitude in the original reporting. With Curran data, we could see the conflicts in the original report for Wade, but also saw that some of the data was spot on. Nathan used that data to find the cave and confirm its “correct” location. -Via Dan Lamping, a trip narrative and 8 faunal records for same urban cave on a subsequent survey trip. -A map of Hilltop Cave (CL=154, VR=37) from Paddy Creek in Texas Co. -Maps of Fern Rock (CL=35) and Cave of the Sentinel Tree (CL=11) in Shannon Co. -Report on 2 Unnamed Cave #2 and 3 in St. Louis Co. This is an area where the hilltops are covered with homes and the valleys just might hide the caves. But it’s also an area where lots of sinkholes were filled and managed as drains. Neither cave was found and presumed filled by man or nature. **Corey Ellis sent:** -3 Trip Reports for the 3 days spent on the ONSR, where 9 known caves were monitored in Shannon Co; his faunal counts were previously reported. **Ken Grush sent:** -Some 225 Narratives, 2 “new” old (1899 and 1914) maps for Crystal Cave in Jasper Co. and 15 Faunal Records, all, captured from the Missouri hardcopy archives for Green, Franklin and Jasper Counties. **Rick Hines sent:** -122 photos from the Ripley Co. Eclipse tour that included Turtle

Shell and Lewis Caves in Ripley, and Midco, Midco Spring and Fish and Bev Caves in nearby Carter Co. **Scott House sent:** -20 new caves for Texas Co. in the Paddy Creek area; this was the joint effort of MSS/CRF cooperators to whittle the lead list down and add to the cave resources of the MTNF. Prior to the trip, there were some 25 leads in Texas, now there are 7. Many leads became caves upon further inspection and survey...and well surprise, more were found! -While working in Winona for a week, 179 Faunal Records, 94 in Shannon Co. and 73 in Texas Co.; 48 new Use Monitoring forms equally between Shannon and Texas; 2 more new caves for Texas; and then modified some 32 records, most in Texas Co., where he updated First Reporter, Geology, Entrance Dimensions and other fields in the Main Table of the database. -Maps for Canopy (CL=150), Salamander Pool (CL=57), Critter Shelter (CL=31), Face (CL=100), Dwarf Crystal (CL=37), Greenwood (CL=173), Orcus Crawl (CL=36), Slither (CL=21), Bloodsuckers Bluff (CL=50), Stalactite (CL=38) and Cutback Crawl (CL=15) Caves; all in Texas Co. ("part" of the mapped caves on the Paddy Creek weekend). At least 2 maps displayed 2 caves in relative position to each other. **JJ Huelsing sent:** -7 Faunal records for a public tour at Cliff Cave in St. Louis Co. **Mark Jones sent:** -Over 450 photos of 26 caves in Carter, Oregon, Shannon and Texas Counties. Texas Co. included 10 caves during the Paddy Creek expedition. **Mike Kovacs sent:** -A video of Midco Spring Cave in Carter Co. **Dan Lamping sent:** -6 Entrance Photos for the database for cave in the Paddy Creek area (MSS weekend trip) in Texas Co. -5 Faunal Records for bat sightings in Cliff Cave in St Louis Co. -One Ringer Pit lead and Fairington Cave in St. Louis Co. for Adam Marty. **JJ Liebel sent:** -213 photos from a trip to Canyon Cave in Oregon Co. **Joe Light sent:** Report on Cliff Cave in St Louis Co.; including seeing 11 bats. -Reports for Hamilton Hollow and Little Hamilton Cave in Washington Co.; 2 Faunal records, one for each cave. -Several old (3 from 1873, yes not last century, but before that!) newspaper clippings for Labadie Cave. One clipping also referenced nearby Tavern Rock Cave. His report included a trip to the cave and 10 photos of signature in Labadie dating from 1880 to 1960. -2 reports of cave rescues from the 1960s, one in Pleasant Valley Cave of Jefferson Co. and the other from Bruce Cave of Pulaski Co., both successful. -A Narrative for Cliff Cave in St. Louis Co. and included 3 Faunal records. -Brief Narratives on visits to Sheep and Fisher Cave in Franklin Co. A Faunal record and 7 photos were also included for Fisher Cave. **Alex Litsch sent:** -4 Entrance Photos (plus some 20 or so more) for the database for 4 caves in the Paddy Creek area (MSS weekend trip) in Texas Co. He included a Trip Report that was included in the database and was used to add to Brief Description and Directions to the 4 caves. **Kohl Mitchell sent:** -4 Monitoring forms, 7 Faunal Records and several Main Table entries for Roxie and Magee Caves in Pike Co., Cedar Creek Natural Tunnel in Boone, and "new" Eagle Point Cave and Puddle Pit in Ralls. Surveys are in the works. -Map of Roxie Cave (CL=32) in Pike Co. -Map of Eagle Point Cave (CL=30) in Ralls Co. -14 Faunal Records and 3 Monitoring forms for the Camp Yarn Caves in Carter Co. -Map of Wiczorek Cave (CL=1014) in Ralls Co. **Marissa Schorr sent:** -More than 80 photos, including 8 entrance photos for the database for 8 caves in the Paddy Creek area (MSS weekend trip) in Texas Co. -Five Narratives for the caves she visited during the Paddy Creek Trip. Narratives were helpful in adding Brief Directions to the database. **Mick Sutton sent:** -5 Monitoring forms for caves in the Paddy Creek area of Texas Co., during the pre-MSS survey trip. -7 Faunal Records and 1 Use Monitoring form for Bluehole Cave in Oregon Co. -22 historical Narratives for 59 caves in Carter, Oregon, Reynolds, Ripley and Shannon Counties. **Bobby Swain sent:** -New GPS coordinates for Tufa Wildlife Cave and an entrance photo. -A map of Big Creek Canyon Cave (CL=15) in Shannon Co. -A map of Ursa Minor Cave (CL=25) in St. Louis Co. The cave is a new feature for the database and Swain sent a lot of accompanying information for the database: directions, description, geology and entrance

dimensions. **Craig Williams sent:** -Cultural Assessments for the work in Texas Co. on the Mark Twain National Forest.

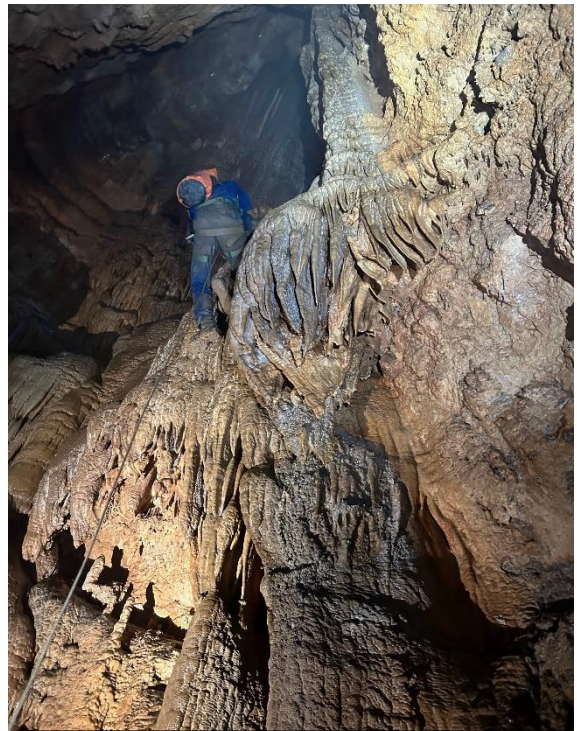
Kansas City Area Grotto (KCAG). May 18: Jim & Julie Cooley led a team including Max White, Cheryl Paulson, Jerod Ozee, Mike & Candace Kovacs, and Kohl Mitchell to undertake project caving activities at the Midco Iron Works properties in Carter Co., as well as on the nearby Mark Twain National



Cedar Bluff Cave (ORE-084)

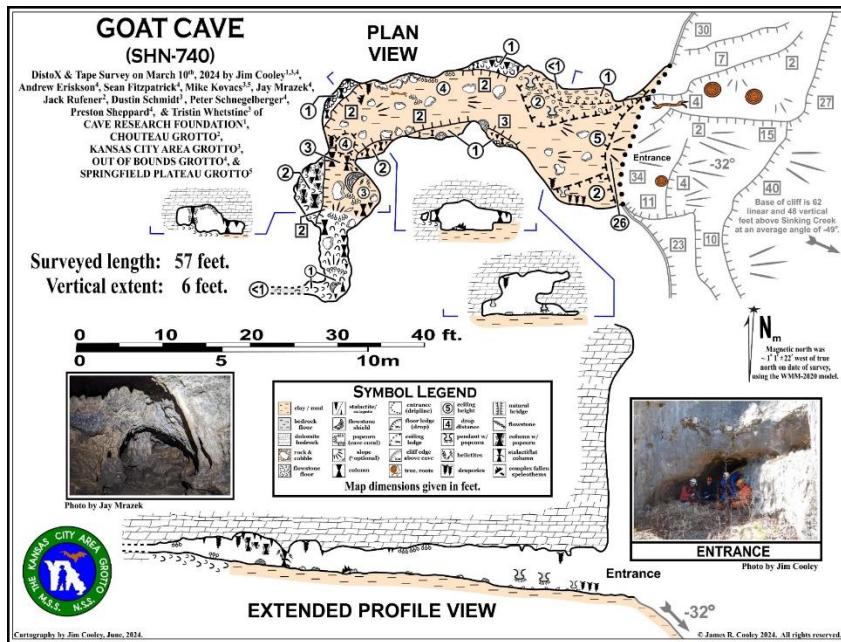
Forest. The team first rigged a 30-foot ladder to allow them to access Midco Spring Cave (CTR-012) from below, then completed the sketch of the map, correcting a “horizon bias” error in the exterior survey. Afterwards, Kohl Mitchell led the Kovacs and Jerod Ozee on a one-mile off-trail hike to monitor Camp Yarn, Lower Camp Yarn, and Buzzard Caves on the Mark Twain National Forest (MTNF). Cooley and Mitchell finished up the day shooting survey lines in Fish and Bev Bulldoze Cave (CTR-028). **May 19:** Cooley and Mitchell continued surveying Fish and Bev Bulldoze Cave (CTR-028). **May 20:** Jim Cooley and Richard Orr were led by landowner, Dave Turley, to the correct location for Creek Cave (CTR-029). They ridgewalked a section of the Turley property (Midco Iron Works) that had not been visited before, and identified two new caves, tentatively identified as High Overhung Cave and Three Deer Cave. Cooley was nearly trampled at Three Deer Cave when three large, adult does were scared out of

the large entrance of this cave and took flight at a high rate of speed. Cooley and Orr finished the day resurveying Tunnel Den Cave (CTR-088), access to which was made simple by a half-mile-long brush-hogged trail provided by Dave Turley. Landowners like these are VERY hard to find! **May 21:** Orr and Cooley visited Ramsey Cave and the gate to the property on behalf of the non-resident landowner, Julianne Ramsey. They also monitored Midco Cave and did a biological inventory and photo shoot. **May 23:** Jim and Julie Cooley corrected some survey shot errors in a privately owned cave in Shannon Co. **May 24:** Jim Cooley, Bill Gee and Allan Breite continued the survey of a large, privately owned gray bat cave (non-bat-occupied sections) in Shannon Co. **May 25:** Jim Cooley, Bill Gee and Allan Breite continued the survey of a large, privately owned spring cave in Shannon Co. **May 26:** The private lands cave survey effort was cut short by heavy overnight rains (four inches total) which caused the creek to rise and threatened to flood the campsite. An emergency exit was executed at first light



Monitoring Turner Mill Pit (ORE-065)

in a blinding rainstorm. **Jun 7:** Jim Cooley, Andrew Erickson, Jay Mrazek, Preston Sheppard, Jack Rufener and Peter Schnegelberger visited Ravine Cave (ORE-197) by canoe on MTNF and finished all the survey shots required to sketch the cave. **Jun 8:** Jim Cooley, Andrew Erickson, Jay Mrazek, Preston Sheppard, Jack Rufener, Tristin Whetstine, Kohl Mitchell, Nathan Taylor, and Peter Schnegelberger canoed down the Eleven Point River from Greer Access to Cedar Bluff, and with Cooley and Taylor acting as spotters, hiked up behind the bluff and rappelled down the cliff into Cedar Bluff Cave (ORE-084), which was surveyed. The team then floated out to Turner Mill Access, stopping to recon Turner Bluff. **Jun 9:** Jim Cooley, Andrew Erickson, Jay Mrazek, Preston Sheppard, Jack Rufener, Tristin Whetstine, Kohl Mitchell, and Peter Schnegelberger hiked in to Turner Mill Pit (ORE-065), then rigged and dropped the three pitches in this cave, monitoring it for human impacts for MTNF. The team then also identified and surveyed two new caves from the recon the day before, Turner Bluff Tunnel (ORE-218) and Turner Bluff Slab Cave (ORE-219). **Jun 10:** Heavy rains put the Eleven Point River two feet above flood stage and precluded the planned float to Horseshoe Bend Bluff Cave #2. So, the team returned to Turner Mill Pit with a telescoping ladder and evaluated it for a resurvey, as there is quite a bit of passage in this cave that is not on the map. **Jun 11:** Jim Cooley, Andrew Erickson, Jay Mrazek, Preston Sheppard, Jack Rufener, and Peter Schnegelberger rigged, dropped and monitored Surprise Sinkhole Cave (ORE-087) on MTNF. Then Andrew Erickson, Jay Mrazek, Preston Sheppard, and Jack Rufener took a wild canoe ride down the Eleven Point River and checked to see if Horseshoe Bend Bluff Cave #2 (ORE-052) was visible through the heavy summer foliage. It was. **Jun 13:** Jim Cooley, Andrew Erickson, Jay Mrazek, Preston Sheppard and Peter Schnegelberger continued the survey of a large, privately owned gray bat cave (non-bat-occupied sections) in Shannon Co. **Jun 14:** Jim Cooley, Andrew Erickson, Jay Mrazek, Preston Sheppard, Sean Fitzpatrick and Peter Schnegelberger finished the survey of a long-lost, high-in-the-bluff cave on private property in Shannon Co. that required SRT to access. **Jun 15:** The same team located,



photographed and described two new caves on private property in Shannon Co., named Lost Schnegelberger Shelter and Cave, respectively. They then continued the survey of a large, privately owned spring cave, also in Shannon Co. **Jun 16:** Jim Cooley, Andrew Erickson, Jay Mrazek, Preston Sheppard, Sean Fitzpatrick, Kohl Mitchell, and Peter Schnegelberger continued the survey of a large, privately owned gray bat cave (non-bat-occupied sections) in Shannon Co.— Jim Cooley

Springfield Plateau Grotto. May 4th--Neongwah Bear Cave and Bridal Cave with SPG members. **June 10th--**Florida Caverns tour (Marianna, FL) This is a state park. **June 19th--**Cathedral

Caverns tour (Woodville, AL) This is a state park. **June 23rd**--The Natural Bridge (Clinton, AR) -- Materials by Jonathan Beard. **June 9**---Sarah Peterson and Candace & Mike Kovacs went to Fitzpatrick Cave (Christian Co.) to assess and create a plan for future restoration work. -
- Material provided by Mike Kovacs. —submitted by Max White

Lake Ozarks Grotto (LOG). June 2nd – The LOG picnic was held at the picnic area at Stark Caverns in Eldon, attended by 16 people. Ken Long received a call from the landowner that adjoins the Kiesewetter property, about rising flood waters. There was a group of cavers in the cave at the time. They got out of the cave, had to leave the area the opposite way they had come in. The landowner was prepared to pull the cars out of the water with his tractor if needed. Water did get halfway up on their wheels. **July 3rd** – Former LOG member, Kirk Flagg, passed away at the age of 67. July 9th – At our meeting, Chairman Long reported the death of old-time caver, Carl Thayer. —Alberta Zumwalt

Ennis Cave, Arkansas. I am planning a large project to complete a 3D map of Ennis Cave using the latest SLAM technology to ultimately create a 3D map of Ennis Cave that I can make into a plastic model that I can place in a future shelter house near the entrance to the cave for cavers to enjoy. This project will require a lot of support from cavers and friends. My window to pull this off is closing as retirement is closing in (with the fixed income that comes with it) and my physical ability to go to some of the remote areas is getting more limited each year. I would really like to get the project completed within the next year if possible. It is about a 3-week effort that will require between 20 and 30 people over the 3-weeks to pull it off, averaging about 3-4 people needed each day. Email for Project Instructions to learn more about the project and let me know if you have any interest. I also ask that you pass this on to others that may be interested as I have contacted only those folks that I have a current email address for. Thank you in advance for your consideration and interest and look forward to starting to narrow the timeline down for this incredible project! Thank You! --Randal W. Rose Ph D (owner of Ennis Cave) -Jacobs Senior Project Manager, Global Environmental Solutions. Cell – 714-697-0037 Randal.rose@jacobs.com (submitted by Ron Lather)

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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.

NOTE. Organizations that were listed in the last *Liaison* that had not paid their MSS Affiliate fee were: Daedalus, Chouteau, Cairn, MCKC and PEG. If you have not paid your \$25 fee, please send check or money order to: MSS Treasurer, Don Dunham, 6104 Valley Creek Ct., Imperial, MO 63052. This fee is due at the first of the year.

Calendar:

September 1st - Next Liaison deadline

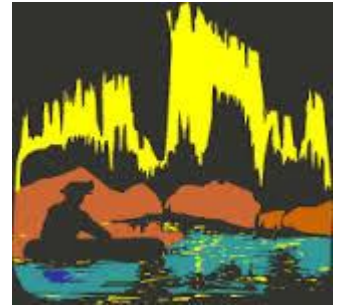
September 14th-15th – MSS weekend. Pleasant Valley Nature Preserve. Meeting on Sunday, 10 am.

Missouri Speleological Survey

Fall Board Meeting Agenda

September 15, 2024

Pleasant Valley Nature Preserve, 6701 Twin River Rd., High Ridge, MO 63049



Morning Session Gates open by 9:00 AM

Board meeting begins at 10:00 AM

Administrative Business

- Roll call – Officers and Board
- Secretary’s Report and approval of last meeting’s minutes – Alberta Zumwalt
- Liaison – Gary Zumwalt
- Treasurer’s Report – Don Dunham
- *Missouri Speleology* – Don Dunham

Old Business

New Business

- MSS Website redesign
 - Web developer needed
- Formalization of Cave Files Committee
- Election of President and Vice President
- Appointment of Treasurer
- Re-appointment of Jeff Crews and Dough Gouzie to MSS Research Council

Projects and Announcements

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

Next meeting

Adjournment