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AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS:

CAIRN – 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 May 2023

by Dan Lamping

Caving creates such awesome connections between people. A recent survey trip to Nameless Cave had nearly 20 cavers, young and old, male and female, all coming together to work towards a common goal in an environment most would never really want to be in, doing what most would never want to do. Nine hours working in the cold, dark, wet and muddy underworld to map an incredibly old, complex and impressive cave. This is a resurvey project, rekindling a fire lit decades ago when cavers first began mapping in this large Meramec basin cave. My team survey team included Rita Worden who's over 70 years old and still getting after it, and Heidi Asselmeier who's 20 years old and a joy to cave with. It hit me while they were taking shots and reading back data for me to record in the book, that Rita and I first caved together over 20 years ago, a period longer ago than Heidi has been alive. Yet here the three of us were together, mapping in the underground while five other teams were having their own experiences and making their own connections. We were dialed in with my focus being on the moment, nose buried in the survey book and disconnected from the countless other things in life that so often command my attention. The connections amongst cavers are across ages and interests, as we invest our time, efforts, and comfort to contribute to something

bigger than ourselves, documenting a beautiful place where few have been and which no doubt still has secrets to discover. After the trip, where we mapped nearly a mile of cave passage, we came out to the most gracious hosts who provided a delicious meal and a place to convene as we shared in the food, stories, laughs and camaraderie. This is what I love about caving.



On March 25th, the MSS had the 2023 spring meeting at the Missouri Geological Survey in Rolla. The day was full with cave map displays, presentations, the meeting and awards. I'm honored to share that Ken Grush received the J Harlen Bretz Award for contributions to speleology. Ken's commitment to the cave files is beyond impressive. He takes in countless amounts of information from people across the region in all sorts of formats and preserves it so that cavers in the future can access the work which generations of cavers have contributed towards the collective understanding of caves in Missouri. Thank you, Ken, for all you do. Two other awards were also given with Joe Light receiving the Lang Brod Certificate of Recognition and Brian Wilcox of Meramec State Park receiving the Tex Yokum Certificate of Appreciation. Joe's award comes from his many years of researching and documenting caves in the St. Louis region, which includes authoring two highly popular issues of *Missouri Speleology*, one on Cherokee Cave beneath the City of St. Louis and one on Cliff Cave in St. Louis County. Additionally, Joe has written several other issues of *Missouri Speleology*. The Tex Yokum Certificate of Appreciation goes to a non-caver who helps support the goals of the MSS. Brian certainly does this by helping to facilitate access to caves in Meramec State Park. Being able to access caves in places like Meramec State Park is imperative for groups like the Meramec Valley Grotto, which brings in lots of new cavers. But those new cavers need someplace to go to get them started, and Brian certainly supports this by connecting cavers with caves.

The next MSS meeting is being planned for Lincoln County, Missouri, likely in October. This karst region, north of St. Louis, is one which needs a lot of attention from cavers. Kirsten Alvey Mudd has been doing work up there, documenting caves on private lands and adding to the faunal records for the region, but there are many caves in the area which still need to be mapped. Kirsten has volunteered to help coordinate with Cuivre River State Park to hold the meeting and we're looking into reserving a camp with bunk space, kitchen, etc. for the weekend. Stay tuned for more information. Once a firm date is set, I'll send it out. Directors, look for an email from me sometime soon with a couple of options for dates.

Missouri Speleological Survey Files Report for May 1, 2022. 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. It does appear as though we have over 7700 caves in our database now. We try not to report specific numbers, but we have a comfortable edge over 7700 to say that number. **Kirsten Alvey-Mudd sent:** -At the end of last MSS reporting, she sent 4 new caves in Pike Co. and 8 new caves in Ralls Co. She supplied multiple photos for each, directions, locations and descriptions. -Sent survey notes for work in Spanish Steps Cave of Phelps Co. She also sent 7 Faunal Records. **Matt Beeson sent:** -Map of new Duff Pit (CL=10, CD=24) in Christian Co. -6 Faunal Records and 2 Use Monitoring forms for Root Column Cave and Blue Ridge Karst Window in Christian Co. -5 Faunal Records and Use Monitoring form for Fitzpatrick Cave in Christian Co. **Matt Bliss sent:** -A map with 2 caves on it: Rousseau Rift (CL=49 ft, CD=30 ft) and Side Pocket Pit (CL=36, CD=18) in Perry Co. **Karamea Christofferson sent:** -3 Faunal Records for Herakado Cave in Jefferson Co. -A Narrative report, 5 Faunal Records for the latest cave in Jefferson Co., Sandy Cave Spring. She showed a nice map of the cave too; it'll require a return trip to finish. -3 new cave records in Christian Co.; she supplied photos, Faunal Records, location, directions and brief descriptions. -10 photos and 6 Faunal Records from her monitoring/work project with CRF at Round Spring Caverns. **Josh Cooper sent:** -5 Faunal Records for

Streiler City Cave. **Spike Crews sent:** -A Skaggs Cave trip report from 2011 and David Ashley. Besides the report 10 new Fauna Records were gathered from the report. **Sean Fay sent:** -Location, description and photos on a new cave in Dallas Co.: Butterscotch Cave. **Ken Grush sent:** -3 boxes of cave files to Rolla; filed a boxful of "specific" cave data and 2 boxes of newsletter material. While in Rolla, I collected material to add 73 reports to Phillips Co. and found a previously un-cataloged map. **Scott House sent:** -19 Use Monitoring forms, 43 Faunal Records and some modifications to about 55 caves looking for additions to name, geology, hydrology, arch-site potential. One cave lead got an upgrade to cave status with a survey. -4 maps of Capstone Cave (CL=87), McCubbin Hole Cave (CL=48), Patton Pit (CL=55) and Simpson Hole Shelter (CL=21). **James Huelsing sent:** -Locations for 2 Lincoln Co. caves that hadn't been reported on since they were mapped in 1965: Linns Mill and Chert Caves. Also, an entrance photo for Linns Mill. -2 new caves for Lincoln Co.: Hamilton Hole and Pickerelweed Caves. Locations and entrance photos sent. -New cave record for Loutre Valley Cave in Montgomery Co. Submission included brief description, owner name, location and 4 photos of entrance. **Mark Jones sent:** -23 Use Monitoring forms and over 100 Faunal Records for cave visits on the Ozark National Scenic Riverways (ONSR), this is CRF project work done for ONSR. While at the park, they found and surveyed 4 new caves. On each new cave, he submitted a Narrative and Use Monitoring form. -After working Shannon Co., 4 Narratives, 5 Use Monitoring Forms and 25 Faunal Records for CRF work on the MTNF in Christian Co. -His photo collection for Missouri caves, among them were 800 Powerpoints where he selects and highlights the features and best photos of the caves. Mark has reported on some 350-450 different caves in the state. A lot of his photos have been used as cover photos in the database, and this collection provided 30 more entrance photos. **Gerry Keene sent:** -A bat sighting in Crevice Cave. **Dan Lamping sent:** -10 Use Monitoring forms for the CRF/MVG trip to Scenic Riverways. **Joe Light sent:** -A report and 16 photos on the boat trip to Sequiota Cave in Springfield. He also had 2 Faunal Records for the cave and entrance photos of the 2 adjoining caves: Walkway All The Way and Crawlway All The Way Caves. -Information on another cave in the city of St Louis: Philadelphia Cave. As with many brewery caves, it appears to be large, arched, bricked chambers; this one with 3. -About 30 photos, 15 Faunal Records and 12 Narratives for monitoring 12 caves on the Scenic Riverways for CRF and the park. **Chad McCain sent:** -A map of Crystal Cave (CL=503, CD=43) in Perry Co. **Ben Miller sent:** -Two maps that somehow escaped MSS cave files: Indian Burial Cave (dated 2012, CL=65) and Icebox Cave (dated 2010, CL=49). Does the patience of (the) job apply here!?! **Kohl Mitchell sent:** -A very nice map of Bill Gray Cave from the basically "unheard" from county of Monroe, which does have 3 known caves. I try not to comment on quality of maps...but for only his third map he's mapping like one of the more experienced mappers. With the relatively low bar of 2 maps in the county, Mitchell has also mapped the longest cave in the county (CL=101 ft), well until he found a new one. -A map of a Karst complex that includes Buzzard Arch (CL=620 ft), Marina Maze (CL=77 ft) and Just Barely (CL=24 ft) Caves in Monroe Co. **Richard Orr sent:** -3 new cave locations, descriptions and photos in Phelps Co. -New cave for St. Francois Co, Flowstone Cave. **Jack Ray sent:** -10 reports on various caves that he has studied in Camden, Christian, Greene, Lawrence, McDonald, Shannon and Stone Counties. **Tony Schmitt sent:** -8 "historic" images (on the cusp of last century) of Rice Cave in Jefferson Co. **Marissa Schorr sent:** -Trip Report, Narrative, photos and 11 Faunal Records for Little Piney Cave in Phelps Co. While in the county, she searched for 2 features in our database and found a new one that she surveyed. The other 2 remain somewhat elusive and a mystery. -Trip Report to Bright Hollow Blowing Cave in Christian Co. Entrance photos were sent too. **Mick Sutton sent:** -A Use Monitoring form and 15 Faunal Records on a CRF trip to Onyx and Saltpeter Caves in Pulaski Co. -19 Faunal Records for 3 caves monitored in Madison Co:

Flying Buttress, Big Brown Bat and Saltpeter Caves. **Max White sent:** -Trip Report for a monitoring trip to Smittle Cave in Wright Co. This was an MDC group with White. **Craig Williams sent:** -An arc-assessment for 4 caves in Christian Co. -Arc-assessments for several caves in Jefferson and Barry Co. We're trying to link more cultural resources with caves to validate one more aspect to support protecting our cave resources. **Shawn Williams sent:** -(via Scott House) Use Monitoring form, 5 Faunal Records and a Trip Report Narrative for Spanish Steps Cave in Phelps Co. **Richard Young sent:** -A report on Cherry Hole in Perry Co., providing 2 photos, location and description of the feature. -A report on a survey trip to Perry Co.: They surveyed Rousseau Rift and Side Pocket Caves. They also visited a third "new" cave nearby.—Ken Grush

Springfield Plateau Grotto (SPG). Jon Beard continued his restoration project in Fantastic Caverns, Greene Co., spending 14 days in March and 15 days in April respectively repairing stalactites, stalagmites and draperies. As of the end of April, a total of 405 speleothem have been restored to their natural appearances or roughly 90% of the target objective. **Apr. 22nd** ---SPG had a family trip to Joe's/Miners cave (Arkansas.) The trip was attended by: Chris and Jody Gertson and granddaughter Ivy, Heather Pyle and daughter Megan, Nathan Burton and son Jacob, Richard Thompson, Scott Morris with Kanakuk, Sean Faye and Joey Kessack. Everyone explored the cave and helped carry gear to the cave. Chris led the trip in while Richard welded a couple additional pieces on the gate and Nathan did some touch up grinding. The last bit of the cave was very pretty and everyone took a moment to



Nathan Burton grinding on cave gate.

look around. The girls had a great time and were even pointing to things! Everyone had a great time and would definitely be interested in revisiting the cave.



From SPG family trip



Megan & Ivy



Future leaders of SPG

Also, Apr. 22nd --- Earth Day, in a joint venture, Melvin Johnson, Missouri Master Naturalist and Missouri Department of Conservation set up the Bats, Caves, Karst and Nature Display at the Lebanon- Laclede Co. Library, Lebanon, Missouri. The display drew 164 participants. **Also, Apr. 22nd** --- Dustin Middleton, Jarod Ozee, Nathan Windel and Max White ridgewalked in Arkansas as part of a CRF project looking for new caves. Two undocumented caves were located.--Report by Max White Content provided by Jon Beard, Nathan Burton, Melvin Johnson and Heather Pyle.

Chouteau Grotto. Mar. 4th - Kohl Mitchell, Bryn Downes-Ward, and Diana Dawson did survey work in Toby Cave with Jim Cooley (KCAG). **Mar. 11th** - Kohl Mitchell, Emma Buckingham, Erica Hroblak, and Sean Zimmerman along with Stygian members JJ Huelsing and Eric Basinger did a survey trip to Animal Den Cave in Ralls Co. A tight crawl-way led to a previously unknown large breakdown room and going stream passage, which will require another trip. Betty Jane Cave, a small one room cave on the same property, was also surveyed. **Mar. 12th** - Rita Worden went to Nameless Cave with Dan Lamping, Bob Lerch, Shawn Williams and Jen Sutherland to assess it for survey and to establish stations at roughly 600' intervals so that multiple survey teams will be able start simultaneously. **Mar. 26th** - Kohl Mitchell participated in the survey of Spanish Steps Cave with Krista Bartel, Shawn Williams, Jessica Shoffner and Lawrence Ireland. **Apr. 1st** - Bryn Downes-Ward, Kohl Mitchell, and Diana Dawson accompanied Jim and Julie Cooley and other KCAG members to survey two new caves in Camden Co. **Apr. 8th** - Bryn Downes-Ward and Rita Worden did a little survey training with Caleb Mundwiller and Diana Dawson in Bruce Cave in Moniteau Co. **Apr. 22nd** - Rita Worden led the P3 trip into Devil's Icebox for the semi-annual bio count of stream invertebrates. **Apr. 29th** - Rita Worden participated in the Nameless Cave survey project headed by Dan Lamping.—Rita Worden

Lake Ozarks Grotto (LOG). Kieseewetter Cave. Ken Long reported that the key had been broken off in the lock for the 2nd time but the group replaced it. Ken had a picture of the parking area for the cave during the Gasconade River flood, taken on March 25th. **Goodwin.** Ken Long, Klaus Leidenfrost and Jean Knoll worked at the sinkhole on April 29th. They replaced the gate that had been damaged by thieves who stole almost everything on the site. The old safety fence was taken down, vegetation removed and a new fence put in place. An old lawnmower was fixed so that they could mow the grass. The fate of this sinkhole project is unknown at this time. **On Apr. 28th**, we were saddened by the loss of another LOG member, Craig Smith, who passed away from a fast-moving brain cancer.—Alberta Zumwalt



Field with no water



Parking area with flood water on MCKC property at Kieseewetter Cave

Kansas City Area Grotto (KCAG). Mar. 4th: Nathan Taylor and his family went down to the Carroll Cave silo and property and framed in the walls and window openings on the Pic Walenta Memorial Pavilion. **Mar. 4th-5th:** Jim & Julie Cooley led a trip that included Chouteau Grotto cave surveyors Diana Dawson, Bryn Downes-Ward, and Kohl Mitchell, to continue the survey of a large, gated gray bat maternity cave on private property near the Lake of the Ozarks. An extensive exterior survey and all plan view sketches were completed. **Mar. 15th:** In support of Cave Research Foundation's (CRF's) cave management efforts on behalf of the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), Gary Johnson and Steve Potter (Pony Express Grotto) ridgewalked approximately 3,000 feet of steep bluff line with numerous rock outcrops on the Mule Shoe Conservation Area in Hickory County. The study area faced the Little Niangua River. Although prior efforts along this stretch of the river on private and MDC properties had turned up 15 caves new to the MSS, this trip found no new caves whatsoever. But it was great exercise anyway. **Mar. 18th:** Bill Gee led a team into Carroll Cave consisting of Martin Carmichael (Chouteau), Sarah Peterson (SPG), Tristin Whetstine, Diana Dawson (Chouteau), Caleb Mundwiller, Erica Hroblak, and Angie Wooden to change the memory card and

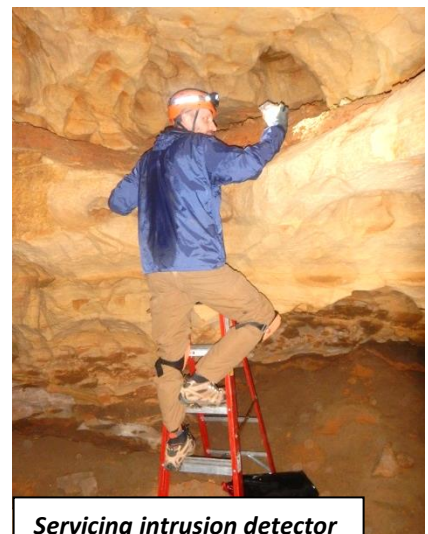
batteries in the bat roost detector, and also to service an intrusion detector undergoing testing. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Vona Kuczynska analyzed the data, which revealed that data recording had



"FEED ME!" phoebes

stopped in late November after only a month. There were only four bats detected. **Apr. 2nd**: Jim & Julie Cooley led a trip including KCAGers Bill Gee, Dustin Schmidt, Matthew Miguel Hernandez, and Tristin Whetstine, along with Chouteau Grotto members Diana Dawson, Bryn Downes-Ward, and Kohl Mitchell, to explore and survey two new karst features reported to KCAG by a proud new landowner who showed up at our February meeting. These caves are just east of Climax Springs, Missouri. One feature, named Gladys' Grotto (CAM-205), was small, had three entrances, and will be surveyed in the future. The larger cave was Raccoon Requiem Cave (CAM-131), named by the

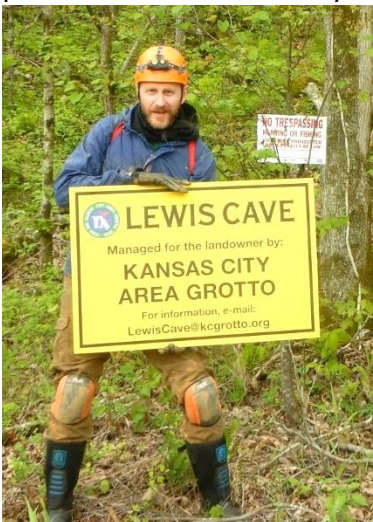
landowner after a large, deceased *Procyon lotor* was found inside, not far from the entrance. Survey shots were done for the entire cave, which consists of two levels, a nicely decorated upper walking-height passage above a low, wet stream passage, for a total of 449 feet of survey. A return trip is planned for June 23rd-25th to complete the survey. **Apr. 3rd**: Jim & Julie Cooley returned with Matthew Miguel Hernandez to finish the survey of the large, gated gray bat maternity cave visited March 4th- 5th, by completing the profile and all cross sections. **Apr. 4th-5th**: Jim & Julie Cooley represented CRF to a meeting of Abandoned Mined Lands project group of the Mark Twain National Forest (MTNF), in Rolla, Missouri. Jim gave a 100-slide PowerPoint presentation on all of the mines and mined caves owned by MTNF that CRF had gated in the previous decade. Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday were then



Servicing intrusion detector

4/29/2023

consumed by field trips to some of these and other sites owned by MTNF. **Apr. 7th**: Jim & Julie Cooley visited a karst feature associated with a spring on an MDC conservation area that had a reported 20-ft.-wide, 11-ft.-tall entrance. The objective was to determine if it was a cave. It was not, although it may have been a cave at one time whose entrance has collapsed. The spring opening is now six inches high, three feet wide, and humanly passable for only three feet. **Apr. 26th-29th**: Jim & Julie Cooley led a CRF expedition out of the Winona residence facility that monitored Whitten Cave (ORE-134), added some measurements to the map of Dour Face Tunnel (ORE-211), and completed a survey of Scree Slope Cave (ORE-214), discovered by Cliff Gill, Peter Schnegelberger and Jim Cooley in Sept. 2022 on the Irish Wilderness. En route to Scree Slope Cave, Julie was scooting down a hill on her fanny when she nearly scooted over the top of a small but very pretty snake, with a lovely flash of orange on the sides of its triangular head. Jim identified this critter as a



Meet the new boss....same as the old boss.

Sistrurus miliarius, or pygmy rattlesnake. It was basking in the sun on a rocky, glade-like southwestern-facing slope, exactly the habitat you'd expect to find it in. We also serviced the

intrusion detector in another MTNF bat hibernaculum cave that is suspected of having a lot of disturbance from human traffic in the winter. It didn't, at least in Winter 2022-23. We replaced a CRF lock on Lewis Cave (RIP-001) with a KCAG lock, and added a "Managed by KCAG" sign to the cave.

Apr. 30th-May 1st: Jim & Julie Cooley, Dustin Schmidt and Kohl Mitchell surveyed caves on private lands in north Shannon Co., focusing on a gray bat colony, in areas near the front of the cave not being used by the bats. **May 2nd:** Schmidt was introduced to several other caves that are on the survey agenda in that area, then assisted the Cooleys in the survey of Buzzard Babies Cave (SHN-726), which was discovered by Joe Williams and Jim Cooley in May 2022. The SHN-726 survey could not be completed due to the presence of, guess what? An adult turkey vulture guarding two eggs. But we got a fair amount done anyway, giving Schmidt his first experience at sketching. –Jim Cooley

MSS MINUTES. The Spring 2023 Board meeting of the Missouri Speleological Survey was called to order by President Dan Lamping on March 25th at the Division of Geology and Land Survey Annex conference room in Rolla. **Introduction of Officers:** Dan Lamping, President; Krista Bartel, Vice-President; Don Dunham, Treasurer; Alberta Zumwalt, Secretary. **Roll Call of Directors:** Craig Williams, CAIRN; Tony Schmitt, MCKC; Alex Litsch, MVG; Emily Reimer, MSM; Allan Breite, Stygian; Jeff Fennell, Daedalus; Gary Resch, SEMO; Charlie Rey, OHG; Max White, SPG; Cheryl Paulson (proxy for Jim Cooley), KCAG; Rita Worden, Chouteau; Gary Zumwalt, LOG. Absent were: LEG, MMV, PEG, Roubidoux. **Secretary's report.** The minutes were distributed to the officers and directors after the meeting and printed in the Oct. – Nov. *MSS Liaison*. Minutes approved. **MSS Liaison.** Gary Zumwalt reported cash on hand of \$113.21; Sending out 31 paper copies and the rest as electronic copies, the next deadline is May 1st. **Treasurer's Report.** Don Dunham reported: December 31st, 2022 – ACCOUNTS: General fund \$9,939.36; Subscriptions/Donations *Missouri Speleology* \$3,212.41; Research Fund \$15,579.18; Anne Johnson Data Fund \$16,974.77; Affiliation Fees \$1,667.00; Subscriptions *Liaison* \$61.00; Total \$47,433.72. ASSETS: Savings Bonds 00; Interest Checking \$11,433.72; Certificates of Deposit \$36,000; Total \$47,433.72. Don said the \$2,000 savings bond which matured at \$6,000 made the Research Fund what it is. Income Statement for the year ending December 31st, 2022: INCOME: *Missouri Speleology* subscriptions \$1,360.00; *Missouri Speleology* sales \$4,913.65; Organizational Affiliation fees \$300.00; *Liaison* subscriptions \$180.00; Amazon Smile \$6.95 (Don said that people who made purchases could make a donation to a non-profit); Savings Bonds \$6,294.40; Bank Interest \$.55; Total: \$13,055.57. EXPENSES: *Missouri Speleology* \$10,509.36 (mostly printing costs); *Liaison* \$400.00; Anne Johnson Fund \$940.00; Band fees \$82.00; Total: \$11,931.36. Net gain: \$1124.21. Balance Sheet for the year ending December 31st, 2022. Ending balance – 12/31/2022: Interest checking \$11,433.72; Certificates of deposit \$36,000.00; Total \$47,433.72. Beginning Balance 1/2/2022: Interest checking \$8,309.51; Savings Bonds \$2,000.00; Certificates of deposit \$36,000.00; Total \$46,309.51; Net Gain \$1,124.21. **Missouri Speleology.** Don Dunham reported that two volumes are in the works, possibly one by the end of next month and one in early summer. Material includes: Data by Jeff Crews – cross sections analysis; Analysis by Al Baker and prehistoric remains in Jacob's Cave. **MSS Awards.** Pres. Lamping explained the Tex Yokum Certificate of Appreciation goes to people not active cavers but who support cavers and the goals of the MSS. This award went to Brian Wilcox, a Naturalist at Meramec State Park, presented by Joe Light. Pres. Lamping said the Lang Brod Award was for contributions to speleology and the goals of the MSS. He presented the award to Joe Light with 24 caves reported by him, 123 reports written and he runs the MSS website. Pres. Lamping explained the J Harlen Bretz Award is for individuals who have made outstanding contributions in Missouri. He presented the award to Ken Grush, who has 240 recorded caves, 559 unique reports and 92 maps. **Old Business.** None. **New Business.** None.

Cave Files/Database. Ken Grush reported 26,000 reports, 43,000 faunal records, over 4,000 use monitoring, over 6,000 map records, 4400 mapped caves, close to 500 surveyed miles. He said there are over 7,700 caves – Shannon County has over 700 and Perry County has just under 700. Scott House added that 60% of caves are privately owned. Ken said there are 285 leads which could put the caves at 8,000. Scott said that the data is used by the Dept. of Transportation and they always try to route around the caves. Ken said GPS readings are needed for caves. Scott explained that the locations done in the 1960's, converted to GPS readings now, will not be totally accurate. Ken added that 400 of the 450 caves within the boundaries of the Ozark Scenic Riverways are surveyed. Jim Sherrell asked how caves are entered that have multiple entrances. Ken said that in the past, they were given another succession number but they are trying to change that by using the main accession number and adding A, B, C, etc. for other entrances. He said that 8,152 records have assigned accession numbers with 260 being leads and 90 secondary entrances. Pres. Lamping said that the MSS has a Cave Files Committee which consists of Scott (Chairman), Ken, Mick Sutton, Jeff Crews, and himself. The MSS has a good hand on caves on public grounds but there are a lot of opportunities for private-owned cave work. Kirsten Alvey reported 34 new caves this year and some caves haven't had a report on them in 60 years. Scott said to do the faunal record forms, even if nothing is seen and the use monitoring forms so they know someone was there. Pres. Lamping said the forms are on the MSS website. Ken said to get GPS readings and entrance photos. **Agency Reports:** Mark Twain National Forest/Ozark National Scenic Riverways - Scott said that only Dept. of Transportation gets the whole database. He said that Mark Twain is the largest owner of caves, more than Scenic Riverways. He said that every bat is now considered endangered except the Big Brown. Pres. Lamping said there is a procedure for monitoring caves on Federal lands through CRF. Trips to MDC caves have to have approval and reports each year. State Park work is handled on a local basis. **Affiliate Organizations**
Project Reports: MCKC – Tony Schmitt reported that Carroll Cave is now owned by MCKC. There are 1-2 survey trips each year, recruiting younger cavers. The cave is a little over 21 miles and they are still finding virgin passage. They now have the Pic Walenta shelter there and celebrated 30 years in October. Tony said the MCKC is working with Jefferson County Parks on Pleasant Valley Cave. Years ago, Earl Biffle used the bat stickers to raise funds to purchase the cave, owned by Nature Conservancy. There is an agreement in hand and they want to get the gray bats to come back to the cave. Tony said it needs a new gate, clean-up and new survey. It's almost a mile and will be longer.
Crevice Cave – Paul Hauck wants someone to take over the survey of the cave which has 3 entrances.
Public Outreach – Pres. Lamping said the MSS has Facebook and the website. **Next meeting:** Two choices were brought up. Rockbridge State Park/Devils Icebox in September or Cuirve River State Park/Lincoln County in October. Pres. Lamping asked if there were any more ideas and asked for discussion. Interest was in Cuirve River State Park. A date will be decided later. Meeting adjourned.—respectfully submitted, Alberta Zumwalt, Secretary

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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.

MSS Affiliate Dues were due at the first of the year. If your organization has not paid, please send a check or money order for \$25.00 (made out to the Missouri Speleological Survey, Inc.) to the MSS Treasurer: Don Dunham, 6104 Valley Creek Ct., Imperial, MO 63052.

CALENDAR:

July 1st – Next MSS Liaison deadline

October – Tentative Fall MSS meeting at Cuivre River State Park.