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Missouri Speleological Survey - President's Message

September 2023 by Dan Lamping

The fall 2023 meeting of the Missouri Speleological Survey is coming upon us quickly. The meeting itself is planned for Sunday, October 15 at 10:00 AM, to be held at the Lloyd and Ethel Hoff Nature Preserve in Perryville, MO. This is the site of Berome Moore Cave. Camping is available onsite both Friday and Saturday nights.

There are plans for mapping trips in Berome Moore on Saturday, along with surface work including planting trees at the MCKC's newly acquired Pot of Gold entrance to the Moore system. Mapping trips will likely be on the longer end going far downstream. Cavers interested in surveying should be able to handle an 8-12 hour trip. Cavers interested in doing surface work should contact MCKC president Alex Litsch with any questions. Anyone planning to go, whether caving, camping, doing surface work, or just going to the meeting, needs to fill out a waiver for MCKC. Go to <https://bit.ly/berome> to fill out the waiver. Even if you're uncertain whether you're going, if you think you may, go ahead and fill it out before arriving. I realize this is a change and for many, the default may be a bit of annoyance of having to do it. But, I promise, it doesn't hurt and only takes a moment.

We're still working on plans for a spring meeting in Lincoln County. We should know by the October meeting whether we have an option for this or whether we should come up with other plans.

Missouri Speleological Survey Files Report for September 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. **Matt Beeson sent:** -Main Table and 5 Faunal Records for a new cave in Newton Co., Burch Cave. **Allan Breite sent:** -3 entrance photos and 3 GPS locations for caves in Meramec State Park. **Martin Carmichael sent:** -(via MCKC reporting site) 4 photos (3 of them collages, 12 photos) and a Cave Narrative for a photography trip to Berome Moore in Perry Co. **Karamea Christofferson sent:** -9 Faunal Records for Cliff Cave in St Louis Co.; MVG occasionally holds their meetings there. -8 Faunal Records for Big Bear Cave in Jefferson Co.; included a nice report of their trip. **Jim Cooley sent:** -New maps on Jacob D (CL=43 ft), Mikes Trail (CL=28), Spiders Nest Shelter (CL=97), Taylor Hollow No. 1 (CL=34) and 2 (CL=20) Cave. And updates on 5 caves: Amburgy, Dragon Denture, Eye of the Needle, Lion, Make Your Mark, and Take You Pic Caves. Altogether Jim sent 11 caves, all in Ozark Co. at the Cloud 9 Ranch. Along with the final maps (some in both color and B&W), he sent book, sketch, Walls surveys, Magnetic Declination calculation, and native Xara mapping files; altogether about 150 files. There are 25 new map records here for the database, which includes some plates for the longer caves. -New map of Bear Cave (CL=615, VR=31) in Cloud 9 Ranch, Ozark Co. **Josh Cooper sent:** -5 Faunal Records for a trip to Streiler City Cave in Perry Co. **Nathan Curran sent:** -New map on Leatherman Pit (CL=57, CD=43), see Swain. **Bill Gee sent:** -Stream Flow Data report for Carroll Cave in Camden Co. **Ken Grush sent:** -In trying to get more archived

material into the database, I provided 10 Reports from Dr. Mehl's 1962 book on Missouri's Ice Age Animals. 170 Reports from James Gardner on the Cave Fauna of Mark Twain National Forest and Ozark National Scenic Riverways. -While Scott House had the operative database, I continued collecting "stored" records, that is, data that was missing from the St. Louis Cave Files but are available elsewhere as hardcopy. This has generated some 2300 additional files, including "generated transcripts" (about 270 reports) from the text material, and edited photos for database entry and some survey notes, which sometimes had other notes like biology to add to the database. All of course are now able to be digitally archived. The cache of hardcopy storage is 60 file drawers, for the 85 or so counties where caves have been found. I've searched about 9 counties so far. During this time new information also came in, so both old and new additions include about 25 photos, 40 Fauna Records (more than half new), 174 Narratives and reports (150 of them before 2006, almost 24 for 2023), 2 recent Use Monitoring forms (see White below), and 38 Map records (27 records were from "recent" 2023, see this report for contributors). **Scott House sent:** -Records for a new cave in Carter Co. -A redrawn map for Sugar Camp Shelter (CL=30) in Barry Co. The map was redrawn for presentation in MoSpeleo, back in 2019, just hadn't been added to archives. -While updating the "operative" database, House added 40 new Faunal Records, some were historic but most were for 2023 activity. He added 4 new Use Monitoring Forms for 4 caves visited. And made some modifications to 175 caves in the Main Table of the database. The Main Table has at least 50 data entry points; so there could be that many changes, most were less than 5 changes to a single cave. Many "new" caves that come in don't address all 50 entry points, so they are added as best that can be done after that first entry. The bulk of modifications came from "Quad Indicators" and "Field Indicators". What Quad indicators include are where one can readily look at a topographic map and see some caves. These can be based on: they are simply "Marked" or labeled; some can be found by looking for "Contour Distortions" or "Sinks. On the other hand, Field indicators are what one notices when visiting a cave. These things might include: a "bluff" or "hillside" might distinguish one cave from another; or a "spring" (follow the water); "roadcut"; or their current status like "destroyed", "flooded", "filled", "obvious", "obscure." These are all good things to add to reports. Other places to add data include Geology, Hydrology (wet or dry entrance), Cultural significance, cave "name" significance or meaning, entrance "dimensions," cave length as an estimate (if not surveyed). **JJ Huelsing sent:** -New cave for Warren Co., Devon Cave estimated to be about 130 ft long. He sent location and brief description too. **Mark Jones sent:** -140 Faunal Records, 29 Cave Narratives and 29 Use Monitoring forms for work done during one week at the Winona facility on the MTNF and ONSR. **Gerry Keene sent:** -Faunal count of sculpin in Crevice Cave in Perry Co. **Dan Lamping sent:** -10 Use Monitoring forms, 16 Faunal Records and 2 new caves. The new ones are Mazy Dome and River Cane Caves in Shannon Co. Caves can still be found where known caves exist; these 2 were close to a cluster of 5 caves. -Over 100 photos and videos from his 2016 trip into Powder Mill Creek Cave. **Joe Light sent:** -4 Narratives, 4 photo collections and 2 Faunal Records for Bluff, Campers Spring, Hamilton and Sprinkle Spring Caves in the Meramec State Park area of Franklin Co. -2 Narratives, 6 photos and 5 Faunal Records for 3 PM Pit and Catacomb Cave in St Louis Co. -2 Narratives for Heinke and Cherokee Caves in St. Louis Co. and City, respectively. Along with his Cherokee report, he sent 27 photos. **Kyle Mann sent:** -A Cave Narrative with 4 Faunal Records and 6 photos of Paul-Petroske Cave in Franklin Co. **Kohl Mitchell sent:** -17 Faunal Records, 11 Cave Narratives and 4 Use Monitoring forms for work on 11 caves in Monroe and Ralls Counties. -4 Ralls Co. cave maps for Steel Trap (CL=35 ft), Bedspring (CL=32), and Last Lane (CL=20) and 2 Marion Co. cave maps for Clemens Swimming Hole (CL=22) and Ures (CL=64) Caves. -New maps for Abney Cave (CL=27) in Marion Co. and Keaton Pit (CL=26, CD=10) in Ralls Co. With Abney. he sent a Narrative of the survey trip and 6 Fauna Records. He also sent a kml file to view the "lineplot" of the survey for Animal Den Cave (CL=455) in Ralls Co. Google Earth can import and display kml files. **Marissa Schorr sent:** -An updated map of Gabel Spring Cave (CL=245) showing passage beyond the low, water crawl. New map more than doubles the previous 90-ft long map. Pushing the low water crawl added the footage. **Bobby Swain sent:** -A report on Leatherman Pit including, a new feature in one of the St. Louis Co. parks (see Curran). **Max White sent:** -2 Monitoring Forms, 9 Faunal Records and 2 Trip Reports for Little Smittle and Lowell Caves in Wright Co. **Richard Young sent:** -A report on a cave trip in Perry Co. They were allowed in after 20 years for a one-time only trip. Lots of changes happened over those years. Along with his new report, he sent some historic photos including one for Kraus Cave and one for Autolite Pit (also in Perry

Co.). Here's an interesting historic comment from the database for Autolite: Vineyard, 1977: "I (**Vineyard, 1977**) officially designated cave number 437 to Perry Co., this number is significant because in 1956, when Bretz's *Caves of Missouri* was published, there were only 437 known caves in the entire state." Today only one county has reached (beyond) that high count. SHN437 is attached to the 4th Dusty Solution Tube in Shannon; it was first reported about 1993, 16 years after Perry Co.! -A report on the new bridge install in Crevice Cave, Perry Co., replacing the old railroad tie bridge over one of the deep crevices in the cave. -Photos and details on Cape La Croix Cave which captured the flow of the creek of the same name and then drained it to a nearby quarry. Additional evidence points to cave passage below the level of the Mississippi! -Entrance photo of Kassel Cave Natural Bridge and Kassel Cave in Perry Co. -7 more entrance photos for caves in Perry Co. and one for Ste. Genevieve, including Angle, Grapevine, Crosstown Pit, Yamitz Bottle, Streiller Pit, Meisner Crevice and Zell Caves.

Meramec Valley Grotto (MVG). July Mammoth Expedition - Many MVG members and other Missouri cavers surveyed in Mammoth Cave. **Jul. 15th** - Jim Sherrell, Cathleen Yung, Ben Geisert, and Alex Litsch surveyed 500 feet in Valles Mines.



Valles Mines – July 15th

Jul. 29th - MVG conducted a vertical caving training class hosted by Tony Schmitt. It was well attended and a pool party followed. A strong thunderstorm put a damper on the pool party.



Vertical Training



Mammoth - July

August Mammoth Expedition - The Lamping family surveyed in Mammoth Cave.



Mammoth - August

Aug. 19th - Danielle Fontaine, Ben Geisert, and several others surveyed 963 feet in Valles Mines. **Also, Aug. 19th** - Many MVG members and other cavers went to Powder Mill Creek Cave to remove a climbing pole that was left decades ago in the far reaches of the cave. They also performed bio inventory. The trip was successful in removing the climbing pole.



Powder Mill



Valles Mine – August 19th



Mammoth - September

September Mammoth Expedition - Chad McCain, Cathleen Yung, and others returned to Ozark Dome to continue survey past the long low air passage.—Alex Litsch

Springfield Plateau Grotto (SPG). Jul. 29th ---Jon Beard, Heather Hadley, Ashley Mitchell, Jarod Ozee, Heather Pyle, Adam Twenter and Max White monitored Lowell Cave and Little Smittle Cave (Wright Co.). At Lowell Cave, spray paint and mud graffiti were removed. Trash was picked up both inside and outside of the cave. Little Smittle Cave trash was picked up. **Jul. 30th** --- Matt Beeson, Ashley Mitchell and Phillip Johnson took a trip into Old Spanish Cave (Stone Co.) to continue mapping. They were working on one of the big rooms, a small side passage and a tunnel that had been dug going along one wall in the breakdown. Matt and Ashley helped with the sketching. **Aug. 12th** --- SPG had a Family Trip to Breakdown Cave and Fitzpatrick Cave. In attendance were Ashley, Koda & Tamzen Mitchell, Dionne Springman, Heather and Meagan Pyle, James, Jon Beard, Sean Fay, Loren & Peter, Sarah Peterson, Elizabeth Jones, Chris, Jody Gertson & Ivy, and others. Jon Beard gave everyone a nice tour of Breakdown Cave (Christian Co.) stopping to show everyone fossils and formations and their names. A few of the younger cavers did a short crawl just past Hell's Gate before heading over to check out Fitzpatrick Cave (Christian Co.). A few crayfish were momentarily visible for some of the attendees. **Aug. 19th** --- Ashley Mitchell, Emily, Jarod Ozee, Heather Pyle and Max White participated in a CRF Ridgewalking Project in Arkansas. Monitoring one known cave and location of 3 other new caves in the area. Also, Aug. 19th--- Matt Beeson, Phillip Johnson, Treavor Bussard and Jesse Shue continued the survey of Indian Creek Caverns (Stone Co.). The team added 971 feet of new survey to the map. **Aug. 27th** - Dr. Doug Gouzie took his Missouri State University Speleology class to Round Springs Caverns (Ozark Scenic Riverways). Scott House (CRF) led the group of 10 students and 2 teachers through the beautiful

decorated cave. Everyone enjoyed the cave.--Report by Max White. Content provided by Jon Beard, Matt Beeson, Dr. Doug Gouzie and Ashley Mitchell

Lake Ozarks Grotto (LOG). Buzz Caldwell gave an informative presentation at our August meeting on caves in Miller Co. Members discussed some of the work that could be done there. Ken Long checked out an area along Hwy 54 near Old Kinderhook in Camdenton, but found no caves, even though it looked promising. Ken, Klaus Leidenfrost and Jean Knoll worked at Goodwin, mowing and doing grounds maintenance. --Alberta Zumwalt

Kansas City Area Grotto (KCAG). **July 8th:** Bill Gee led a data logger service at Carroll Cave, accompanied by Sarah Peterson, Becca Marlin, Mike & Candace Kovacs, and Sean Zimmerman. Data was downloaded from data loggers at the ladder, UL2 and Thunder Falls. The memory card was pulled and the batteries were changed on an intrusion detector. The same day, Kristen Vogel led a novice and restoration trip which included Nathan & Sam Taylor, Martin Carmichael, Nathan Hensel, Dustin Schmidt, and Becky Nelson. They visited UL2 and Carroll Passage, where they identified some areas that will need restoration. **July 14th:** Jim Cooley checked bat census at Toby Cave at the behest of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, reacting to a landowner's reports of fewer bats than normal, to see if enough were present for a Thermal Infra-Red (TIR) videography censusing test scheduled for the following week. There were surprisingly few bats present. The TIR test was moved to Mary Lawson Cave. **July 14th-16th:** Rick Hines led a work detail to continue construction of the Pic Walenta Memorial Shelter at the Carroll Cave silo. On the team this time were Jim Cooley, Marty Griffin, Jeff Page, Kevin Feltz, Martin Carmichael, Sean Zimmerman, Caleb Mundwiller, Tristin Whetstine, Bill Copeland, and Nathan & Sam Taylor. Plywood was installed on the ceiling, gabling was done on both ends, and one exterior wall was finished. The area was mowed as well. **July 30th:** Bill Gee led a survey trip to Stark Caverns that included Mike & Candace Kovacs, Tristin Whetstine, Becca Marlin, Tyler Marlin, Sarah Peterson, and Elyse Kincaid. Mike and Bill reviewed a previous sketch from the northeast part of the Grand Canyon and made notes, which proved to be what Bill needed to get it all put together. The map is now ready for QC. Meantime the other folks did photo work in side passages off the Onyx Canyon. The team ended the day by going partway out the Rugged Canyon before hitting limits with some of the group.-- 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 - Fall Board Meeting Agenda

Lloyd and Ethel Hoff's Underground Nature Preserve-Perryville, Missouri

Board meeting begins at 10:00 AM

October 15, 2023

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

- Appointment of MSS Secretary

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

- Cuivre River State Park / Lincoln County, March 10?
- Other ideas

Adjournment

