

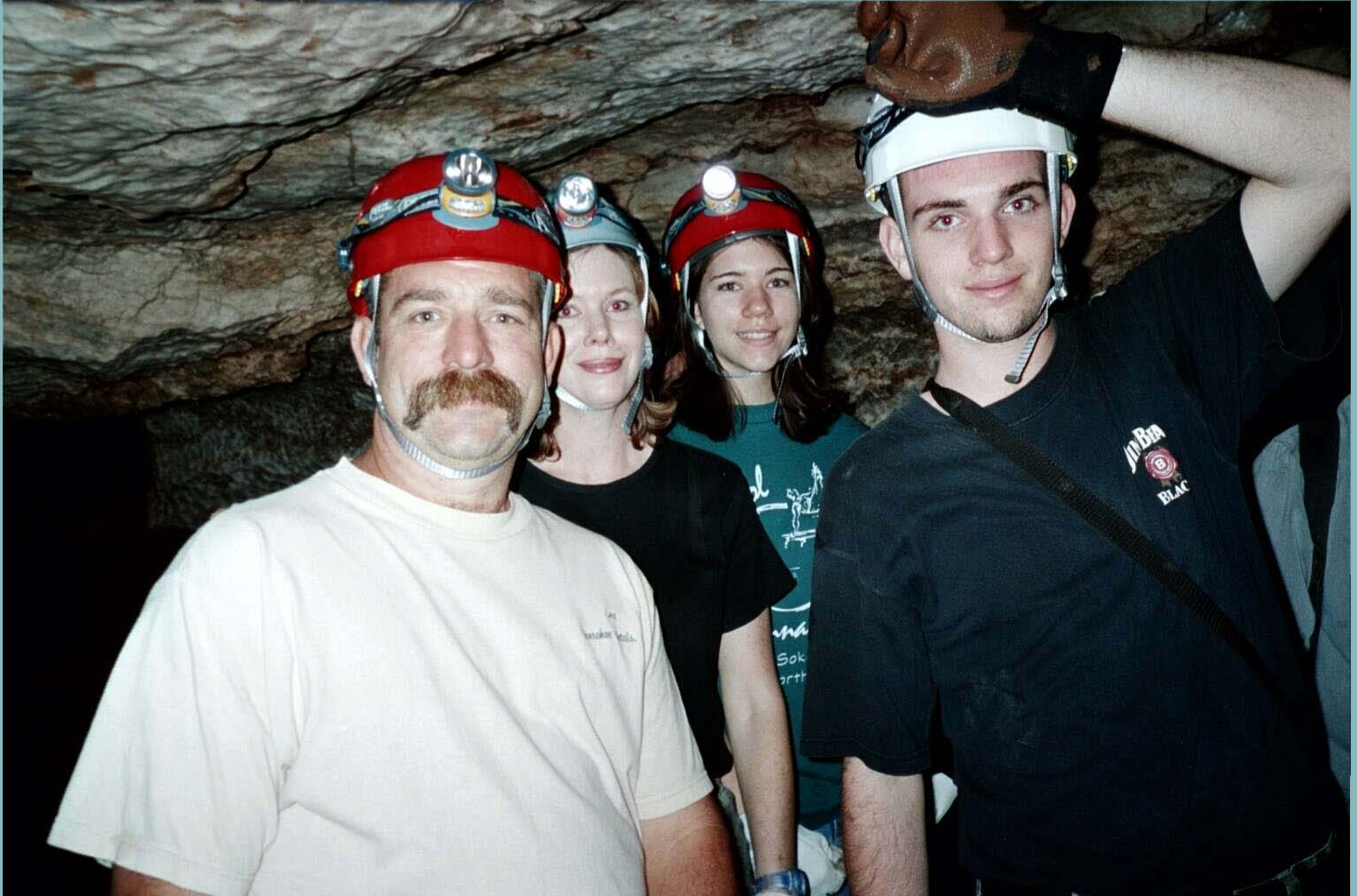
# THE MAVERICK BULL

The Newsletter of the Maverick Grotto

Volume 17, Issue 5 May 2004



Jester Cave, OK



## Maverick Grotto Information

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The Maverick Bull is the monthly newsletter of the Maverick Grotto, an internal organization of the National Speleological Society (NSS G-322). The editor invites all individuals and other grottos to submit articles, news, maps, cartoons, art, photographs, and other two- and three-dimensional goodies. If the material is to be returned, a self-addressed stamped envelope should accompany it.

**Reprinting Articles:** Internal organizations of the National Speleological Society may reprint any item (unless copyrights belong to the author as stated in the byline) first appearing in the Maverick Bull if proper credit is given and a complete copy of the publication is delivered to the editor at the time of publication. Other organizations should contact the editor of the Maverick Bull at the address herein.

**Exchanges:** The Maverick Grotto will exchange newsletters with other grottos. Contact the editor.

**Complimentary Newsletters:** The Maverick Grotto will provide complimentary newsletters to persons or organizations that provide cave access (i.e. landowners) or otherwise provide assistance to cavers. The Maverick Grotto will provide one free issue to persons interested in becoming members.

**Subscription Rates:** Subscription rates are \$15 per year for nonmembers and free for members.

**Membership Policy:** Any individual with interests, beliefs, and actions consistent with the purposes of the Maverick Grotto and the National Speleological Society is eligible for membership. Acceptance of new members is based on payment of dues and a mandatory three-trip requirement with at least three different grotto members. These three members shall act as sponsors. At least one sponsor must attend the meeting at which the membership vote is taken. A two-thirds majority vote of the members present will be required for acceptance.

**Meetings:** Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at Bodacious BBQ, 1206 E. Division St., Arlington. The time is 7 p.m., and the food is good.

**Carbide:** Currently carbide is unavailable.

**Library:** Support your grotto library. Russell Hill is accepting books, magazines, and videos related to caves and caving for our library. Thanks to Russell for his efforts in transporting the library collection to meetings.

### Cave Rescue

Call collect (512) 686-0234

## Photo & Map Credits

Front cover photos, clockwise from top right: Texas Horned Lizard by Judah Epstein; The Cox family (from left, Lex Jr., Tammy, Amber and Lex III) by Diana Tomchick; Francie Tucker, by Diana Tomchick..

Page 4, both by Aldo Marchese of Puebla, Mexico

Page 5: Diana Tomchick

Page 6, top right and top left: Jan Zelinka; bottom right Diana Tomchick; bottom left, web capture photo

Pages 7 & 8: Mark Gee

## Visit Our Web Site!

Butch has been hard at work updating the web site, check it out! You'll find information about getting into caving, trip photos and the PDF version of this newsletter (with color photos!):

**maverickgrotto.org**

## Corrections to the April issue

In the article "Proyecto Espelologico Sierra Oxmolon Part I," Aimee Beveridge's first name was spelled incorrectly several times. Lo siento.

## Next meeting, May 9th, 7p.m.

### Bodacious BBQ

1206 E. Division St.

Arlington, TX 76011

(817) 860-4248

Agenda Items: TSA Convention.

Program: Dan Smith will show slides of his 6 month and 2,500 mile backpack trip in 1981 from Mexico to Canada along the Pacific Crest Trail. The trail travels from Campo, Mexico north to Manning Provincial Park in British Columbia. Not a cave in sight, so there will be no cave pictures, but good mountain photos. Be sure to show up at 7 p.m., as we will start the program before the business meeting.

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### Chair

Ed Goff  
737 Bizerte Ave.  
Dallas, TX 75224  
(214)942-6024  
egoff@rice.edu

### Secretary

Scott Boyd  
3792 Kearby St.  
Fort Worth, TX 76111  
(817) 838-3900  
sdboyd56@yahoo.com

### Newsletter Editor

Diana R. Tomchick  
10106 Technology Blvd. #826  
Dallas, TX 75220  
(214)418-5827  
Diana.Tomchick@utsouthwestern.edu

### Vice-Chair

Mark Gee  
12515 Meadowcrest Lane  
Balch Springs, TX 75180  
(972) 557-1503  
andre.swinson@andrew.com

### Treasurer

Sharon Mastbrook  
3412 Walton Ave.  
Fort Worth, TX 76133  
(817) 346-2039  
cavedba@charter.net

### Webmaster

Butch Fralia  
3412 Walton Ave.  
Fort Worth, TX 76133  
(817) 346-2039  
cavedba@charter.net

# April Meeting Minutes

## submitted by Scott Boyd

The Maverick Grotto met April 13th at Bodacious BBQ, on E. Division St. in Arlington. Eighteen members and five visitors attended this month's meeting.

Program:

A slideshow was scheduled, but as soon as the slide projector was turned on, the bulb burned out.

Reports from Officers:

Vice-Chair: Mark Gee announced that he had the forms for anyone wanting to apply for membership in the TSA.

Treasurer: Not present this month.

Newsletter Editor: Diana thanked everyone that sent in material for the April newsletter. She also requested material for the May issue, with a May 2nd submission deadline.

Old Business:

Ed Goff explained the status of speakers lined up for the TSA Spring Convention. Diana announced the fees for the Convention, and talked about some of the events and happenings that will be going on.

New Business:

There was no new business this month.

Trip reports and announcements:

Milo Marks and Bill Tucker talked about a private caving trip to another ranch in San Saba County that took place on the last weekend in March. Mark Gee gave a trip report on Crawling Dog Cave in Oklahoma. Bill Steele talked about a funny incident involving a vulture in Crawling Dog Cave. He also talked a bit about a nearby cave called Mystic Cave. Diana Tomchick gave a trip report on Jester Cave in Oklahoma. Bill Steele gave a great trip report on his 18-day, 225-mile adventure down the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon. Ed Goff gave a trip report on his caving trip to Mexico. Scott Boyd gave a short trip report on his trip to the Colorado Bend State Park Cave Survey project. Diana announced a vertical practice at the Trinity River Bridge this Sunday, April 18th, at 10am.

Other happenings:

Kristopher Megahan applied for membership and was voted in as a new member. A raffle was held for the 3rd Great-X t-shirt, which was won by Mark Gee. Fifteen dollars was collected for general grotto funds from the raffle.

## Caving Events Calendar

**May 07-09 Colorado Bend State Park Project:** long-time favorite of Mavericks, pretty close to home, semi-regular schedule, second weekend of the month. This is a terrific project for beginning cavers. **Contacts:** Terry Holsinger (512) 443-4241 [trhli@sprynet.com](mailto:trhli@sprynet.com) or Dale Barnard [Barnarddale@yahoo.com](mailto:Barnarddale@yahoo.com)

**May 15-16 Government Canyon State Natural Area Project (San Antonio):** 20 miles west of San Antonio. Activities this month focus on ridge walking on a 195-acre parcel of land that hasn't been previously checked for caves. Participants must enter property with group, contact in advance for times. See page 8 of last month's newsletter for directions and more information. **Contact:** Marvin and Lisa Miller (830) 885-5631 [mllmiller@gvtc.com](mailto:mllmiller@gvtc.com)

**May 15 Texas Speleological Survey Board of Directors Meeting (Austin):** Meeting from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., followed by work session until 7:00 p.m. Anyone interested in Texas cave information, its organization and publication is encouraged to attend. More information and directions can be found on page 7 of the January 2004 edition of this newsletter. **Contact:** George Veni (210) 558-4403 [gveni@satx.rr.com](mailto:gveni@satx.rr.com)

**May 21-23 2004 Spring Texas Speleological Association Convention and Texas Speleological Survey Workshop, Longhorn Caverns:** This year's convention is hosted by the Metroplex grottos and co-sponsored by the TSS, who will conduct a surveying workshop on Sunday morning. Sessions and vendors will be located at the Burnet Community Center. More information will be posted on TSA website, [www.cavetexas.org](http://www.cavetexas.org) **Contacts:** Joe Ranzau [joe.ranzau@usaa.com](mailto:joe.ranzau@usaa.com) Diana Tomchick (214) 418-5827 [Diana.Tomchick@utsouthwestern.edu](mailto:Diana.Tomchick@utsouthwestern.edu)

**May 29-31 High Guads Restoration Project: (New Mexico):** On-going work amid spectacular scenery in beautiful caves of the Lincoln National Forest. Last weekend of the month, permits often include Three Fingers, Virgin, Pink Dragon, Pink Panther, Hidden, Wonderland, and Black Cave. Activities vary from month to month. **Contacts:** Susan Herpin or Jennifer Foote [highguads@yahoo.com](mailto:highguads@yahoo.com)

**May 29-31 Memorial Day Regional, Southwest Region NSS (Guadalupe Mts.):** This event will include opportunities for recreational caving and work trips with the High Guads Restoration Project. Hosted by the Pajarito Grotto (Los Alamos, NM). **Contact:** Jennifer Foote [bigredfoote@yahoo.com](mailto:bigredfoote@yahoo.com)

**June 04-06 Kickapoo Caverns Project:** Cave surveying, ridge walking, photography, data collection, you-name-it, etc., perks include Kickapoo Caverns tour and other caves. **Contacts:** Travis Scott [travii99@hotmail.com](mailto:travii99@hotmail.com) Allan Cobb [ac@kihikihi.com](mailto:ac@kihikihi.com)

**June 11-13 Colorado Bend State Park Project**

**June 26 Texas Speleological Survey Open House and Worksession (Austin):** From 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., come to the UT Austin campus and see what's available in the TSS files. More information and directions can be found on page 7 of the January 2004 edition of this newsletter. **Contact:** George Veni (210) 558-4403 [gveni@satx.rr.com](mailto:gveni@satx.rr.com)

**July 12-16 NSS Convention: (Marquette, MI):** This year the convention takes place in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, with field trips to Canada. Deadline for early registration is May 15th. **Contact:** Jean DeVries [devriesj@aol.com](mailto:devriesj@aol.com) John Wilkerson [caver@wilkersons.ws](mailto:caver@wilkersons.ws) Website [www.nss2004.com](http://www.nss2004.com)

**Feb 02-06, 2005 7<sup>th</sup> Mexican Congress of Speleology & 5<sup>th</sup> Congress of FEALC (The Speleological Federation of Latin American and the Caribbean) (Monterrey, Nuevo León, México):** "Legislation and Protection of the Subterranean Environment." Cost: US\$50 until October 1, 2004, US\$100 later. **Contacts:** Rodolfo Gonzalez [rogonzalez@cydsa.com](mailto:rogonzalez@cydsa.com)

## Editor's Notes

Momentous things have been happening with Texas cavers and the caving scene recently! Hard on the heels of the international incident spawned by the entrapment of a British military caving group in a Mexican cave, another cave rescue took place in the Oztoque/Oztoquito system in Puebla. Maverick member R.D. Milhollin provides a first-hand account of the effort on page 4 of this issue. On page 9 of this issue Linda Palit discusses the impending purchase of two classic West Texas caves, Punkin and Deep, by the TCMA. At the March NSS BOG meeting, San Antonio was chosen as the U.S. location for the bid for the 2009 International Congress of Speleology (a souped-up version of an NSS Convention). Want to know more? Come to the TSA Convention on May 21-23rd and hear all about it!

# Recovery Effort at Oztoquito Cave, Puebla Mexico

R.D. Milhollin, NSS 29962

During the week of April 09 through 18, cavers and cave divers from Mexico and the U.S. worked together near Puebla to search for Mariano Fuentes Silva, who was presumed lost in Oztoquito Cave. Mariano and other members of the Draco caving club had been exploring the caves near San José Balvanera for several years, and were especially interested in finding a connection between Oztoquito and Oztoque, separated by about 1 kilometer surface distance. The caves are located at a boundary between a basaltic lava flow and severely tilted limestone. On Tuesday, April 08 Mariano and two other cavers entered the cave through the 125-meter entrance drop and proceeded upstream about 500 meters to an unexplored sump. With the help of his companions Mariano entered the sump using modified open water SCUBA equipment and a line reel with polypropylene line fed in from the surface. When Mariano failed to return from the third sump dive in the cave, his companions were able to contact cave diving instructor Juan



*José Antonio Soriano*

*"He was involved in the recovery as underground coordinator, and was a very good friend of Mariano's.*

*I met them together at Cheve 2003 transporting the National Geographic strobes loaned for the expedition down the drop series leading to the Elephant's Trunk pit as my team was coming up."*

of the Mexican Army, members of the National Guard, and state police, City of Puebla firemen and paramedics, four state delegations of the Red Cross rescue organization, and numerous cavers (many friends of Mariano), were among the people

Carlos Carrillo from Mexico City who made a dive but was unable to find Fuentes in the extremely low, silty, passage. Two cave diving instructors from Quintana Roo, German Yañez and Alejandro Alvarez, were flown in, but were similarly unable to locate the missing caver. More than seventy people gathered at the base camp established near the cave entrance to participate in the rescue activities, which were coordinated by Juan Montaña Hirose, president of the Mexican caving federation UMAE. A unit



*The media trucks at the recovery base camp. "It was difficult changing clothes, there were so many cameras and reporters around."*

assisting in the effort. The press arrived as well, with three satellite television trucks, a radio station, and several newspapers represented. On Monday April 12 the Mexican Consulate in Austin arranged special visas for travel into Mexico, and the following day U.S. sump divers Steve Ormeroid from Ohio and R.D. Milhollin from Fort Worth arrived at the site. In a series of dives that lasted until the following afternoon they were able to locate Mariano's body floating in a lake chamber on the far side of the sump. An examination of his equipment showed all equipment in place, the valves open and regulators fully functional, but the air cylinders were empty. The sump divers were unable to bring Fuentes' body back through the underwater restriction without great difficulty, and upon consultation the family elected to leave his body in the chamber. Mariano was a gifted biologist who specialized in troglobitic life and an accomplished caver who participated in many projects throughout the Mexican republic.

## Mexican Speleology Congress

The Speleological Federation of Latin American and the Caribbean (FEALC), the Mexican Union of Speleological Associations (UMAE) and the Caving Group of the Mountaineering Club of the ITESM invite you to the 7th Mexican Congress of Speleology and 5th Congress of the FEALC.

LOCATION: Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico.

DATES: February 2-6, 2005.

THEME: "Legislation and Protection of the Subterranean Environment"

Monterrey, capital of the state of Nuevo Leon, is situated in northern Mexico, just two hours south of the border with the United States. It is the third city in the country based on population size, but it ranks second in economic importance. It is a young, vital city, business-oriented and at the forefront in industry, technology and education.

Geologically Monterrey is situated at the base of the Eastern Sierra Madre, a mountain range that extends through eastern Mexico. It is surrounded by limestone blocks from the Cretaceous

and Jurassic, which have developed important karst features.

It will be a congress with a strong multinational component, from the speakers to the participants. The conferences will be held at the ITESM (Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, commonly called "Tec de Monterrey" or simply "Tec").

EVENTS: Welcome dinner, formal dinner, field trip, closing dinner.

COST: US \$50 until October 1, 2004. US \$100 after October 1, 2004. Students and UMAE members in good standing have a 50% discount. Includes events, entrance to conferences and the registration pack.

FOOD AND LODGING: Will be covered by each participant. There will be hotels in various price ranges and also a camping area.

SPEAKERS: There will be posters and presentations (with audio and video equipment).

Deadline to submit abstracts: November 1, 2004. The content is open (exploration, research, analysis, evaluations, work zone reports, etc), however they should relate to the congress theme.

Contact and information: Rodolfo Gonzalez, [rogonzalez@cydsa.com](mailto:rogonzalez@cydsa.com)

## New Member Profile

### Kristopher Megahan

My name is Kristopher Megahan. I am 32 years old and live in Waxahachie, Texas where I am employed as a chemist for an industrial chemical manufacturer. I am a single father of three, count them, three daughters. As a child I toured most of the commercial caves in America (Carlsbad, Mammoth, Sonora, etc.), but didn't really think too much about the wild ones. I definitely didn't know there might be some that were full of water!!!

I was in the Navy serving in Orlando, Florida in 1991, when I took a trip to a local spring (Blue Springs, Orange City) to try and find some manatees. I headed down a boardwalk and it ended in a pool of clear jade green water, and I remember getting lost staring at it as it rushed violently to the surface. My stare was broken by some bubbles, and then.... what is that... divers? "What is down there?" I asked them. They answered, "A cave". That never left me, and my curiosity led me to the SCUBA program at UT Arlington and then to my first two cave diving courses. I was in love...obsessed is probably a better word. I finished my full cave course in Florida in 2002, with my friend Melissa (she is going to attend graduate school in Florida



in August so she can be closer to the caves). We have both logged about a hundred dives each in about 15 different systems, and we have so many more to go.

I joined the grotto because I felt it was the next logical step. I want to fully experience the different kinds of caves. I also needed something to keep me busy between my trips to Florida.

My air filled caving experience is very limited, but includes some pits in Lampasas, Jester Cave in OK, Little Crystal and Walkup Caves in Quanah, and White Marble Halls Cave at the top of Marble Mountain in Colorado (I think this is the highest known limestone cave in North America, at approximately 12,500 feet).

My future in caving? I would like to stay involved with local grottos. I want help with exploration, learn survey techniques, and just go caving. I hope to get the chance help explore some sumps, and learn the intricacies of that art. I plan on do a mixed gas course in the fall and would like to go deep.

I look forward to seeing all of you in the near future!!!!

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## Texas Speleological Association Convention and Texas Speleological Survey Workshop May 21-23, 2004

So you've heard a lot about cave surveying, but maybe you haven't had the opportunity to attend one of the regular survey projects held around the state (Colorado Bend State Park, Government Canyon State Natural Area, etc.). Maybe you'd like to get involved in this activity, but you'd prefer to learn cave surveying in a more structured environment. Or perhaps you'd like to hone your surveying skills with some of the most experienced cave surveyors in Texas

Now you have your chance--this year the Texas Speleological Survey is hosting a surveying workshop in conjunction with the TSA Convention at Longhorn Caverns State Park. TSS Directors Jerry Atkinson and Jim Kennedy are the organizers of this year's workshop.

a.) The workshop will be held on Sunday morning, 9 to 11 AM at the Longhorn Cavern State Park. Attendees should meet in front of the administration building.

b.) This workshop will cover these basic cave surveying skills: how to read instruments, set stations, basic bookkeeping skills, and general procedures on how a survey team interacts and conducts a cave survey. At the end of the workshop, participants should be able to initiate and/or participate in the survey of a simple cave. No advanced sketching techniques will be taught in the workshop.

c.) All materials and instruments will be provided by the TSS.

d.) The workshop is limited to the first 20 people who sign up at the on-site registration/check-in.

e.) There will be an overflow list attached to the sign-up sheet in case people cancel during the Convention. If enough people sign the overflow list, we will schedule another workshop at a future date.

f.) No fee will be required.

A pre-registration form for the 2004 TSA Convention is available on the web site:

<http://cavetexas.org/template2.asp?content=events/springconvasp>

Tip: Mastering basic cave surveying skills is one of the best ways to become a "sought-after" and valued member of caving trips/expeditions!

# Jester Cave, OK

## March 20, 2004

Trip participants: Lee-Gray Boze; John Brooks; Kelly Butler; Lex Jr., Tammy, Amber & Lex III Cox; Judah Epstein; April Hammond; Kristie Harris; Milo Marks; Melissa Marzahn; Ky McPherson; Kristopher Megahan; Lawrence Najjar; Mike Pearson; Dan, Samuel & Cameron Smith; Brandi Terrell; Diana Tomchick; Bill & Francie Tucker & granddaughter; Robert & Miles Vaughn; Jan Zelinka.

Jester Cave in southern Oklahoma is the longest gypsum cave in the U.S. with a surveyed length of 33,022 feet (6.25 miles). There are 68 known entrances, most along side passages and crawlways so small that some were identified via smoke or voice confirmation with a person on the surface. The main trunk is just under two miles in length. The cave affords ample opportunities to view bats, catfish, crayfish, frogs, and other critters.

An entrance-to-entrance through trip had been made in December by a group of Metroplex cavers and a Venture Scout troupe, but I was unable to accompany them due to a previously scheduled trip to the Guads, Pete Lindsley and Mike Pearson had shot digital video footage of this trip and Pete edited this down to a 30+ minute highly entertaining video, so after watching it I decided this would be a great cave trip. Permission was obtained from both landowners to take a group on the same entrance-to-entrance through trip so we were set for our great adventure in a classic gypsum cave.

Cavers were invited from both Metroplex grottos (Maverick and DFW) and the Southern Methodist University Geology Club. We also had two transplanted TAG cavers presently living in Austin (Lawrence and Ky) join us for the weekend.

Our Friday and Saturday night campsite was Quartz Mountain State Park, about 17 miles north of Altus, OK. Several people stayed in the plush lodge, but most camped out in the park on the shores of Lake Altus-Lugert. The weather was pleasantly mild and the granite hills so scenic that I decided this park would be worth a visit later in the year, when the trees have leaves and the wildflowers are blooming.

*Bata Boots--perfect for water caves*



Our group met in the parking lot at the lodge where we perused the Jester cave map, enjoyed the sunshine and chatted briefly before heading to the cave site. Mike Pearson and Milo Marks were our Jester Cave veterans, so Mike lead the caravan to the property, but made a few wrong turns. Eventually we got back on track and arrived at the northern entrance where we parked the vehicles and prepared for the trip. We were greeted by a herd of discontented cows, who lowed at us for a very long



*The restless cows*



*Waiting to go caving*

time. Obviously they were accustomed to being fed hay when trucks pulled into their pasture, and that was something we'd forgotten to bring on this trip.

Bats—did I mention that in addition to the sucking mud and water in this cave, that there would be lots of bats? Most were at the upstream, northern entrance, bats everywhere, cute bats, large groups of bats, huddled, smiling bats! In addition we saw pale, colorless crayfish, one of the biggest frogs I've ever seen in the wild, cave crickets, and tons of graffiti. It seems that "Patrick," a local spelunker, had the primal urge to leave his name in orange paint all through the main cave passage. What a shame this turned out to be, as many of the passages are reminiscent of the water-sculpted ones seen in Longhorn Cavern, albeit considerably smaller. I vowed to bring better camera equipment and additional slaves for the next trip to Jester.

We did the through-trip in approximately four hours, and for many of the beginning cavers on this trip that seemed long enough. I had worn polypro long underwear bottoms and wool socks in my trusty all-rubber Bata Boots, which are ideal gear for water caves, but many people were getting cold and tired of being wet. We exited the cave, and on the return walk to our trucks the eagle-eyed John Brooks spotted a Texas Horned Lizard alongside the gravel road.

Dinner that night at the steak house in Blair was a lively event. Our group filled a banquet room in the rear of the restaurant and the waitstaff helped us celebrate Cameron Smith's 17<sup>th</sup> birthday with cake and a rendition of "Happy Birthday."



*SMU Geology Club students*

Soon it was time to return to the campground for a good night's sleep, and our group dispersed, to return to Texas the next day.

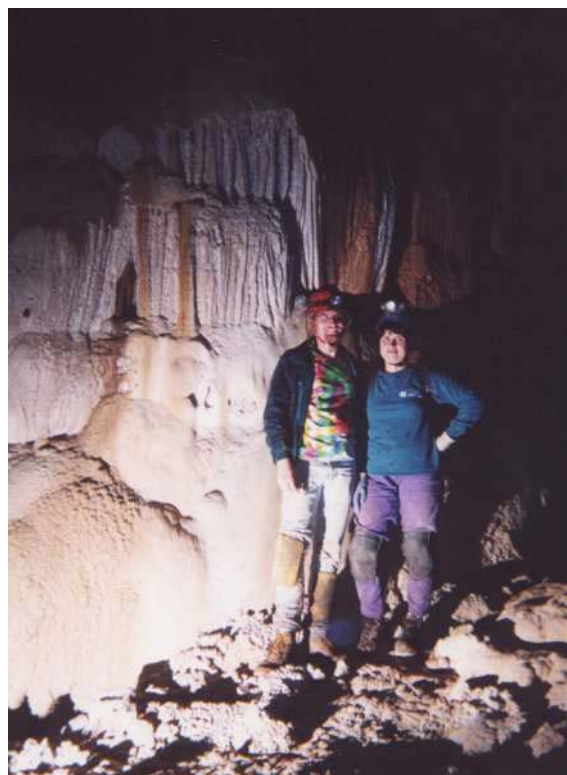
(Note: Bata Boots may be purchased on the Internet for about \$17 at <http://shop.store.yahoo.com/qcsupply/lac6pvcworsh.html> Buy the model WITHOUT steel toes and WITH a steel shank. They are sturdy, easily cleaned, more flexible and provide better traction on wet surfaces than leather hiking boots.)

# Proyecto Espeleologico Sierra Oxmolon 2002, Part 2

## Mark Gee, NSS #49625

The next morning was Tuesday and it was very quiet, not a sound in camp till long after the sun had risen. At 9:00 a.m. someone finally did get up and out of their tent and began to stir. I fixed something to eat and drink, but still didn't feel well. I felt weak. I told Jerry that I wouldn't be going caving today. They talked over who would do what. It was decided that Aimee and Ron would sketch. Amy would sketch the plan and Ron would sketch the profile.

Jerry had injured his shoulder, so he and I would stay in camp. Shortly after the others left for Cueva Linda, Jerry took off up a mountain trail near camp to look for caves. He quickly found a karst area and began looking for caves. No caves were found, but he found a man harvesting coffee beans and Jerry asked if he knew where any caves or sinkholes were located. The man told Jerry of a large sinkhole with a cave up on top



Dale Barnard & Denise Prendergast  
in Cueva Linda, 11/28/02

of the mountain. Jerry hiked up to the top of the mountain and found a small village that was new to him. He walked up to two men who were working and asked about the location of the cave. One of the men got up and walked across the ridge top and showed Jerry where a large sinkhole was located. The man pointed down to the bottom and over to one

side and said, "Cueva". Jerry thanked the man and then found a way to climb down into the sink and over to the cave entrance. Jerry described the entrance as 50-ft. wide by 20-ft. tall. It was 80-ft. wide once inside the entrance. The floor of the cave followed the dip down about 30 degrees. A deep pit was found two hundred feet into the cave. Jerry estimated it to be a 300-ft. pit. Jerry was able to climb around the edge of the pit and found continuing cave passage of about 40-ft. wide and 4-ft. tall. Jerry stopped at this point and returned to camp.

A couple of minutes after Jerry's return, Mike Walsh, Wild Bill, Beverly and Al from Tennessee pulled up to camp. We talked a couple of minutes and Jerry asked if they wanted to see Cueva Linda. They did, so Jerry, Bill, Al, and Beverly left camp and headed to the cave. I stayed in camp and rested, ate a little more, and continued to drink lots of fluids. I was feeling a little better. The others returned at 8:30 p.m. from

their survey in Cueva Linda. Aimee, Geoff, Scott, Enora, Roland, Ben, Ron, and Chris had surveyed 245 meters. They surveyed the entrance passage and down into the main borehole, then the left-hand passage to its end.

The next day Aimee, Enora, Chris, Ron, and I were going to survey the Right Hand Passage in Cueva Linda. Jerry, Geoff, Ben, Scott, and Roland were lead by Juan Vassilo Anhill up into the mountains to some sotanos and cuevas. Later that day Geoff told me about the big one that they had seen. It was a large sotano that measured 650-ft. long by 200-ft. wide and had the shape of a crescent moon. At one end and at the bottom of the sink was a small cave. At the other end of the sotano was another cave, but bigger. After climbing down 250 feet, Juan said that there was a big room behind this rock wall. They continued down a ladder made of long poles with wooden steps lashed to the poles. At the bottom of the ladder was a small hole going into the wall. Crawling on hands and knees lead to a huge room. With a light, they were unable to see the ceiling, walls, or the floor. Geoff told me that they were able to crawl out on a small ledge. The floor of the cave dropped at a fifty-degree angle. They tossed a few rocks and guessed the depth of the pit at 300 feet! Geoff walked a short distance along a small ledge and could see another ledge below, but it was too steep to safely climb down without a rope. Now back to Cueva Linda.

At survey station A-18, we began our survey into the Right Hand Passage. The first shot was to station B-1 at the base of a huge stalagmite. We shot eleven more stations with a total of 515 feet of horizontal cave. We discovered one 60-ft. pit on the North wall of the Right Hand Passage near the end of the B survey. The pit was a narrow crevice along the base of the wall behind a large rock standing on its edge. A rock was dropped down the crevice and it was heard for six seconds while it bounced off the walls on its way to the bottom.

The passage we had surveyed had mud-covered floors with large mud cracks. These cracks were up to three inches wide and two feet deep. Other formations such as rimstone dams, large stalagmites and stalactites were discovered and noted. The passage walls were almost totally covered with cascading flowstone, helictites, soda straws, and a couple of rare shields. We finished our survey at 5 p.m., and then headed out of the cave. On our trip into the cave, we had marked the trail with flagging to aid our hike back to the truck after our survey trip was complete. The trail was much easier to follow. We found the truck with no problem.

Back at camp, everyone began to clean up, sort his or her gear, and prepare dinner. Aimee and Geoff fixed a little extra food for me. Thank You! I was feeling much better and very hungry. The rest of our group went down to Aquismon to Mike's place for a shower and to eat dinner. I turned in early.

Thursday morning. What had happened to the rest of the week? It seemed to pass so very quickly. It had begun to rain on Tuesday night and this morning it was still raining. It was a light rain, but it never stopped. I haven't mentioned it, but I had camped and slept in the back of my Dodge truck. I had constructed a large tarp across a pipe rack that I had built to carry my kayaks. This kept my gear and myself very dry. At night I would fold the tarp down under my truck and place a few rocks on it to hold it down. In the morning I would tie the tarp up between two trees. This allowed me to lie in bed with a view up the valley and road that we camped beside. While still in bed, I could fix my meals and coffee and even wash the few dishes. Lying there, I realized that the others had not returned from town. They soon returned and Ben commented that everyone woke up all stopped up, congested from something in the air in Mike's home.

At 11:00 a.m., three groups set out for different destinations.

Roland, Geoff, and Scott headed out with a step-log to Sotano de la Quilas. They found the cave, but the step-log was not very helpful. They bottomed the cave to its end.

Ron, Ben, Jerry, Juan and Carlos, Juan's son-in-law, headed to a cave known as Paxal Jol. They found their cave also. Dale Bernard, Denise Prendergast, Chris Nicola, and I went back into Cueva Linda to pick up the survey at station B-11. Today, I felt tuned in to the survey. The first five stations went very smoothly. Continuing the survey, the floor dropped down over a ledge, across a muddy floor and then up a steep climb to a ledge five meters below the ceiling. In the face of this ledge were two passages piercing through and under the ledge opening to continuing passage on the other side. The cave turned SSW; it had been going west. I left our last station on a large rock overlooking a 25-ft. climb down. The room below our last survey station was 200-ft. long by 85-ft. wide with a 65-ft. ceiling. At the far end of the room was the first rope to the passage 45-ft. above. Near the rope were some beautiful one-foot deep rimstone pools. Our total for the 4 1/2 hours of survey was 450 feet. We left the cave as the sun was setting and returned to camp.

It was Thanksgiving Day and for dinner I had Mountain House Chile Mac and Fritos. My wife had snuck a card into my gear and I waited for this day to open and read it. This made me realize how much I missed her and the festivities that our family always shared with her family in Waco each year.

Juan, his wife, daughter, Carlos, and their two children were in camp that night. Jerry had invited the family to eat with us. Juan had brought a bottle of caña, which is very strong home-brewed liquor that Juan had made. Aimee and Geoff were passing a bottle of Bailey's Irish Cream around. Scott was passing a bottle of Tequila around called Tarantula or something like that. The grandmother was giving her two granddaughters some Bailey's out of the bottle cap. The party broke up sometime late, I can't remember when--too much caña.

The next morning, Friday, was our last day to go caving before returning home. I was dressed, had eaten, and had prepared my gear. A little before noon, Juan came in to camp with a surprise. He and two friends had brought some fresh roasted coffee beans and some ground up coffee. We all purchased some to take home. No one seemed to be in a hurry to get in the cave today, but finally at 1:30 p.m. we entered. I was to help explore and survey two pits. The first pit was a narrow crevice along the north wall that we had discovered at station B-8. Ben and Geoff went down the pit because I couldn't fit. Up top, I recorded the survey data as they relayed it up to me. Geoff sketched the plan and profile. The pit dropped to a depth of 60 feet. Next, we headed to the large pit on the south wall behind the huge stalagmite at the entrance passage.

The pit was measured at 98 feet deep. At the bottom of the pit were several large formations. In one corner were some very pretty rimstone pools at the base of a 20-ft. tall white flowstone-covered wall and on the other side of the room were several beautiful white stalagmites that looked like Snoopy caricatures. Geoff and Ben pulled the tape and I recorded the data while sketching the profile. They finished their part and ascended back out of this blind pit. I stayed down to finish the profile and plan. There was a small second pit that dropped an additional 10 feet. With the sketch finished, I climbed back out and got two more shots to tie in the pit survey to the B survey. Finished, I checked the Left Hand Passage on the way out because I hadn't seen it, then I went back to the truck.

The others had gone to survey from station B-21 and then de-rig the cave on their way out. Jerry and his group surveyed

640 feet of passage. Roland got some nice photos with Scott and Ron helping with the lighting.

After I left the cave, I waited at the truck for the others to return. I waited for 1 1/2 hours. Juan, his brother, and Carlos were there and they had been drinking caña. I helped them finish off the bottle. Juan was feeling no pain. I got tired of waiting so I said good-bye to Juan and walked back to camp. The cool fresh air did my head some good.

Saturday morning came and everyone was packing up



*Lalaja, San Louis Potosi, Mexico, 11/25/02  
This is the mountainous terrain between Lalaja  
and Paxalja, with many closed valleys.*

gear. Most everything was wet and muddy. At 10:30 the group took a break to go see some ancient ruins in the town of Paxalja. They were just piles of rock, but what artifacts were there were waiting to be discovered! It made me think of the history and hard work that the people endured for many centuries building the trails, their homes and fields where they grew their crops.

We were packed and left our camp at 12:45 p.m. We stopped in town at Mike's place for a shower and change of clothes, and then we went to the square. It was a little like the First Monday sale in Canton, TX, with many different vendors, selling new and used items, but only the necessities. After a little shopping, we sat down at Mary's for a little lunch. Finally at 4:00 p.m., we left for home. As a group, we all arrived at the Pharr border crossing at 1:00 a.m. and it was closed. So we had to find our way to the McAllen crossing. With the help of two local policemen, we found the crossing and got in line to get our paperwork processed.

Shortly, Chris and I were headed for home. Chris and I drove twenty hours, all through the night, and got to my house at 11:30 a.m. Sunday morning. Chris and I tried to clean our gear up a little and then crashed for a long nap. That night my family enjoyed meeting Chris and hearing all about the trip, New York accent and all.

Chris left late the next afternoon for his home in New York City. It had been a very good trip. I enjoyed the big beautiful caves, the very friendly people, the caña, and the green lush tropical mountains. Chris and his Yankee friends are welcome anytime. I can't wait till next year.

Till Next Time  
"Happy Caving"

# Texas Cave Management Association Purchasing Deep and Punkin Caves by Linda Palit

Deep and Punkin Caves in Edwards County are under contract to be purchased by TCMA! After several months of negotiations TCMA has come to an agreement with the owner on terms for the purchase of these two classic Texas caves. Total cost is right at \$130,000 with all closing costs for the 222 acres of property. Now we need your help! Join TCMA or send donations dedicated to the purchase of these fine caves. TCMA will accept donations at their mailing address, PO Box 202853, Austin Texas 78720-2853 or through any director including my mailing address, TCMA c/o Linda Palit 4019 Ramsgate, San Antonio, Texas 78230.

All donations to TCMA are tax deductible since we are a non-profit, and we do provide receipts! So keep that in mind as you think about donations, and it makes them a little less "painful to the pocketbook" perhaps.

Deep has a steep walk-in entrance leading to perhaps as much as a three miles of passage, partially surveyed quite diverse and highly decorated in many places. It is also one of the deepest caves in Texas." Punkin is a bat cave with a freetail colony of perhaps 1/2 million bats; the entrance is about 7m x 15m with a 15 m drop to the floor. There is significant unsurveyed passage in Punkin Cave, also. Both are described in "The Caves of Carta Valley" edited by Carl E. Kunath and in "The Caves and Karst of Texas."

In purchasing these caves, TCMA hopes to begin a trend of preserving some of the more famous Texas Caves for the use of Texas Cavers. Our goal is to develop a management plan that protects the caves, but also allows access to cavers.

We believe that any Texas Caver interested should be able to visit these caves after the completion of the purchase. Soon after we will develop a management plan that will encourage regular visitation, probably by relatively small groups and with a designated TCMA approved trip leader. We also hope to have a winter meeting or a winter project there. The caves may be closed during hunting season if hunting leases are in effect. Punkin visitation will be limited when the bats are present. Lower levels of Deep may be sensitive, and require additional guidelines. But preserving the caves does not mean excluding cavers. These will be our caves.

So send donations. Consider offering other services, also. We will be appealing for assistance on the tasks required to complete the purchase, and later for taking care of the property and caves.

These are some of the best Texas Caves. Please help TCMA make this work, and let's begin a new era of Texas Caving in our own caves, as well as all the other fine locations we currently visit.

Thanks.

## TCMA Auction Update, Aimee Beveridge:

The Texas Cave Management Association (TCMA) will be holding an Auction to raise money for our impending purchase of Punkin and Deep Caves on Saturday evening at the TSA Spring Convention in beautiful Burnet Texas, May 22 (only a few short weeks away).

Here is how it will work... books and smaller items will be offered at the silent auction table. These items will be available to look

at, molest, and most of all, bid on at the TCMA booth all day Saturday. Bidding will end Saturday evening. Checks and cash accepted.

Larger easy to recognize items will be offered through the Auction, scheduled for Saturday evening. Bill Steele has graciously offered to serve as our auctioneer.

We already have some wonderful items but we need more donations to make this a huge success. How about that old carbide lamp? How about that signed copy of the KaverKomix Book? Maybe you have some cool caver T-shirts or jewelry that would be of interest.

Old Timers- Maybe there's some of your old timey caver things (stuff that tells a story- like the rack that was used to descend Golondrinas when it was a virgin pit) that your survivors would consider to be junk but would be invaluable to the cause.

Also, models and photographers from the TexasCavesTexasWomen calendar of 2003 will be on hand to sign your calendar for a donation to the Punkin & Deep Acquisition Fund (bring your own copy of the 2003 calendar, as all copies were sold over a year ago).

Send your ideas or donations to [aimeebbev@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aimeebbev@sbcglobal.net) and I will send you donation forms and info on how to get it to me.

## TCMA Donations Update, Joe Ranzau:

Greetings all! Here are the latest grotto fund raising numbers for TCMA's purchase of Deep and Punkin Caves.

Bexar Grotto: donated \$437 to the Punkin and Deep Land Fund during their monthly meeting, \$200 dollars from the grotto account and the rest from passing the hat around.

Greater Houston Grotto: donated \$200 dollars from their grotto account during their monthly meeting and are currently still accepting member donations. Last I heard member donations passed the \$200 dollar mark!

I have not specifically heard from the other clubs around the state but I am sure all is going well and I will keep everyone updated when I know more!

Many thanks to all those who have donated! Remember every little bit helps get us closer to owning the caves outright!!!

For more info on donating contact any TCMA director or Linda Palit at [lkpalit@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lkpalit@sbcglobal.net)

To send a donation, mail a check made out to TCMA and note land fund in the memo to

TCMA  
PO BOX 202853  
Austin, TX 78720-2853

or

TCMA c/o  
Linda Palit  
4019 Ramsgate  
San Antonio, TX 78230

# Newsletter Exchange Review, May 2004

## R.D. Milhollin, NSS 29962

NSS News April 2004 (Vol. 62 No. 04)

When I got this issue I figured it was the federal election special issue since there was pork on the cover, large cave-bacon formations to be exact. But it turns out that this is in reality the Annual Conservation Issue, co-edited by Jim and Val Hildreth-Werker and Bernie Szukalski. The articles contained within all relate in some form or fashion to the conservation part of the NSS purpose.

The Werker-Hildreths (or Hildreth-Werker) open with a few comments on the issue. Sandra Poucher kicks in with "Beating the Drum: Education and Outreach of the Conservation Message" in which she describes caver-public interactions at a small, community festival and at a large, organized conference of government officials, land managers, and scientists, both of which occurred in Florida. Dave Bunnell follows with "Don't Shoot the Photographer" in which he discusses the dilemma of photographing delicate areas of caves while minimally impacting the surroundings. Jim and Val describe in detailed text and useful photos how a large stalactite was broken by a cave visitor and subsequently restored by cavers. Jennifer Foote gives a report on the "High Guads Restoration Project" in which several grotto members and friends of the grotto participate. "A Major Cave Restoration Project Started at Wind Cave National Park" is the headline of an article submitted by Rod Horrocks and Marc Ohms. This is the Wind Cave in the South Dakota national park of course, and the writing team does a fine job of describing the impact of 113 years of visitation on the cave and what cavers are doing now to restore it. 4.2 tons of fill debris were removed in the first week and a half, with some left in place on each public tour route so the public could be made aware of how excavation was used to open the cave for visitors. A very detailed portion of the restoration map made to show debris along a cave trail is included with the article. A side bar is included to inform or remind cavers who donate their time to restoration projects on private, state, or federal lands of the Volunteer Value Program. Through this accounting process the NSS is able to track the benefits cavers provide to land managers and landowners.

Brian Leavell reports on the "Carcass Crypt Pit Cave: 2003 Ohio Valley Region Conservation Project." Three trips were made to dig out, sort, and pile the refuse recovered at the bottom of the pit, then a follow-up trip was made to extricate the trash using a nylon safety net sewn onto lifting straps provided by Howie's Harnesses, and an elaborate rigging system. Richard Rhinehart states that "Restoration and Protection (were) Key to Williams Canyon Project Cavers" working in Cave of the Winds in Colorado. Cavers here removed bolts and obsolete lighting systems that were first installed in 1907. Breezeway Cave is another place where project cavers have been active, with much of the work focused on removing mud from flowstone. Electronic alarm systems are being installed on gates of many caves in the region. "Scottsboro Mountain Maintenance" is the subject of Sharon Faulkner's contribution. TAG cavers from all three states gather once a year to help a friendly landowner clean up and maintain land he has allowed cavers to camp on and explore for many years. Red Watson pitches in with "Advice for Karst Activists," mainly reminding cavers to keep reports to government officials short and sweet, and to be sure to spell names right (Dopehead?).

Larry Simpson signs in with a review of "Short Creek, Boiling Pots, and the caves of Sinking Valley," with all of the aforementioned activity occurring in the Bluegrass State. He reports that thanks to the efforts of cavers, the path of proposed

highway I-66 was moved away from 11-mile long Wells Cave and NSS Preserve. Of course it has to go somewhere, and the powers that be have proposed placing this roadway directly above the Short Creek – Sinking Valley System. Descriptions of the various caves along the length of this largely unexplored drainage follow. Hilary Lambert explains that the interstate, whose path now crosses the sandstone cap directly outside of Mammoth Cave National Park, is not the only threat to the fragile environment of the region. Between Bowling Green and the park is a proposed 4000-6000 acre industrial park, and west by 70 miles is the proposed site of a massive coal burning power plant. Contact info for people interested in learning more are in the article. On the same page the Cave Conservancy Foundation announces graduate and undergraduate Fellowship Awards.

Joseph Kerski, a geographer with the USGS, contributes an article introducing GIS and the applications available for studying karst landscapes. His article, "Analyzing the Earth with Geographic Information Systems", includes a brief overview of GIS, GIS applications and tools for cave and karst studies, a brief description of GIS data sets, and some points on GIS education. Darcy Gibbons provides "An Environmental Assessment of Bermuda's Cave Health" from her perspective as a student at Texas A&M Galveston working with Tom Iliffe. She worked with Bernie Szukalski of ESRI (Environmental Systems Research Institute, developers of GIS software) to create a database for the island, and began to update a comprehensive survey of the island's caves completed 20 years ago by Iliffe. Rhonda Pfaff and Alan Glennon explain "Using the ArcGIS Geoprocessing Environment to Identify Sourcewater Contamination Threats in the Mammoth Cave Watershed, Kentucky".

In his article "Colorado Cave Protection Act Under Consideration", Richard Rhinehart discusses the proposed legislation that may replace a law from 1885, one of the first in the country, but that was subsequently dropped from the books in 1972. Hazel Barton explores the issue of "Geocaching and Caves: Finding a Common Ground". Barton is chair of an ad-hoc NSS committee trying to help educate geocachers about the sensitive nature of caves, and to prevent these locations from being used in the growing sport. William Keith of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service describes how it is possible that "Conservation Programs Assist with Cave and Karst Protection." Working with a large cattle operation in Virginia, the government agency was able to offer incentives for the landowner to install riparian barriers, improved grazing technique, and offered information on obtaining further assistance from private and government sources. Jay Jorden reports that a "Ukrainian Caver's Texas Visit [was] Supported by Cave Conservancies", specifically the Texas Cave Management Association and the Texas Cave Conservancy. Jeff Bray tells how the "West Virginia Cave Conservancy Digs in for 2004." By press time he and his group, along with the Northeastern Cave Conservancy, will have finished hosting the first Cave Conservancy Forum in Lewisburg, WV. Speaking of them, the "Northeastern Cave Conservancy [is] to Buy Clarksville Cave, New York" according to Chuck Porter, acquisitions chair for the NCC. Clarksville is a 4800-foot long horizontal cave with three entrances, and has been explored for more than two centuries. Marianne Russo weighs in with "News from the Western Cave Conservancy." This is the newest conservancy and it has kicked off with a bang, lots going on out West with two acquisitions planned already. But wait! Bill Walker reports on the NEWEST conservancy, a national organization simply known as "The Karst Conservancy". News of "Indiana Karst Conservancy Activities" comes from Keith Dunlop. He tells of

the acquisition of the Wayne Cave Preserve, a sinkhole cleanup, and Under-Earth Day 2003 held at the Buddha Karst Nature Preserve.

Lots of *Society News* comes our way this month. Several Conservation Task Forces (internal organizations of the NSS) document their activities in this issue. Reporting in are the Sloan's Valley CTF, Central Oregon CTF, Klamath Mountain CTF, and the Mount Adams CTF. Roberta Serface of the NSS TV/Video Committee reports that her group is getting busy making education media for the Society. Barbara Moss reports on NSS "Environmental Education Committee Activities" which include Project Underground, the "Learn About Caves" website, a Yahoo discussion group, and participation on an advisory board to help with the development of a new high school earth science textbook. The Conservation and Management Section of the NSS invites abstracts for presentation relating to restoration, conservation, and management at their session at the 2004 NSS Convention in Michigan. Paula Grgich-Warke explains that "Everybody Wants Your Money – " [duh!] and "Why is the Education Grants and Scholarship Committee Different?" [oh, didn't know that!]. She should know, having been a recipient of grants in her own education as a geologist, that the future of caving may well rest on helping to develop scientists, conservationists, environmentalists, and others who will be on the side of the caves. Kriste Lindberg, chair of the Indiana Karst Conservancy's Education and Outreach Committee, gives the "Education and Outreach Report 2003", which includes information on what those underground Hoosiers are up to; quite a bit it turns out. Val Hildreth-Werker highlights a Belgian Powerpoint presentation on cave conservation that is on the Internet.

Bernie Szukalski is very busy in this month's issue, but not too busy to miss another edition of *Underground Update*. He begins with news from Iowa, and goes right into TAG, Rumbling Falls Cave in Spencer TN to be exact, with a description of wastewater tracing reported in the Summer 2002 *Speleonews* of the Nashville and Chattanooga Grottos. The same issue covers a new cave mapped in the Twin Arches area of the Big South Fork NRA. The next issue (Fall 2002) has an article on the resurvey of Cooks Cave in Lawrence County, TN. Pele's Water Cave as captured by a Dave Bunnell photo graces the cover of the Fall 2003 *Newsletter* of the Hawai'i Speleological Survey. Doug Medville covers Ambigua Cave, another lava tube on the Big Island. Bernie you-know-who reports on the Chain of Pukas System...tricky! Vi Schweiker provides text and maps of other caves found on the slopes of Mauna Loa. Lots more lava tubes covered here. Durn, more lava tubes from Washington turn up in the Fall 2003 edition of the *Underground Express* of the Willamette Valley Grotto. The name of one sounds suspiciously Hawaiian though: South Kipuka System...go figure. Other, more "continental" names include Dead Bear, No Thanks, Thanksgiving, Root Cellar, Running Rat, Porcupine, and Ditch Caves. Garry Petrie goes further and proves that Chubby Bunny and Pickings Caves are related. Kevin Hughes did research on Oregon Caves and proposed rerouting a "spelunker" tour route away from rare calcite needle formations. Bob Hoke writes about gating activities in Bowden Cave WV. This popular cave was closed after a collapse in 2002 cut the cave in two, but the Forest Service agreed if the affected area could be restricted to visitors the cave could be reopened. The Fall/Winter issue of the *Illinois Cave Watch* published by the Karst Conservancy of Illinois contains details of a study of *Gammarus acherondytes*, the Illinois Cave Amphipod, in Paulter Cave. Included in the issue is an article by former Austin caver Aaron Addison, now chair of the conservancy, on the background of the cave.

The *Technology* entry for this month is a report on the Petzl Myo 5 headlamp by Michael Fraley. Five LEDs power this recent entry into the growing field of electronic lighting, and it is available with a helmet-mounted 4-AA battery pack or a belt pack with 4 "C" cells.

*The Oztotl Caver* (DFW Grotto) April 2004 (Vol. 23 No. 4)

This month is a full issue, featuring Ron Rutherford descending Sotano It Sounded Big! Minutes of The March 2004 meeting were included, along with an enjoyable article on the Proyecto Espeleologico Sierra Oxmolon (PESO) Project (oops, that's redundant!).

*Speleospace* April 2004 (Greater Houston Grotto)

Sadly, no issue received this month.

*COGnizance* April 2004 (Central Oklahoma Grotto)

COG dutifully reports their March meeting minutes, then wastes no time or space to get right into the trip reports. The first was a combined COG, Boy Scout, and neighboring landowner trip with a special guest appearance by 27 cavers from the DFW and Maverick Grottos!. That is a lot of people, even for Jester Cave. Ted Blasingame found an article on SPACE.com called "Fossil Hunting on Mars" that was a fun read. An AP story that claims "Bat Saliva May Offer Stroke Treatment" may make the poor, misunderstood Vampire Bat a little more popular among brain-circulation impaired folk. Ahhh, the cool refreshment offered by the poetry of Steve Beleu, with two offerings this month: "Subterra 15", a meditation on the majesty of subterranean chambers and their influence on the mythology of ancient peoples, and "Cave Echoes," a free verse venture into the far past of memory. Damn! They turned the lights back on! This issue ends with a chart that summarizes COG bat count observations from various OK caves from 2000 to 2004.

\* If members of other NSS grottos and caving clubs come across this newsletter, they should encourage their newsletter editor to contact the *Maverick Bull* about the possibility of a newsletter exchange.

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## National Cave Conservancies Issues

### First National Cave Conservation Forum

### Lewisburg, West Virginia

### April 15-17, 2004

The symposium was organized by Michael Warner of the Northeast Cave Conservancy and Jeff Bray of the West Virginia Cave Conservancy, and it was held at the Brier Inn in Lewisburg West Virginia. Mike Warner and Emily Davis conceived the event and discussed it with Jeff Bray about a year before the event. It made sense to Jeff based on the fact that cave conservancies are becoming more popular throughout the country, as evidenced by the formation of a number of recent new conservancies. Because of the thousands of caves in the vicinity of Lewisburg, this was selected as an ideal location to host the event.

Twenty-one Conservancies were represented. Fifty persons including presenters attended the event. Many practical issues were discussed. Excellent communications and networking were promoted. Conservancies from across the nation were seeking to help each other in the common goal of conserving caves and ensuring caves are accessible in the future.

The NSS was represented by John Wilson (NSS Cave Conservancies Committee Chairman). He conducted a meeting of Conservancy representatives at the conclusion of all other presentations. The NSS mission (as explained by John) was to provide an association of management functions for cave conservancies. The NSS Cave Conservancies Committee

would in the future provide ideas and methods on ways to expand services, and share knowledge, skills and abilities of the members of all cave conservancies (NSS affiliated or not).

The following motions were presented and approved. Each attending conservancy representative was given an opportunity to discuss issues and vote on behalf of their conservancy. Each conservancy is encouraged to have a representative on the NSS Cave Conservation Committee. Each conservancy is encouraged to send a presenter or representative to the 2004 NSS Convention to be held in Marquette, Michigan. A round table event is held at each NSS Convention. Individual specialists are encouraged to volunteer their time as consultants (available to disseminate information to all conservancies).

A Vice President and Secretary are being sought for the NSS Conservancies Committee.

Each Conservancy is encouraged to place a link on their web site (to the NSS Cave Conservancies web site).

The following topics were presented by various volunteer experts:

*Protecting Special Places with Conservation Easements* by Beth Wheatley of the Nature Conservancy of Virginia

*The Whys and Hows of Management Plans* by Thom Engle, Past President of NSS Caves Acquisition Committee  
*Insurance Who Needs It?* by Robert Addis, President of the Northeast Caves Conservancy.

*Creative Partnerships for Karst, How-To* by Kriste Lindberg, Indiana Karst Conservancy Director

*Managed Access to Conservancy Caves and Lands* by Emily Davis, past manager and present access coordinator NSS and NCC

*Managing and Protecting Biological Resources, Bats Bugs and Ferns* by David Culver, Professor of Biology American University  
*The Land Trust Alliance Perspective* by Rane Curl, past president NSS and Michigan Karst Conservancy

*The value of Delineating Recharge Areas for Critical Caves*

*(water influx areas)* by Tom Aley, Ozark Underground Laboratory, Inc.

*How to Obtain an NSS Grant to Help Purchase Cave or Karst Land* by Philip Moss, NSS Cave and Karst Acquisition Chair  
*Deferred Giving for Conservation* by Ted Kayes, Treasurer Virginia Karstlands

*The John Guilday Cave Preserve, Twenty Years Later* by Fred Grady

*Restoration Cave Conservation Practices of the Carroll Cave System, Camden Co. MO.* Edgar Simmons, Carrol Cave Conservancy

*Searching for Bits of History* by Bob Handley, WVCC

The Following Conservancies were represented: Bubble Cave Conservancy, John Pearson, Gordon Birkhimer; CC Hawaii, Northeastern Conservancy, Mike Warner and Emily Davis; Virginia Karstlands, Ted Kayes; Ozark Underground, Tom Aley, Philip Moss; Indiana Karst Conservancy, Kriste Lindberg, Bob Vandeventer; Michigan Karst Conservancy, Rane Curl ;The Nature Conservancy, Ashton Berdine, Beth Wheathly; West Virginia CC, Fred Grady, Alex Sproul; CC of Virginia, Dave Cowan; Northeastern CC, Vance Knappler, Bob Addis; WVACS, Vance Kappler; Mid Atlantic Karst Conservancy, Carl Pierce; Virginia Cave Board, Andrea Futrell; Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy - Philly Grotto, Amos Mincin; Carroll Cave Conservancy, Eddie Simmons, Carl Wagner; Western Cave Conservancy, Martin Haye, Marianne Russo, Dave Snyder; The Karst Conservancy, Bill Walker; Cave Conservancy Foundation, John Tichenor; New Jersey Cave Conservancy, Brant Johnson; Butler Cave Conservancy, Mike Ficco; Blue Grass Karst Conservancy, Eric Weaver, Janeen Sharpshair; Karst Water Institute, David Culver

Respectfully submitted by Amos Mincin, who represented the Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy at the request of the Philadelphia Grotto Board of Directors.

Maverick Grotto  
c/o Diana Tomchick  
10106 Technology Blvd. W. #826  
Dallas, TX 75220