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AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS:

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Missouri Speleological Survey- President's Message - December 2022

by Dan Lamping

The next MSS meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2023 at the Missouri Geological Survey in Rolla. MCKC will also be meeting on site that day, with plans in the works for presentations and cave files work happening throughout the day. The schedule will come out later as we get a better idea of presentations.

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.

As well, stay tuned for information about possible cave trips associated with the meeting. Scott House is working on objectives for USFS cave work in the Rolla District. Likely, cave trips will

happen on Friday, March 24, for those who can make it, and on Sunday, March 26. More information will be coming on in terms of potential camping or lodging.

Happy New Year!

Missouri Speleological Survey Files Report for January 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.

As an end of year report, here’s a comparison with the end of 2021. At close of the 2021 (last) year, the Missouri Cave Database, MCD, had 3735 monitoring forms, 6071 map records, 23924 reports, and 39702 faunal records. By comparison, the database ends 2022 with 3954 monitoring forms (5.8 increase over 2021), 6344 map records, 25744 reports (4.5% increase), 42259 faunal records (6.4% increase).

People want a cave count but those numbers can fluctuate quite a bit, so I’ll only report we have more, 7650 caves and we haven’t reached 7700 caves yet. Almost 4400 of these are mapped. **Mark Brooks sent:** -Narrative on CRF meeting weekend trip to Berome Moore Cave. He included 6 photos with his report. **Matt Beeson sent:** -A report for the survey trip to Mary Lawson Cave, reported now at 7181 ft surveyed length. **Jim Cooley sent:** -New maps for White (CL=22 ft), Dour Face (CL=33 ft), Niche (CL=39) and Bluff Spring (CL=50 ft) Caves in Oregon Co. -New maps for Quarry Ballroom (CL=688), George’s Bluff (CL=216), George’s Bluff Tunnel Spring (CL=47) and George’s Tunnel Spring Caves in Shannon Co. Quarry includes 4 plates and an index to the plates. -Almost 50 new Fauna Records on several caves in southern Missouri, along with that came 18 Use Monitoring forms for work on these same caves. A tarantula in his records was a first for our Faunal Records, although we have 5 “Narratives” that report tarantulas. **Josh Cooper sent:** -Survey notes on Horn Coral Pit (CL=62, VR=48) in Perry County (see Grush below). **Corey Ellis sent:** -A report on trip to Carroll Cave, including a collection of 60+ photos. -A map of Friendly Neighbor Cave (CL=97 ft) in Hickory Co. -An email with 3 new caves in Hickory Co. including entrance photos, directions, GPS and description. **Ken Grush sent:** -Maps of Kley (JEF, CL=30), Kitson and nearby outflow lead (LNC, CL=130 ft; lead LL=10 ft) Nora Spring (JEF, CL=40), Rusting Springs (SCL, CL=84), Salt Creek (SCL, CL=43), Seventh Day (SCL, CL=25), Skylight (PRY, CL=39) and Standing Rock (SCL, CL=25). A lead was noted near Kitson Cave and a sketch map attached for a possible/probable exit for the water in nearby Kitson Cave. -Maps of Steep Drop (CL=50) and Scholl Cave (CL=139) and Spring in Perry Co. -Processed some 2500 photos from an individual, I was looking for entrance shots for the “cover” page in the database. About 80 different caves got newly acquired photos, many were first time photos for the archives. -Final map of Horn Coral Pit in Perry Co. (see Cooper above) **Scott House sent:** -11 new maps of Balcony (CL=39), Big Boulder (CL=36), Boulder (CL=33) and East Hideout Caves (CL=20), Iron Shovel (CL=30), Kathleens Crawlway (CL=45), Popcorn Crawl (CL=30) and Short and Sweet (CL=27) Caves along with shelters including Bruiser (CL=54), Shelf (CL=29) and Sunshine (CL=29) Shelters. -8 Use Monitoring and 10 Faunal Records for a visit to the Tunnel Bluff area of Carter Co. within Scenic Riverways. Over the one-week trip in Winona, 28 Narratives, 132 Faunal Records and 29 Use Monitoring forms were filed for CRF monitoring on MTNF and ONSR. Several changes (about 50 caves modified) to Main Table were made by House during this time. -Sent a map of Spring Creek Cave (CL=113) and Blue Hole Ledge Tubes (CL=123) in Howell Co. Blue Hole had “2 caves” submitted that were under a common dripline so they were combined. -Sent maps of Noblett Creek Overlook Cave (CL=206) in Howell Co.

and Tater Cave (CL=515) in Shannon Co. **Mark Jones sent:** -An email on a 2017 trip to Cyclone Cave in McDonald County. I found his Faunal Records but couldn't find his usual report, which he soon corrected. -For December reporting, 20 Use Monitoring forms, Reports and 125 Faunal Records for caves visited on Scenic Riverways and Mark Twain National Forest while monitoring caves for these agencies for CRF. -Sent via Scott House, 8 Use Monitoring forms (read 8 caves), 8 Narratives and 27 Faunal Records for MTNF work in Christian Co. **Ed Klausner sent:** -Maps of Upper Cascade (CL=414) and Devils Hole (CL=185) Caves; and Lower Cascade Cave (CL=510) from Shannon Co. **Dan Lamping sent:** -Latest cartography on one of the 11 sheets of Carroll Cave in Camden Co., the state's third longest cave. **Joe Light sent:** -Map snapshots showing "old cave" entrances within Jefferson Barracks Park in St. Louis Co. -A new lead for Rockwoods Reservation in St. Louis Co., Trevor Pit. They also "gate checked" Brother Hubert Pit and Indian Cave at Greensfelder Park. **Chad McCain sent:** -Narrative on CRF meeting weekend trip to Berome Moore Cave. -Survey notes for Trillium Cave, which is a "new" entrance to Mystery Cave in Perry Co. **Ben Miller sent:** -Via Shawn Williams, 55 photos from a cave in Shannon Co. **Kohl Mitchell sent:** -New information on a relatively lost cave, Unnamed Cave #4 in Ralls Co., not reported on in almost 50 years. He sent location, directions and description along with several photos to update this cave -A map of Jackson Hole (CL=36) in Ralls Co. **Gary Resch sent:** -Survey notes for Skylight Cave, Steep Drop, and Scholl Cave and Spring Caves in Perry Co. (see Grush). **Tony Schmitt sent:** -A survey trip report on a fairly new Shannon Co. Cave. **Marissa Shorr sent:** -About 30 photos for a recent monitoring trip to Pulaski Co. that checked 5 caves for visitation and biologic resources. She supplied Use Monitoring and Bio-checklists for each cave and her entrance photos were used for the "cover" photo in the database. -Use Monitoring form and Faunal Counts for Pittman Cave in Laclede Co. She also sent 3 photos. -Trip Report form that will be used as a Narrative for the database for a survey trip to Gabel Spring Cave in Phelps Co. **Robbery Tyler sent:** -Entrance photos and location for Federal Cave in St. Francois Co. **Mick Sutton sent:** -Updated species table including revised spnum for Walking Stick; deleted troglophile Caecidotea (now just Caecidotea) and scorpion fly; and addition of Green Treefrog (as specific not generic). -And a new listing for tarantula. Although there have been reports of tarantulas, they weren't in the recent Fauna Records, so a new listing was created. This one was found within a cave in Shannon Co. **Bobby Swain sent:** -Reports and photos on Onondaga Cave in Crawford Co.; new Hidden Abrasion and Dump Caves in St. Louis Co. **Richard Young sent:** -A detailed report on a landowner's property that has many karst features and caves. Two new caves, Horn Coral Pit and Steep Drop Cave, were reported, two caves were surveyed (see Resch) and another cave properly located (we hope!). -Archaeological assessments for caves in Howell and Pulaski Counties.

Lake Ozarks Grotto (LOG). Dec. 4th – Grotto Xmas party at the home of Burke & Christen Easter with 12 members and 6 guests present. We now have grotto shirts & sweatshirts. **Dec. 23rd** - We were saddened by the loss of yet another long-time grotto member, Bob Gitchell. Bob passed away three days before his 80th birthday. He was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease this year and broke his hip in early December. He was the fourth member we have lost in the last two years, joined H. Dwight Weaver, Bill Pfantz & Kerry Rowland. Some of the old timers will remember Bob from past MVOR events. There are no services planned at this time but his wife, JoAnne said there will be a celebration of life gathering later on. A memorial bench was purchased by LOG and is located at Stark Caverns. Nameplates for the four long-time members that we have lost, will be placed on the bench in the Spring. **Goodwin** – Our grotto was shaken by the news that someone had breached the gate at Goodwin, stealing a 4,000-watt Coleman generator, a 21" self-propelled mower, an Echo leaf

blower, a heavy-duty plastic tub wheelbarrow, various rakes, shovels, small hand tools, safety equipment (first aid kits, gloves, helmets with headlamps) and various other tools, a splitting maul along with several Dutch ovens, numerous cooking supplies, silverware, bowls, plates and other supplies. Please watch for someone trying to sell such items. It is possible that the person(s) responsible for the theft may have been to the sinkhole project prior to the theft.—Alberta Zumwalt

Kansas City Area Grotto (KCAG). Nov. 9th – After two prior postponements, Rick Hines led KCAGers Bill Gee, Jeff Bowman, John McGuire and Denis Murphy to finally get the concrete poured for the Pic Walenta Memorial Shelter at the Carroll Cave silo. The team left from Rick Hine’s house at 5:30 a.m. and were on-site for the pour at 9:00 a.m. Rick recruited Eric Eberhart, a professional concrete finisher and personal friend, to provide technical expertise and guidance. Despite the concrete arriving at 12:30 p.m. (two and a half hours late), eleven yards of concrete were poured from two trucks by 1:30 p.m. Smoothing and finishing the concrete was complete by 2:30. All gear was cleaned and the team left the site by 3:00 p.m. Additional work days will be scheduled to finish the roof and electrical work. **Nov. 19th**: Rick Hines, assisted by KCAGers Jim & Julie Cooley and Chouteau members Martin Carmichael, Bryn Downes-Ward, and Kohl Mitchell, led the annual landowners’ trip to Carroll Cave. Jim served as safety officer while Julie took charge of collecting liability waivers as well as brewing BOTH the hot chocolate AND the hot coffee provided for our eight guests, after which Rick, Martin, Bryn and Kohl led the guests in two groups into the cave. The detailed reports for both of these trips may be found at <https://www.mocavesandkarst.org/carroll-cave-reports-blog/> -- Jim Cooley



New concrete pad for the Pic Walenta Memorial Shelter

for the Pic Walenta Memorial Shelter at the Carroll Cave silo. The team left from Rick Hine’s house at 5:30 a.m. and were on-site for the pour at 9:00 a.m. Rick recruited Eric Eberhart, a professional concrete finisher and personal friend, to provide technical expertise and guidance. Despite the concrete arriving at 12:30 p.m. (two and a half hours late), eleven yards of concrete were poured from two trucks by 1:30 p.m. Smoothing and finishing the concrete was complete by 2:30. All gear was cleaned and the team left the site by 3:00 p.m. Additional work days will be scheduled to finish the roof and electrical work. **Nov. 19th**: Rick Hines, assisted by KCAGers Jim & Julie

Cooley and Chouteau members Martin Carmichael, Bryn Downes-Ward, and Kohl Mitchell, led the annual landowners’ trip to Carroll Cave. Jim served as safety officer while Julie took charge of collecting liability waivers as well as brewing BOTH the hot chocolate AND the hot coffee provided for our eight guests, after which Rick, Martin, Bryn and Kohl led the guests in two groups into the cave. The detailed reports for both of these trips may be found at <https://www.mocavesandkarst.org/carroll-cave-reports-blog/> -- Jim Cooley

Chouteau Grotto. Nov. 5th -Kohl Mitchell and Rita Worden both attended the annual CRF meeting in Perryville, Mo. With Kohl and Maya Robles, Rita entered Berome Moore cave and was able to obtain drip water samples for isotope analysis by Tyler Huth. **Nov. 19th** - Martin Carmichael, Kohl Mitchell, and Bryn Downes-Ward assisted Rick Hines and Jim and Julie Cooley with a 'landowners’ trip' into Carroll Cave. **Dec. 3rd** - Kohl Mitchell, Martin Carmichael, Bryn Downes-Ward and Justin Prazak surveyed Buzzard Arch Cave in Monroe Co. A return trip is planned. **Dec. 4th** - Kohl Mitchell surveyed Jackson Hole, a small shelter cave in Ralls Co. **Dec. 17th** - Bryn Downes-Ward arranged a trip to Kiesewetter cave in Pulaski County with Rita Worden, Eloria Fedynich, Thomas Sisney, Diana Dawson, Sean Douglas, and Gabriel Fedynich (Springfield). **Dec. 28th** - Rita Worden checked out a newly opened pit with Shawn Williams and Matt O'neal (MVG), not far from OUL but technically in Arkansas. **Dec. 29th** - Rita and Shawn checked on 1440 cave, now owned by Zach Johnson who also bought the Archambeau property. The area is being developed and this cave needs to be surveyed and protected. They did not enter the cave but did run into a hostile neighbor.--Rita Worden

Stygian Grotto. **Nov 11th** - JJ Huelsing and son, Justin Huelsing, did a ridge-walk in West St Louis County searching for a lost cave entrance. **Nov 12th** - JJ Huelsing, Dawn Martin, Rich Orr, Eric Basinger, Ian and Jessica Pelletier, along with Amanda and Bobby Swain from MVG visited Stemler Cave in Illinois. **Dec 3rd** - Allan Breite and Ian Pelletier hiked part of Cliff Cave County Park to assist the MSS cave files to relocate 2 caves entrance leads. **Dec 11th** - Ian Pelletier accompanied Chad McCain and several other cavers from other grottoes into Black Fathom Cave. **Dec 17th** - Allan Breite hiked part of Cliff Cave Park to assist the MSS cave files to relocate 2 cave entrance leads. **Dec 19th** - Allan Breite, JJ Huelsing and Ian Pelletier joined up with members of Windy City Grotto, Near Normal Grotto and MVG to participate in the Karst Conservancy of Illinois Fall workday at the Pautler Cave Preserve in Waterloo IL. The dug gate had some repair work done and the invasive Wintercreeper was removed from within the sinkhole area. Several others of the group did some honeysuckle removal at Pautler Cave and over at Stemler Woods Cave preserve. **Dec 25th** - JJ Huelsing and Dawn Martin did some additional ridge-walking in West St Louis County searching for the lost cave entrance. **Dec 28th** - JJ Huelsing and Dawn Martin accompanied Jamie Hubert from Cuivre River State Park and Jordan Meyer and 2 other members of the MDC to conduct a bat survey in Cuivre River State Park. **Dec 29th** - JJ Huelsing and Dawn Martin did some ridge-walking in Cuivre River State Park. **Dec 29th** - Rich Orr and friends did a kayak trip on the Meramec River and assisted the MSS cave files in providing GPS readings and photos of several cave entrances. **Dec 30th** - JJ Huelsing and Dawn Martin ridge-walked another area within Cuivre River State Park. **Dec 31st** - JJ Huelsing and Dawn Martin ridge-walked an additional area within Cuivre River State Park.—Allan Breite

Springfield Plateau Grotto (SPG). **Nov. 1st** --Jon Beard and Trenton Wells guided Doug Gouzie's MSU speleology class (which included Sarah Peterson) through the Main Room of Breakdown Cave and the entrance passage of Fitzpatrick Cave in teaching the studies about the caves. **Nov.**--Jon Beard spent 13 days on his Fantastic Caverns restoration project, mostly involving stalactites and draperies vandalized ~100 years ago. **Nov. 10th** --SPG held its annual Fantastic Caverns business meeting, attended by 51 people. **December:** Jon Beard spent 13 days on his Fantastic Caverns restoration project. The restoration, thus far, involves the completion of 62 speleothems. **Dec. 9th & 16th** --Jon Beard restored a drapery "fin" in Bridal Cave. Eric Hertzler also showed Jon two nearby caves, Bluff and Bear, one of which needs restoration work.--Report by Jonathan Beard. **Dec. 3rd** ----A group of 11 cavers, led by Matt Beeson, divided into four teams to continue the survey of Mary Lawson Cave. The survey is part of an on-going CRF Project. The cave is an MDC-gated bat cave. The group surveyed another 2200 ft., bringing the total to about 7800 ft. so far. At least one more trip will be needed to finish the survey. **Dec. 17th** --- SPG President (Nathan Burton) hosted a group of 12 cavers at Old Spanish Cave (Stone Co.) for a mapping class led by Matt Beeson. A few learned how to set stations and shoot Disto's and Bric's and four learned the fundamentals of sketching. Matt said the group did excellent! SPG has a number of big mapping projects either started or soon to be started. So, they wanted to build more personnel experienced in mapping. And they certainly accomplished that. **Dec. 21st** ---Ben Miller and Matt Beeson returned to Broadwater Hollow to continue mapping Devils Den. However, after rigging the pit and Ben descending some ways down, they realized they were rigged in a waterfall and the last 25 feet would drench them. They weren't prepared for a wet rappel nor a wet climb back out. So they headed over to Ursus Tomb to see how tight the constriction was and whether it would hinder them remapping it. They rigged a handline and Matt descended down to the right spot. It was very tight and descending downward. After looking it over, they decided that the old map was good enough. --Report by Matt Beeson.

Nov. 12th - Sean and his acrobat friends took a drive down to Lost Valley/Eden Falls to go on a hike. They walked the trail and explored around the Natural Bridge, Cob Cave Rock Shelter and Eden Falls. Sean and his friend, Patrick, went into Eden Falls Cave and went back to see the waterfall in the cave while the others opted to stay at the opening. **Nov. 16th – 18th** --- Sean drove to the Caver Christmas party at Cumberland Caverns outside of McMinnville TN. He left Springfield on Friday at noon and drove to see Towosahgy State Historic Site, a fortified mound site in Southeast Missouri on the Missouri/Kentucky border on the Mississippi River. He stayed the night in Charleston, MO. On Saturday morning, he drove to Wickliffe Mounds across the river in Kentucky, only to find it was closed during the winter. He arrived at Cumberland Caverns at 2:30pm and took the 3 o'clock tourist Discovery walking tour. The tour was led by Mitchell who did a fantastic job as the tour guide. The biology we saw were Cave Crickets. His favorite part of the tour was the Never-ending Waterfall and the Hall of the Mountain King (Because he is a fan of Edvard Grieg). After the walking tour, he checked into his hotel and rested until the party started. While at the party, he ran into Treavor Bussard, met Kirsten Alvey-Mudd and Nicole Ridlen. He dined with the owners of On Rope 1. The dinner was good and it was a lovely setting in the volcano room under the chandelier. The local high school choir performed choral versions of old Christmas carols, and it was beautiful sounding. After the guest speakers, he retired back to his hotel room. At 6 am on Sunday, he left McMinnville, heading to Brentwood, TN to see Fewkes Mound Archaeological Site, and then drove to Bridgeport, IL to see Kincaid Mound State Historic Site, which he found to be the most beautiful thing he had seen in the last 3 years that the pandemic has been going on. Sean drove home. It was a lot of driving on the previous 3 days. Since this was a dual-purpose trip of partying in a cave and seeing Mississippian mound complexes, he regrets he didn't have the time to go on one of the adventure tours, and looks forward to scheduling time this summer to take one.--Report by Sean Faye. All reports were submitted by Max White.

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

Calendar:

March 1st - Next Liaison deadline

March 25th – Next MSS meeting, Missouri Geological Survey in Rolla. More info later.

MSS Affiliate Fees are due in January for 2023. The fee must be paid on or before the meeting at the end of March. The MSS constitution states that failure to pay the affiliation fee within two months from due date will result in loss of representation on the MSS Board.

The following organizations are not paid for 2023: MCKC, MSM, Chouteau, KCAG, LEG, Stygian, CAIRN, PEG, SEMO, SPG, and Roubidoux (still owes \$10 for 2022).

The fee is \$25.00. A check or money order, made out to Missouri Speleological Survey, Inc., can be mailed to: MSS Treasurer, C/O Don Dunham, 6104 Valley Creek Ct., Imperial, MO 63052. The fee can also be paid on March 25th at the MSS meeting in Rolla.