

THE MSS LIAISON

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AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS:

CAIRN – CCC – CHOUTEAU – DAEDALUS – KCAG – LEG – LOG –

MCKC – MMV – MSM – MVG – OHG – PEG – RBX – SEMO – SPG - Stygian

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Missouri Speleological Survey- President's Message - November 2021

by Dan Lamping



The MSS had a Board meeting on September 18, 2021 at Bennett Spring State Park. The meeting was held in a beautiful stone pavilion overlooking the spring branch. Many thanks to Krista Bartel for organizing the meeting site and the group campground. Good times were had at camp with great company.

The meeting was planned in conjunction with a mapping trip into Mary Lawson Cave. The survey of this significant bat cave is being led by Matt Beeson. It's a sporting cave that's abundant in wildlife. Mapping in the presence of tens of thousands of gray bats is a remarkable experience, not fitting for the timid. We look forward to a return trip next year to continue documenting the extent of this sizeable cave.

The meeting itself was eventful as well. The Board approved a bylaws change in regards to our meeting schedule and frequency. We are now only required to have two meetings per year, rather than three, though more can be had if needed. Rather than deciding the next meeting date and location at the closure of a meeting, the President can now propose a meeting date, location and format to the Board via email with at least 30 days advance notice. Approval of upcoming proposed meetings can be determined by a majority of those Board members who respond to the call for a meeting within two weeks. This gives us much greater flexibility given the roving nature that our meetings have taken on, in order to accommodate mapping and other cave related projects which our meetings are typically planned around. Personally, I'm always wondering what could be done to better connect the larger caving community with the project cavers in the state or better yet, what can the MSS do to promote a long lasting caving community in Missouri. I always fall back on having caving opportunities available and exposing those who are already cavers along with potential new cavers to the fulfillment that comes with exploration, documentation and making contributions towards the goals of the MSS.

Much discussion was had around the wonderfully generous offer that Dave Hoffman made to donate his property to the MSS upon his death. Ultimately the consensus was that the MCKC may be better suited to receive such a significant land-holding. Were Dave to leave the property to the MCKC, it would, hopefully, still benefit the MSS as a site to possibly build on in the future, should there ever be such an interest, or as a camp site for when meetings are held in the Rolla area. We hope that Dave considers that option, but are confident that even if he chooses to go another direction that his decision will one grounded in conservation.

The meeting concluded with discussion of our next meeting. We are planning to hold an event the first weekend of March in Perryville. We discussed the possibility of holding the meeting either the first or second weekend of March. While there was a preference for the second weekend of March, another

scheduling conflict has led us to plan for holding the event the first weekend of March, instead. Cavers should plan to be able to camp at Berome Moore for the weekend. Caving trips will be held on Saturday, likely to caves owned by the City of Perryville. On Sunday morning we will have our meeting at a new conference center owned by the City of Perryville with the afternoon being a public outreach event for area residents and landowners. We will have access to the conference center the entire weekend. Planning for the event is still underway, but please go ahead and save the date and look ahead for further details. Hopefully we can coordinate with MCKC to also have their meeting that same weekend to make things easier for those who are involved with both organizations. For those who want to participate in the public outreach event, please let me know. We'll certainly need to have cavers around in the afternoon, after the meeting, to help. We look forward to seeing everyone.

Lastly, welcome to Stygian Grotto, who is the newest affiliate organization on the MSS Board. We look forward to Stygian expanding upon the collective knowledge of caves and karst in St. Charles, Warren, and Lincoln Counties as well as the surrounding areas by submitting data to the MSS Cave Files. As we welcome a new group to the MSS Board, I'd like to strongly encourage those Board members who represent our affiliate organizations to please try making it to MSS meetings, send a proxy or at least communicate if you're not planning to send anyone so that we know ahead of time whether we'll have a quorum.

Missouri Speleological Survey Files Report for November 1, 2021. We had a recent request for a list of deepest caves in the state. This came from the group of divers that just got past a tight restriction in Roaring River Spring (State Park) and so made a new record depth for the spring. Most recently, they reported a new depth of 451 ft. But did it qualify as a state record? Well, here's that list of caves greater than 200 ft "cave" depths (not necessarily single drop!). Please, if you have documentation to support any changes, let me know, see email address immediately below. There are 13 caves and springs on the list, with 7 accessible mostly/only to divers. For most springs, this is all water depth; Devils Well and The Gulf have significant air portion, but for the Gulf this extra 30 ft ceiling height isn't included. These 2 caves along with Blue Spring/Cannonball can have significant flood components of height that would vary from these numbers.

Accession	CaveName	County	CaveDepth	can dive
BRY001	ROARING RIVER SPRING AND CAVE	Barry	451	divers only
STN001	MARVEL CAVE	Stone	383	
WAY019	Blue Spring Cannonball	Wayne	370	divers only
SHN102	Blue Spring	Shannon	315	divers only
WRI002	BUZZARD CAVE	Wright	308	
PLP118	MARAMEC SPRING	Phelps	280	divers only
SHN001	Devils Well	Shannon	243	divers 66 ft WD
BRY060	FARWELL CAVE	Barry	227	
PUL241	ROUBIDOUX SPRING	Pulaski	220	divers only
SGE074	Blackfathom River Cave	Ste. Genevieve	213	
SGE207	Pentagon Pit	Ste. Genevieve	201	
WAY002	The Gulf	Wayne	200	divers 195+ ft WD
SGE076	Fluted Rift Cave	Ste. Genevieve	200	

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.

Mark Brooks sent: -An email from Doug Leer describing passage that was recently surveyed and added to the map for Berome Moore Cave. **Martin Carmichael sent:** -A lead for a cave in Boone Co., but the 2005 vintage paperwork provided triggered more questions. Thankfully this paperwork provided a name that led to some answers. See Randy Long below. -A report on Carroll Cave where 8 Faunal Records were reported. **Chouteau Grotto (anon) sent:** -Entrance photos and GPS locations on Bell, Collapsed, Boundary Pit Caves and same information on 2 new caves, one to be called Fern Falls Cave and the other Ladder Cave. We have yet to decide if his 6 set of data fits Bruin Acres Cave or is a new cave. **Jim Cooley sent:** -6 photos from a recent gate repair at Onyx Cave in Pulaski Co. -14 historical Faunal Records for Big Mouth Cave in Oregon Co. **Andy Free sent:** -20 photos on 2 caves in Pulaski Co.: Fern Falls and Pine Bluff Caves. As above Fern Falls is a new addition for the county. Pine Bluff is “long lost” cave last reported on in 1956. **Ken Grush sent:** -A collection of map comparisons to LIDAR imagery for Dark, Refuge Cave No 1-2, Campsite and Indian No 2 Caves, all five in Crawford Co. Each was updated with GPS coordinates and with entrance photos. -144 transcribed Christian Co. reports from the now transcribed MoSpeleos v15 n3 & 4. I’ve used these transcripts to adjust credits in the Main Table of the database and show the complete report as published in MoSpeleo. Surprisingly, I found one published map that was not in our database previously. **Scott House sent:** -Updates for about 20 cave records in the operative database. He also added a new mine for Taney Co., Pinnacle Mine. -Sent modifications to the Main Table of the database for some 30 caves while he had the operative database for a weekend. **Dan Lamping sent:** -3 Faunal Records, cave description, directions and hydrology notes on Russell Cave in Ozark Co. -10 Faunal Records for his survey trip to Mary Lawson Cave in Laclede Co. during the MSS meeting weekend. **Jon Lillestolen sent:** -Communications of the diving activity at Roaring River Spring in the state park in Barry Co. A sketch to the “squeeze” and depth reports were sent. **Joe Light sent:** -More than 35 photos from a recent grotto trip to Greens Cave in Washington Co. He included a summary of the conditions he found and half a dozen Faunal Records. -A composite of 5 photos from an MVG trip to Fisher Cave in Franklin Co. from 1992. **JJ Liebel sent:** -Via Facebook and “private” Messenger an entrance photo for Shoat Hole Cave in Carter Co. Then promptly shared a folder of 100 of his photos from Mystery Cave in Perry Co. And shortly after another 180 photos from Wind and Gaping Caves in Shannon Co. -Over 180 photos of a trip Greens Cave in Washington Co. (see Light above). **Alex Litsch sent:** -A nice report of Roubidoux Cave and its wildlife. The cave and access are managed with the landowner through MCKC now. The hope is to further protect and conserve the cave through this new management agreement with MCKC. -An email with an update on Mud Cave in Gasconade Co., landowner apparently blocked the cave entrance with a large boulder! -A report on a new cave, Cedarledge Spring Cave in Jefferson Co. A dozen photos, videos, description and 6 Faunal Records were included. -A report of bad air in Fogging Pit. And 3 faunal records for Fogging Pit and Pentagon Pit. **Randy Long sent:** -Answers to the questions that Carmichael’s “paperwork” suggested (see above). Long had the same paperwork in color which indicated all the data that originated from another cave but wasn’t removed from the document. It was confusing to sort out what was new and what was old without the highlighting. The lead still needs a field check, but photos certainly suggest a cave. For those not familiar with Randy; he retired from the MTNF about 2005, but while he was working, he submitted almost 200 reports on various caves on MTNF. We have over 1300 different sources supplying reports to the database; 200 reports rank one in the top 2% of sources writing reports. Thankfully, most of the top 2-4% are active cooperators today, within the MSS. **Richard Orr sent:** -Via Facebook and “private” Messenger, entrance pictures of Hittle and Roaring Springs Caves in Franklin Co. He also found a new cave, Beaver Lodge Cave now, nearby. **Jim Ruedin sent:** -A monitoring form for his bio-trip to Grandpa’s Hole where they recorded 8 fauna records. All now are in the database. **Marissa Schorr sent:** -2 Monitoring Forms with 15 or so Faunal Records and Reports on Mill Creek and Paddy Caves in Texas Co. **Mick Sutton sent:** -43 Faunal Records with a large component from Round Spring Caverns in Shannon Co. and quite a few historic records from the 1980s. He also filed 15 Biologic Assessments (part of the database) for caves on the Mark Twain NF in Barry Co. -Another round of over 40 Biologic Assessments for cave on the MTNF in Barry Co., wrapping up the county.

-A group of 33 reports for almost as many caves in Camden, Carter, Madison, Oregon, Pulaski, Reynolds, Shannon, Texas and Washington Counties. -Some corrections for Bruin Acres Cave (?) in Pulaski Co. Fauna records are attached to this cave, but the records seemed incomplete relative to their 1948 reporting. Now we only need to find “this” cave that has epigeal fish and crawfish in the vicinity. **Richard Thompson sent:** -Half a dozen photos of Lon Odell Memorial Cave in Dade Co. **Rosie Weaver sent:** -From the Dwight Weaver’s collection, a group of 23 newsletters that were not yet archived, these include: 7 copies of LOG’s newsletters including 2 rare Ozark Cavers (LOG’s first newsletter) and the Ozark Speleograph; 3 copies of RCCavers (hadn’t heard of this high school grotto before); 4 copies from South Side Grotto (another high school club); 6 copies from St Louis University Grotto; a copy from the SSA Speleologist; an Arkansas Caver; a CRF Newsletter and lastly an MSM Spelunker. These are all great additions to the “Source” Archives. **Shannon Zaloz sent:** -Reports on 7 trips that she had been on over the last year and included 11 Faunal Records focused on 2 of the caves. She also sent over 30 photos for the caves. **Jim Zollweg sent:** -Historic sketch maps of Big Bird, Den and Reeves Shelter Caves in Crawford Co. These are maps that predate the cancellation of the Meramec dam on that river; not quite 50 years to see the light of day.—Ken Grush

Kansas City Area Grotto (KCAG). Oct. 16th - Nathan Taylor led a group of 12 from the First Baptist Church of Lee’s Summit into Cleveland Cave. The group consisted of five adults and seven students from second through ninth grades. They had a very good trip, spending approximately one hour and 45 minutes in the cave. One student did turn back at the bat room, having decided that caving was not his thing. Two adults returned with him to the gate, one of which returned to catch up the group. The remaining crew of ten made it to the ladder at the balcony, where another adult decided that was enough for him. He remained at the ladder while



(New) Gateway to another cave gating project.



Let’s protect this Gray Bat Maternity Cave!

the rest continued to the bitter end. A couple kids explored to the adult-passable limit of Bitter End Crawl, and would have gone further if Taylor had not reigned them in. Not all project cave work occurs underground! **Oct. 18th** – Don Toole of Climax Springs, Missouri was joined by Gary and Alberta Zumwalt, Jim Lehr, and Jim Cooley to install a ten-foot-wide metal cattle gate in a barbed wire fence at the far end of a very long cow pastures. Fence posts and gate were supplied by the landowner. This cattle gate was required to support the building, a fly-over-style, bat friendly cave gate to protect a huge, Priority 1 gray bat maternity colony near Climax Springs, in Camden Co. The bat cave, alas, was inconveniently located on the OTHER side of that barbed wire fence. First order of business was to carefully drop a huge widow-maker (teetering tree) that mightily resisted dropping, before it mightily fell. Posts were then set and the cattle gate was then installed without further incident, in about four hours. The ACTUAL, inside-the-cave CAVE gate, a mere 45 feet wide by 20 feet tall at the apex, requiring eight tons of steel funded by USFWS, will be built March 31st-April 10th, 2022. We’re looking for several volunteers to help.

If you’re interested in participating for even a part of that time, please contact me: coolstoi@kc.rr.com. I can sure use your help! – Jim Cooley

Meramec Valley Grotto (MVG). Aug. 7th - Several MVG members conducted survey in Mammoth Cave. Sept. 11th - MVG did a trip to Green's Cave in Meramec State Park. Also, Some MVG members helped clean up at Roubidoux Cave and attended the MCKC Meeting. Sept. 19th - Some MVG Members assisted in the survey of Mary Lawson Cave and attended the MSS Meeting. Oct. 2nd - MVG did a trip into Illinois Caverns. Oct. 13th – 17th - Some MVG members went to the TAG fall cave in and did several vertical caves.—Alex Litsch

Stygian Grotto. Stygian Grotto continues to meet on the first Wednesday of the month. The outdoor meetings at Rabbit Run Park will now be moved back indoors due to the weather and limited light as fall is here. Time and new location to be posted on the calendar at www.stygiangrotto.org. Our relationships with the Missouri State Parks and the St. Charles County Parks continue to be productive for all parties. Sept. 4th - JJ Huelsing & Allan Breite continued cleanup of a St Charles Co. sinkhole. Sept. 12th - JJ Huelsing & Allan Breite ridge walked in St Charles Co. locating several new cave leads. Sept. 19th - Allan Breite & JJ Huelsing attended MSS meeting at Bennett Springs SP. Sept. 26th - Allan Breite, JJ Huelsing and TJ Griffin continued cleanup of a St Charles Co. sinkhole. Sixteen vertical feet of debris has been removed to date amounting to about 40 cubic yards of trash and debris since December 2020. Oct. 16th - Allan Breite, JJ Huelsing, Rich Orr, Dawn Martin, Kevin Berdak & TJ Griffin did a trip into Illinois Caverns. Trip and Faunal reports with photos were submitted to the MSS Cave Files. The group also visited the Paul Whiteman Subterranean Preserve as an additional short above ground side trip while in the area afterwards. Oct. 22nd – 24th - Rich Orr attended the Fall MVOR gathering in Noel, MO on behalf of Stygian Grotto. Oct. 24th - JJ Huelsing continued cleanup of a St Charles Co. sinkhole. Oct. 28th - Stygian Grotto represented by JJ Huelsing, Allan Breite & Rich Orr participated in a community outreach event at Cuivre River State Park at the invitation of park naturalist Jamie Huber. The Trunk or Treat event was attended by over 300 people despite the rain and the kids loved our bats. A bat house was raffled off as an attendance prize. Thank you to Dawn Martin and Phillip Newell for your work on the literature. We got a cave lead out of this activity for Lincoln Co.! Oct. 30th - JJ Huelsing & Dawn Martin visited Ha Ha Tonka State Park.—Allan Breite

Chouteau Grotto. Oct. 16th - Chouteau Grotto held their annual cookout, camping and caving day attended by several members plus some members of PEG, KCAG and MVG. We returned to Wayfarer Sink for our annual work session and concentrated our efforts this time in the bottom of the sink removing debris from around the rusted out pickup truck. We first found a puffball mushroom the size of a basketball! We also found and removed many more appliances buried in there. We've determined that next time we will all need to be on rope for safety as the 'floor' is getting thin and bouncy. We hauled off two pickup loads of trash and recyclable metal. Then some of us went to Oakland School Cave on the Monroe property for fun, which property is going to be for sale soon. -Rita Worden

Springfield Plateau Grotto (SPG). Sept. 11th - 12th—Jon Beard participated in a Roubidoux Cave (Pulaski Co) graffiti and trash removal trip. Jon furnished much of SPG's restoration equipment and supplies including PPE (safety glasses and N95 dust masks). Although Jon removed a couple of graffiti words and part of another, he concentrated on profuse spray paint graffiti in six colors on the entrance passage's best flowstone display. More work is needed there, but every bit helps. The cave has been recently leased by the MCKC which continues to add to its arsenal of managed, leased and owned caves. Sept. 25th—Chris Lewis and Jon Beard led a large group from Missouri State Univ. through Fitzpatrick Cave (Christian Co.) and nearby Breakdown Cave, showing them various features. One of the group, a geology professor, took 3-D images in Fitzpatrick as part of a project to produce a virtual cave trip for classes. Oct. 18th—Alicia and Jon Beard photographed Ha Ha Tonka Natural Bridge (Camden Co.) on a hiking trip to the state park on a pleasant afternoon. The park features some of the most spectacular karst features in the state—deep, wide collapse sinks, a large spring, etc. Oct. 23rd—Jon Beard was joined by Chase Cunningham in the removal of the last of the graffiti in the lower (main) level of Fitzpatrick Cave (Christian Co.). The only signatures remaining were written in 1880 and 1900 and are considered historically significant and are unobtrusive. After this Jon gave Chase a tour of Paul's Gallery where speleothem reattachments are being made. They also visited the main room of nearby

Breakdown Cave. **Oct. 24th**--- Nathan Burton checked the Entrance Passage of Old Spanish Cave (Stone Co.) and found 3 Pickerel Frogs, 2 Big Brown bats, 14 salamanders and thousands of mosquitoes. - Material furnished by Jonathan Beard and Nathan Burton. Report by Max White.

Lake Ozarks Grotto (LOG). **Sept. 18th** – Ken Long, Burke & Christen Easter, Darren Donley, Gary & Alberta Zumwalt met Frank Hurley (LOG member and owner of Jacob’s Cave) for an exploration trip into the cave, past the commercial tour. Frank led the trip to the back of the cave, sharing knowledge about the cave. At the back of the cave, Ken, Christen & Darren braved the mud and crawled around looking for passage and finding one that looked promising. Burke checked out holes with his camera attached to a “pink” selfie stick which he said belonged to his daughter. (LOG has since invested in a longer selfie stick for use in caves.) The Zumwalts took pictures and were there for support, along with Frank. There will be return trips. **Sept. 25th** – Ken Long reported on the work day at Goodwin with 6 participants: Elizabeth, Samantha and Brandon, all MST



MST students from Rolla



Don Toole

students from Rolla, Mo. and Klaus Leidenfrost, Jean Knoll and Ken. Work continued in the sump passage, trying to make it taller and wider. The passage was very muddy and work was slow, as only one small person can get in the passage at a time. Progress was slow with a few feet cleared out. The object is to widen the cave passage so others will have access to it. **Sept. 26th** – Ken Long reported on the second workday at Goodwin with the same participants as the day before. The work continued in the cave working on the small passage. I managed to do some mowing up by the pavilion. We know we are close to getting into the main passage of the cave but at the time of this writing we are still not there. There will be more trips in the near future as long as the weather stays decent. **Oct. 18th** – Jim Cooley had announced that Toby Cave, Camden Co., would be gated early next year. He needed volunteers to install a gate in a

barbed wire fence for access to the cave. LOG member, Don Toole, volunteered since he lives in the area. Don, his friend Jim Lehr, Gary & Alberta Zumwalt met Jim Cooley at the site. A large leaning tree was taken down. Two post holes were dug and inserted in the holes, then cement mix and water were tamped around them. The gate was installed and the barbed wire fence was cut and wrapped around the posts.



Jim Cooley, Gary Zumwalt, Jim Lehr

With that part of the project completed, Jim C. led Don, Jim L. & Gary to the entrance of the cave, in an effort to entice them to help with the cave gating later. **Oct. 22nd** –

Goodwin workday with Klaus Leidenfrost, Jean Knoll, Elizabeth Sutherland (MST student), Gary & Alberta Zumwalt. Gary marked off the spot for a shed to cover firewood, the lawnmower, etc. Concrete blocks for the firepit and for a fence along the steep side of the sinkhole in the pavilion area and cement mix for the shed were unloaded from Klaus’ truck. Klaus & Gary picked up



Gary, Ken & Klaus in the rain

donated tin at a Goodwin neighbor’s house. Jean & Elizabeth redid the firepit area, adding concrete blocks and oven grates, making it better for cooking when volunteers are onsite. Gary, Klaus & Elizabeth worked on dug four post holes, inserting 4 cedar poles, tamping cement mix all around them. Elizabeth did work in



Gary, Elizabeth, Jean, Klaus & Ken

the cave a short time. **Oct. 23rd** – Goodwin work day with the same people as the day before plus Ken Long. On this rainy day, Ken & Klaus worked at witching cave passage on top of the ground. Elizabeth & Jean were down in the cave. The Zumwalts used a string level to work on the shed. Joined by the rest, the poles were put up for the roof and covered with tin and tin on the back. A black mat was put down for the floor of the shed and chat was put on top of that. --Alberta Zumwalt

MSS MINUTES. The Fall 2021 Board meeting of the Missouri Speleological Survey was called to order by President Dan Lamping on September 19th, at Shelter A in Bennett Spring State Park. **Officers present:** Dan Lamping, President; Krista Bartel, Vice-President; Don Dunham, Treasurer; and Alberta Zumwalt, Secretary. **Directors present:** Rita Worden, Chouteau; Jim Cooley, KCAG; Gary Zumwalt, LOG; Joe Sikorski (proxy for Alex Litsch), MVG; Max White, SPG; Don Dunham (proxy for Doug Leer), MMV; Krista Bartel (proxy for Bob Lerch), CCC; Jeff Fennell, Daedalus; Alex Litsch (proxy for Alicia Wallace), MCKC. Allan Breite, Stygian, was seated during meeting. Absent were: Cairn, LEG, MSM (affiliation fee not paid), PEG, RBX (fee not paid), OHG (no representative) and SEMO. **Secretary's report.** The minutes of the Spring 2021 meeting were emailed to the Officers and Directors, and printed in the May-June *MSS Liaison*. **MSS Liaison.** Gary Zumwalt reported cash on hand of \$148.33; Sending out 33 paper copies and the rest as electronic copies, the next deadline is Nov. 1st. **Treasurer's Report.** Don Dunham reported: REPORT OF THE TREASURER – August 31, 2021 – ACCOUNTS: General fund \$10085.74; Subscriptions/Donations *Missouri Speleology* \$9286.44; Research Fund \$9284.78; Anne Johnson Data Fund \$17914.77. Affiliation fees \$1377.00; Subscriptions *Liaison* \$261.00; Total \$48209.73. ASSETS: Savings bonds \$2000.00; Interest checking \$10209.73; Certificates of deposit \$36000.00; Total \$48209.73. Don reported that the \$2,000 savings bonds, set up in 1994, will come due in 2 years and will be worth \$6,000. He said the money is ear-marked for research. **Missouri Speleology.** Don Dunham said that Vol. 64 has been published – Marvel Cave issue. He said that the author, Bob Thompson, did most of the work on it. The next issue may be a manuscript by Tom Aley. **Old Business. Frequency of MSS meeting.** Pres. Lamping went over the proposed meeting changes to the bylaws. The current bylaws say: *A. There shall be a minimum of three meetings per year, in the Fall, Winter, and Spring at specific dates specified by Board action. B. Special meetings may be called by the President with at least 30 days advance notice to all Board members.* The proposed bylaws change is as follows: *A. There shall be a minimum of two meetings per year. B. Meeting dates, locations and/or formats (in-person or online) shall be determined by the President and approved by the Board either in person or via electronic communication with at least 30 days advance notice to all Board members. In the event of electronic communication (email), approval of upcoming meeting dates, locations and/or formats shall be determined by a vote of the majority of Board members who respond to the call for a meeting within two weeks. C. Special meetings may be called by the President with at least 30 days advance notice to all Board members.* Gary Zumwalt made a motion to accept the bylaw changes, seconded by Rita Worden. Discussion on the reasons for the changes. Pres. Lamping and Don Dunham cited changes such as use of internet communication. Vote on motion – passed. **Dave Hoffman property.** Pres. Lamping said that Dave had offered to donate property (approx. 200 acres) that he owned to the MSS for a possible headquarters in the future. Pres. Lamping, Krista Bartel, Max White and Jessica Self were to check it out. Krista reported that she and Jessica looked at the property which is 5 miles from Rolla. There was much discussion on whether the MSS should own land which brought into the fact that the MCKC already owns land and was started under the wing of the MSS for the purpose of acquiring caves and land. Max White said he had talked on the phone with him and that he wants to make sure it is in legal documents. Alex Litsch said that the MCKC had discussed the matter and there was an interest in the property. Jim Cooley talked about strategy and offered ideas. Rita Worden made a motion to respectfully decline the land donation and support the land to be offered to the MCKC. Seconded by Gary Zumwalt. Passed. **New Business. Treasurer** – Pres. Lamping re-appointed Don Dunham Treasurer for three more years. **Research Council** – Pres. Lamping re-appointed Jeff Crews and Doug Gouzie for three more years. Other members are Mick Sutton and Bob Lerch. **Affiliate Organization.** Pres. Lamping said that Stygian Grotto has fulfilled all the requirements to be an affiliate organization. Jeff Fennell made a motion to accept Stygian Grotto as an affiliate organization of the MSS. Seconded by Alex Litsch. Passed. Allan Breite seated on the Board as Stygian

Director. Pres. Lamping explained that the \$25 affiliate fee goes to the general fund and helps to fund the organization getting MoSpeleo. Roubidoux has not been attending meetings and have not paid the fee which was due in January so they can lose representation on the Board. **Cave Files Committee.** Pres. Lamping said that MODot has a copy of the database to enable them to plan highways away from caves. He said the Cave Files Committee is giving the Corps of Engineers a stripped-down data base with locations only. **Agency Reports.** Pres. Lamping said that there will be a change in obtaining permits for MDC caves. They are hoping it will be revised and streamlined. They are working with Shelly Colatskie. **Affiliate Organizations project reports.** **MCKC.** Alex Litsch reported that the MCKC has acquired Roubidoux Cave in Waynesville. He said they have a camera onsite and have already caught trespassers. Their priority will be to control visitation. There is a sign posted on the site with contact information. If they are unable to control the access, then they will consider gating. **CCC.** Jim Cooley said there is a discussion going on to possibly dissolve the CCC into the MCKC. **Announcement. Gating project.** Jim Cooley has a gating project scheduled for Mar 30th – Apr. 10th of a large cave in Camden Co. The entrance is 35' wide and 25' tall. The gate will be funded by Fish & Wildlife. It is home to a lot of bats and histoplasmosis. Camping will be on site and food will be provided. Krista Bartel asked if welders are needed. Jim said that Joe Williams and Alicia Wallace will be welding but could use some welders during the week. **MSS Treasury.** Don Dunham said he just found out that all interest from accounts goes into the general fund. He also said he has t-shirts and stickers available. **Mary Lawson Cave.** Pres. Lamping said that 4400 ft. is surveyed. He said there are thousands and thousands of bats, probably more than the MDC knows. They only allow two weekends per year to go into the cave. **Next MSS meeting.** Pres. Lamping said that it has been suggested to have the next meeting March 2022 in Perryville, in conjunction with a public outreach event organized with the City of Perryville. The meeting would have to be either the first weekend or the 2nd weekend. Allan Breite said the 2nd weekend would work better for them. A motion was made and seconded to have the meeting the 2nd weekend of March. Passed. Question raised if meeting would be on Sunday – possible conflict if on Saturday. Pres. Lamping said he would have to check when we could have the meeting and it would be announced at a later date. Meeting adjourned. – Respectfully submitted, Alberta Zumwalt, Secretary.

MSS OFFICERS: (Note: Address change for Don Dunham – the correct one this time)

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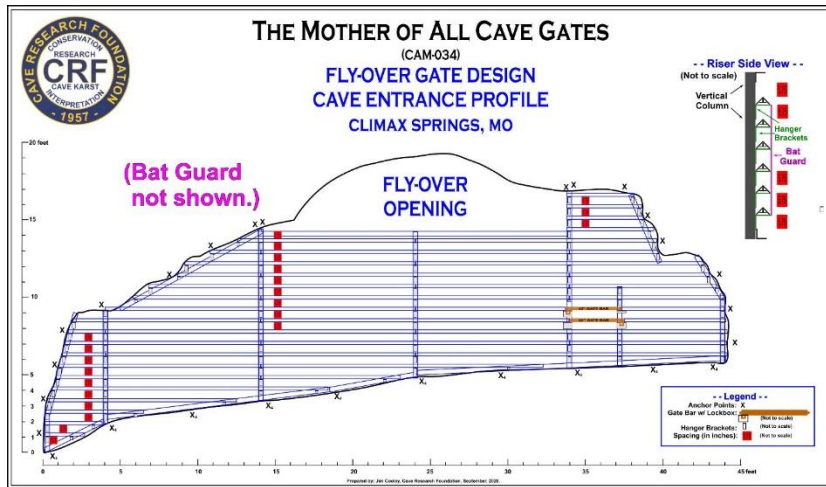
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Research Committee -Dr. Robert Lerch, Dr. Michael Sutton, Dr. Doug Gouzie and Jeffrey Crews.

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

SAVE THE DATE: Springtime in the Ozarks! Cave gating in Climax Springs, MO next April...



Hello Fellow Cave Conservers, Critter Lovers, and Wild-Eyed Conspiracy Conservationists of all stripes and species: We have finally set the dates for the construction of a bat-optimized cave gate at Climax Springs, MO. The project will start the morning of Friday, April 1st, 2022 and conclude no later than Sunday, April 10th, 2022 – and hopefully well before! Cave Research Foundation will be building a large, fly-over style cave gate to protect a HUGE maternity colony. This cave houses on average around

115,000 maternal gray bats every summer. Gray bats are a Federal and state listed endangered species; their maternity colonies are especially susceptible to disruption. This site has seen repeated trespassing, but no big juvenile gray bat kills – **yet**. Our goal is to keep it that way. This project is funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the agency responsible for administering the Endangered Species Act. We are looking for able-bodied volunteers to help build this gate, especially during the April 1st-April 6th time frame. This is a BIG project and we’ll need a LOT of help. There is plenty of good camping on site, and we’ll have grub every day and a campfire every night. This will be a fun project. Please drop me a quick note letting me know which days you can participate. I am now working to get the crew lined up for this excellent adventure. – Jim Cooley

Email: coolstoi@kc.rr.com or call: 816-763-8111

CALENDAR:

January 1st, 2022 – Next *MSS Liaison* deadline

March 5th – 6th, 2022– MSS weekend in Perryville, MO. Caving trips on Saturday, possibly owned by the city of Perryville. Possible camping at Berome Moore for the weekend. The MSS meeting will be Sunday, March 6th, 10 a.m. with a public outreach event for area residents and landowners in the afternoon. More details later.

March 30th – April 10th – Toby Cave gating project.

CONGRATULATIONS to a new addition to the MSS – Stygian Grotto! They were an affiliate of the MSS in the 1980's & 90's. Welcome back!