

The Carbide Courier



The
Dayton Underground Grotto
of
The National Speleological Society



Volume 18, Issue 8

August 2009

**Roger Brucker Receives NSS Spelean Arts and Letters
Award at NSS Convention. See page 8 for details!**

GROTTO OFFICERS**Chairman**

Dana Sutherland
567-204-0073
dana377 at yahoo.com

Vice Chairman

Amy Hill
CAVE2xs at yahoo.com

Secretary

Tama Cassidy
tamac at woh.rr.com

Treasurer

Debbie Bowers
937-426-3948
dbowers4 at who.rr.com

Carbide Courier Editor

Mike Hood
937-252-2978
carbidecourier at yahoo.com

Board Members

Jim Pisarowicz
937-306-1473
pisarowicz at alumni.hamline.edu

Sandy Rice
937-294-0209
cubelo at woh.rr.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS**Membership**

Alan Leach
alan.micah.6.8 at gmail.com

Conservation

Harry Goepel
hgoepel at cinci.rr.com

Rescue

Kenny Hedges
khcaver at aol.com

Safety

Dana Sutherland
dana377 at aol.com

Landowner Relations

Amy Hill
CAVE2xs at yahoo.com

Equipment

Andy South
bethandy26 at yahoo.com

Vertical

Tama Cassidy
tamac at woh.rr.com

Survey

Pam Carpenter
pcarpenter at woh.rr.com
&
Harry Goepel
hgoepel at cinci.rr.com

Library

Dave Rice
cubelo at woh.rr.com

Youth Group Liaison

Vacant

Webmaster

Roger June
rej at current.net

GROTTO MEETINGS

Grotto meetings are held the 2nd Sunday of each month (except for September, December and month of Wormfest) at 7:00 pm at Roger and Lynn Brucker's house, 1635 Grange Hall Rd., Beavercreek, OH. For directions, see the map on the back cover, or go to the DUG web page:

www.dugcaves.com

MEMBERSHIP INFO

Annual membership is \$15 per individual, or \$20 per family. Membership includes the monthly publication of *The Carbide Courier* in paper or electronic format. Memberships are renewable on October 1st. Dues can be mailed to:

Alan Leach
2217 Cleney Ave.
Norwood, OH 45212

Please make checks payable to:
Dayton Underground Grotto

You can also pay online using PayPal at:

www.dugcaves.com/joindug.htm

REPRESENTATIVES**Great Saltpetre Preserve**

Tim Hale
tim.hale at woolpert.com

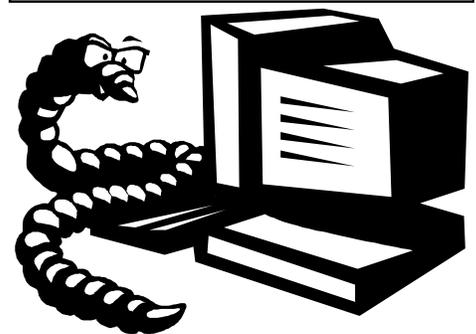
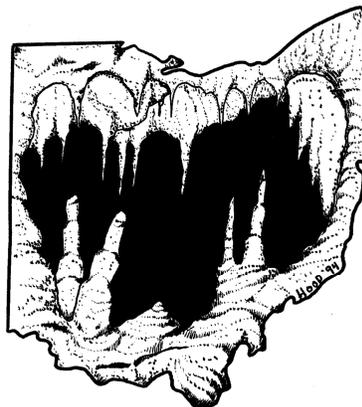
Chris Hacker
smgcaver at earthlink.net

Indiana Karst Conservancy

Mike Hood
mkhood at woh.rr.com

Kentucky Speleological Survey

Jim Perkins
jim666 at aol.com



**18th Annual
Wormfest
August 21-23
Rocky Fork State
Park, Ohio**

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From the Editor...



Hello DUGsters,

It's Wormfest time! I hope to see many of you DUGster there! I know I'm not going to miss it. This is the grotto's primary fundraiser, so please attend and help out your grotto!

The grotto meeting will be at Wormfest this month and it's also the time we begin the nomination process for officers for 2009-2010. Chairman Dana talks more about that on page 5, so I won't say anything else about it.

Congratulations to Roger Brucker for receiving the NSS' Spelean Arts and Letters Award. See page 8 for the story. Also, three former DUG members were recognized with NSS awards at the Kerrville, TX, convention. Dr. Horton Hobbs received the Science Award, and Lacie Braley and Montana Autumn Spencer were named Fellows of the Society. Congratulations to all!

Remember—the August grotto meeting is at Wormfest, and the September meeting is at Dave and Sandy Rice's (it's also the grotto auction—more info about that in the September Courier).

That's all for this month!

Volume 18, Issue 8

August 2009

The Carbide Courier is sent electronically the last week of the preceding month and also sent to the printer at the same time. Submissions must be sent to the editor by the Friday preceding the last week of the month at carbidecourier (at) yahoo (dot) com.

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CORRECTION TO THE JULY CARBIDE COURIER

It was reported in the July edition of the *Carbide Courier* that the photographers for the Peter Cave cleanup article were Dorothy Goepel, Bill Walden, and Tim Williams. I neglected to list Janeen Sharpshair as one of the photographers. Sorry about that, Janeen!

Calendar of Events

- August 14th-16th 56th Indiana Cave Capers at Camp Rivervale, Mitchell, IN
(<http://cig.caves.org/pages/capers.html>)
- August 21st-23rd 18th Annual Wormfest at Rocky Fork State Park, Hillsboro, Ohio. This is also the August grotto meeting.
- September 12th-13th Caver Appreciation Weekend at the Great Saltpetre Preserve
- September 19th Annual DUG Picnic at the Great Rice Preserve (Dave & Sandy's House)
(Short business meeting and grotto auction)
- October 3rd Dayton Five Rivers Metropark's Gearfest (<http://www.metroparks.org/GEARFEST/>)
- October 11th 7pm - Grotto General Membership Meeting. 2009-2010 officers take office at end of the meeting. Roger & Lynn Brucker's House (See back of Courier for map)
- November 8th 7pm - Grotto General Membership Meeting
Roger & Lynn Brucker's House (See back of Courier for map)
- December 15th Grotto Christmas Party (location may be changing, so stay tuned...)

August Birthdays!

Debbie Moore—1st

Chris Lucas—4th

Mike Goltzene—5th

Dewayne Asher—12th

Robert Yuellig—20th

Emma Cullion-Fearday—31st





From the Chairman

Hello.

We are coming up on several caver events in the next couple months. Wormfest, DUG auction at the Rice's, Caver Appreciation Weekend, OTR, TAG, and Bridge Day. But one of the more important thing that often gets over looked: DUG elections.

Last year six Executive Committee positions were unopposed, the seventh was a write in. With a club this size no position should be "given" to someone by default. Being an Executive Committee member is one way to lead the grotto in the direction you feel it should go. That being said, please pick a position you are interested in and run for it. I would like to see nothing more than two or more people running for each position. DUG is your grotto! Step up, take the wheel and drive.

If I can be the Chairman for a whole year and not screw too much up, any one can do it! Dana works every other weekend, lives an hour and a half from Brucker's, and was still able to pull it off. Give it some thought.

Dana Sutherland
Chairman

MINUTES OF THE JULY 12 EXECUTIVE AND GENERAL MEM- BERSHIP MEETINGS

DUG EC Meeting, 5:30pm at the El Toro Restau- rant

In attendance were:

Amy Hill
John Cassidy
Tama Cassidy
Debbie Bowers
Bonnie Guess
Sandy Rice

Wormfest was the topic of discussion. A has been working hard to put Wormfest together this year. John is working on the guide book. Debbie has stepped up once again to do registration. This will be a good opportunity for cavers to bring their families.

Meeting 7:00 pm

The meeting started a little after 7:00 pm. It was run by Secretary Tama Cassidy. Wormfest was discussed. It will take place at Rocky Fork State Park August 22-23 in a group camp area. There is a beach there for swimming. There is a mountain bike trail and a vertical trip planned. Registration will be available on line shortly. There is an amphitheater available for us to use we will need a projector for showing movies at night. A mineral spring is near the park and we may get to see fresh water jelly fish. (Who Knew?) We may even get in a cave or two. We are working on gaining entrance to some private caves in the area.

Treasurers report: Debbie Bowers
Checking account - \$408.10
Savings - \$2084.21

The Courier cost this month were: DocuPros - \$47.06 and postage \$32.33.

(Continued on Page 8)



REMINDER!!

**NOMINATIONS
FOR 2009-2010
DUG OFFICERS
WILL BE TAKEN AT THE
AUGUST GROTTTO MEET-
ING!**

Ergor's Tips for Increasing the Size of Your Cave

By Ergor Rubreck



Ergor Rubreck

Are you ashamed at the size of your cave? Do you look with envy at cavers who seem to cavort endlessly through mile after mile of their ever-expanding cave? Do you wish you could suck in attractive cavers to help with your “almost through” dig? To change your lifestyle from one

of envy and embarrassment to winner success and juicy buzz, try one of these tested tips:

Loop O' Rope. Many cavers know the trick of inviting others on a cave trip and nonchalantly tossing a 250-foot rope in the back of the SUV. Those passengers will become excited that this trip will break through and finally lead to the lower levels of Slop-crawl Cave. My Loop O' Rope is a 110-foot rope with an invisible splice that makes it a continuous loop that is much easier to carry than a 250-foot coil.

When you get to a nice drop off or crevice, you seat yourself inside a big loop and urge the others to sit down at a distance while you rig the drop. Keep your light focused on your hands feeding the rope down the pit and make sure the others are seeing the rope descend foot after foot. If your body blocks their view effectively they will not see the rope coming up out of the pit. In this manner, provided you can tell interesting stories or sing 29 verses of *Grand Kentucky Junction*, twenty minutes will pass while you are still lowering the rope.

“Gosh, Ergor, that pit is awfully deep. I have never rappelled more than eighty feet in my life!” said one of my friends on a recent trip.

I replied, still paying out rope, “Eighty feet? Gosh, I thought you bounced Golondrinas! Maybe I had you confused with somebody else. This sucker must be three times as deep as Golondrinas. You'd

need to be Vertical Bill himself to survive this descent, and I do care about your safety. So maybe we'd better bag it and go to another cave I know.”

The trick to pulling this off is to glance at your watch and note the rope lowering time, so that your rope retrieval time will last a little longer. At the proper time you suggest that your buddy pack and get ready to exit. You stand up with a dramatic, “That's about the last of it!” and pull up all the rope and pile it. Wave your arm and point. “You head on out and head off any first responders. I'll take care of the rope!” Gigundo caves are made with tips like this one.

Li'l Red Caver. My second tip for expanding your cave – or getting the reputation for doing so – is my Li'l Red Caver. That famous Croatian cave photographer, Otto Focus, told me that if cavers wear red coveralls and a red helmet, it makes outstanding cave photos that win salons. I know this is true because more than once people have looked at a photo of me with my bloodshot eyes and said, “Awesome!!!”

At Toys-R-Us I purchased a Ken® character doll and dressed him in diminutive red coveralls. From a ping-pong ball I made a cave helmet and sprayed that red. A little LED provides enough light to make the figure look realistic so that when the light is pointed at the camera you cannot make out the identity of the caver.

Now and then I encounter flowstone curtains, stalactites and stalagmites, I unwrap Li'l Red from his blankee and stand him by the best speleothems. The photos haven't won me any salon awards yet, but friends keep pestering me to know the location of those big beautiful caves. Following the Big Cavers' Code, my lips are sealed. As if that were not enough, my wide Flint Ridge smile silences the cognoscenti. A few scoffers wonder how so many of my caver companions wear red cave suits and hard hats. “My uncle owns the factory,” I tell them.



Close-up Lands the Beauties. I have long admired those big glossy calendars of exotic cave scenes that you just know required a week to set up with \$12,000 of cameras, lenses, tripods, radio and photo slave lights, many models, and Photoshop Version 9A software. I purchased for \$29.95 a close-up attachment from a mail order photo warehouse that screws onto my camera lens. I make close-up copies of old cave calendar photos. The trick is to copy only part of the photo, and then flop it in Photoshop. Most people will not recognize the original photo, and if a few do, you reply, "Yes, I recall that photo, but I found a better angle." When your friends ask how you save enough money to get to those exotic locations to make such fine photos, you say, "When you own the cave, as I do, you can afford to go photograph it." Do not provide any more details.

Testimonial Notes. My last tip is to take a pad of yellow stickies and a Sharpie pen on your next trip to a cave you would like to expand. Leave notes at various junctions, entries to belly crawls, impossibly high leads, and the like. There is an art to writing notes that imply big discoveries but do not actually say so. For instance at a low lead you leave a note: DUG THRU AND WENT 7,500 PACES TO THIRD BIGGEST ROOM IN KY. FILLED IN TRENCH TO PREVENT VANDALISM. -- ERGOR

Other examples: GO AROUND THE OTHER WAY TO REACH THE TOP. IT'S EASIER. -- ERGOR

WE PUT CAMP #1 AND #2 OUT THIS WAY. NEXT PARTY SHOULD PUT CAMP #3 IN THE PLACE WE DISCUSSED. -- ERGOR

GROUP PICTURE SITE THIS WAY. -- ERGOR

When you apply any of these tips your reputation will certainly soar. To keep the momentum, cultivate saying, "Shucks, it weren't nothing." Smile modestly.



State of Tennessee Closes All Public Caves to Protect Bats in Southeast

Released on Mon, Jul 06, 2009 - 9:07 am under Wildlife Resources

NASHVILLE --- Caves located on land owned by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and other state lands in Tennessee will be closed for a year in an effort to prevent the spread of White Nose Syndrome (WNS) among the state's bat population.

The TWRA and state agencies agreed to close all caves on public property after receiving a request from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The Nature Conservancy has also agreed to follow the state's lead to close all caves located on Conservancy property.

The closures are effective immediately and temporarily close public access to all caves, sinkholes, tunnels and abandoned mines on state land managed by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture Division of Forestry. These lands include state parks, forests, and wildlife management areas. The closure extends through May 2010 and follows similar steps taken elsewhere in response to a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service advisory asking for a moratorium on cave visitations in WNS-affected states and adjoining states.

State agencies will work with the Nature Conservancy, cavers and caving groups to share information and answer questions about the need for the temporary year closures.



"I was going to wake up early to go jogging, but my toes voted against me 10 to 1."

Meeting Minutes (Continued from Page 5)

This year the Travel Lodge wants to charge 75.00 for the party house for 4 hours and 30.00 dollars for every hour after that. We will be looking for a new site for the Christmas party this year.

Board Members Jim and Sandy had no news to report.

Library has plenty of books for your enjoyment. (Do we have a booklist we could post online?)

Courier Editor, Mike Hood, is asking for stories for the next Courier.

The relocation on the NSS headquarters was briefly discussed. It is currently in Huntsville, Alabama. The sites being considered are Bloomington, Indiana (Buckner's Cave property) and Horse Cave, Kentucky, near Mammoth Cave National Park.

The vertical section meets on Thursday at Happy Corners (that is when we are not all out on vacation). Contact Tama Cassidy if you are interested.

John and Tama Cassidy presented their program on their Parashant National Monument (near Grand Canyon National Park) cave trip. Some of the trip highlights will be in a Courier soon.

Tama Cassidy
Secretary

MOVING?

If so, please make sure you let Alan Leach know so that he can update the grotto database with your new mailing address and phone number.



Roger Brucker Receives the NSS Spelean Arts and Letters Award



DUG member, Roger Brucker (NSS 1999 RL, HM, CM, PH, AL, FE) was awarded the NSS' Spelean Arts and Letters Award at the NSS Convention in Kerrville, Texas.

The award annually recognizes one NSS member who, over time, has advanced spe-

lean arts and letters by significant artistic expression, management, or criticism. Names of candidates will be solicited by the Awards Committee, and the recipient will be approved by the Board of Governors upon recommendation of the Awards Committee. The recipient must have been a member in good standing of the Society for at least two years immediately prior to his or her name being submitted as a candidate.

Roger is no stranger to NSS awards. He received the Society's highest award, Honorary Member, in 1973, and was named a Fellow of the Society in 1967. He has received the Certificate of Merit twice: in 1956, along with the Flint Ridge Project, for surveys showing cave development in flat-bedded limestone, and again in 1982, along with Richard Murray, for their writing the book *Trapped!* Roger received the Peter M. Hauer Spelean History Award in 2004.

Roger received the Spelean Arts and Letters Award for his many books: *The Caves Beyond*, *Trapped!*, *The Longest Cave*, and *Beyond Mammoth Cave*. His new book, *Grand, Gloomy, and Peculiar: Stephen Bishop at Mammoth Cave*, will be available on October 1.

For more information about Roger, and his books, visit his website: www.rogerbrucker.com.

Congratulations Roger!

NSS AWARD WINNERS IN DUG

By Mike Hood

With Roger Brucker receiving the NSS' Spelean Arts and Letters Award this year, it got me thinking about who else in DUG has received a national award. I went through the NSS Awards Committee database and looked up current grotto members who have received a society award. Below are the current members of DUG who have received awards (I hope I haven't left anyone out):

Roger Brucker—Certificate of Merit (1956), Fellow (1967), Honorary Member (1973), Certificate of Merit (1982), Peter M. Hauer Spelean History (2004), and Spelean Arts and Letters Award (2009)

Don Conover—Fellow (2000)

Colin Gatland—Fellow (1999) and Spelean Arts and Letters (2002)

Mike Hood—Fellow (1993)

Andy Niekamp—Fellow (2001)

Jim Pisarowicz—Fellow (1988) and Lew Bicking (1990)

Bill Simpson—Fellow (1994)

Lou Simpson—Lew Bicking (1973) and Fellow (1974)

Bill Walden—Fellow (1991)

These are just the ones who are current members of the grotto. We have several former members who have also received awards, but I won't attempt to list all of them here.

The nomination period for the 2010 awards will be here soon and the deadline for nominations for the various NSS awards is November 15th. As a member of the NSS Awards Committee, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the NSS awards.

DUG MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN NSS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

By Mike Hood

Since I listed current grotto members who have received NSS awards, I thought I would also list current grotto members who have also served as an officer and/or director on the NSS Board of Governors (Again, I hope I haven't left anyone out).

Roger Brucker—Director (1954-1956)(1958)

Colin Gatland—Operations Vice President (2002-2004)

Mike Hood—Operations Vice President (1998-2000) and President (2000-2002)

DUG MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN NSS NATIONAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

By Mike Hood

This was a tough one! I've listed all of the current DUG members that I could find who have chaired a national committee. I researched this as best I could, but I'm willing to bet that I left someone or a committee out.

Roger Brucker—NSS Bulletin Editor

Phil Davis—NSS T-Shirts and Symbolic Emblem Salon.

Colin Gatland—Audio Visual Committee.

Chris Hacker—Cave Vandalism Deterrence Reward Commission and Boone Karst Conservation Task Force.

Mike Hood—Cave Ownership and Management Committee, Awards Committee, NSS 60th Anniversary Ad-Hoc Committee, NSS Library Ad-Hoc Committee, Board Arrangements Committee, Executive Search Committee, NSS Cave Management

Division, NSS Web Page Award Sub-Committee, Ellis Cave Conservancy, Fellow Award Sub-Committee, and NSS Cave Conservancy and Acquisition Sub-Committee.

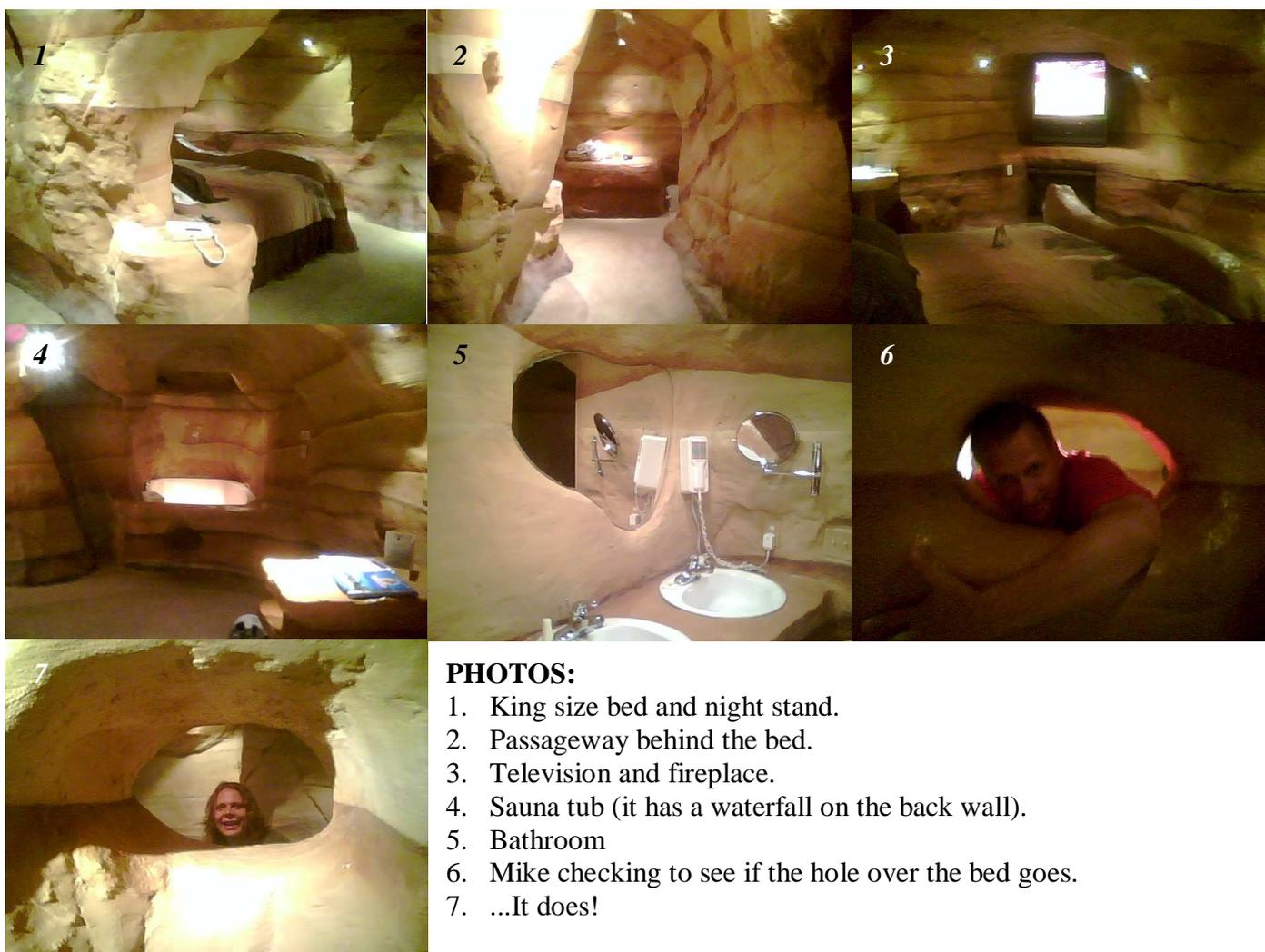
Andy Niekamp—Information Technology Committee and Online Registration Advisor.

The Wildwood Inn's Arizona Cave Room

By Mike Hood

Tracy and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary by staying at the Wildwood Inn, located in Florence, Kentucky. We booked the Arizona Cave Room, one of the many themed rooms available at the inn (there is also a Tennessee Cave Room, Kentucky Cave Room, New Mexico Cave Room, and Arctic Cave Room).

While the theme rooms are rather pricey, they are quite charming and comfortable. Below are some pictures of the room (I apologize for the quality of the photos—they were taken on a cell phone).



PHOTOS:

1. King size bed and night stand.
2. Passageway behind the bed.
3. Television and fireplace.
4. Sauna tub (it has a waterfall on the back wall).
5. Bathroom
6. Mike checking to see if the hole over the bed goes.
7. ...It does!

If you want a unique experience, and don't mind spending some extra cash for a special occasion, then you should look into the Wildwood Inn. Check their website for more information and look at all of the themed rooms: wildwood-inn.com

**The Dayton Underground Grotto
18th Annual Wormfest
Pre- Registration Form**

**August 21-23, 2009
Rocky Fork State Park
Hillsboro, Ohio**

Please print clearly Pre-Reg ends Aug 14th On-Site Registration will be \$5 more per adult

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

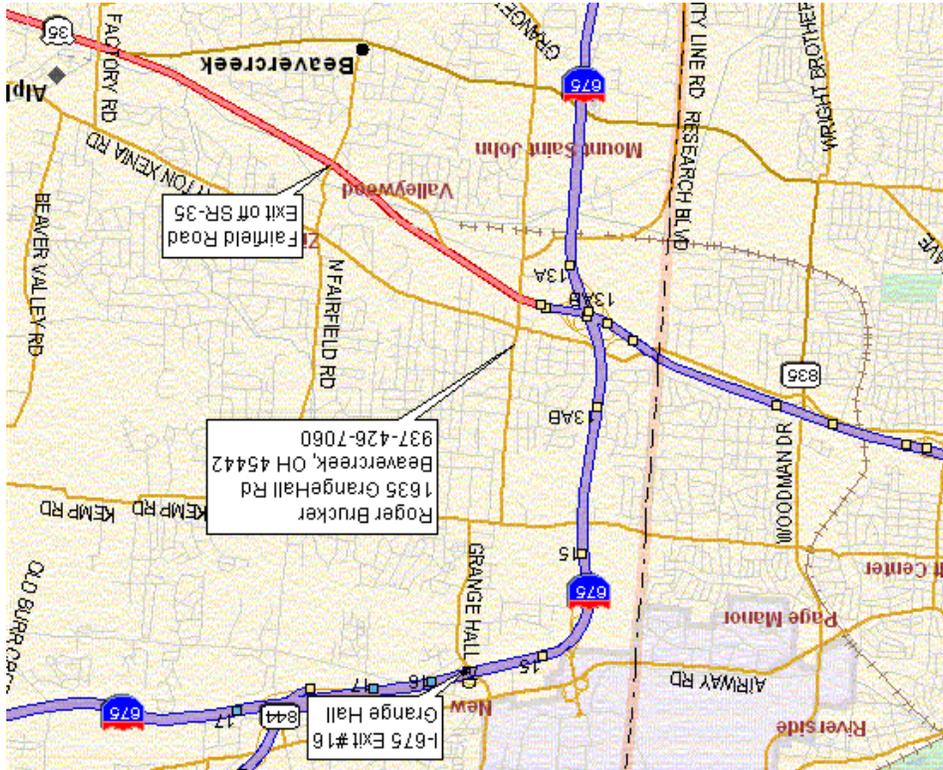
Grotto _____

Emergency Contact _____

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost per</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Amount</u>	
First Adult Registration (Includes Guidebook)	\$15	one	<u>\$15</u>	
Additional Adults (16 & over, no Guidebook)	\$10	_____	_____	
Kids (4-15, no Guidebook, kids 3 & under are free!)	\$5	_____	_____	
Adult Wormfeast	\$7	_____	_____	
Kids 10 and Under	\$3	_____	_____	
Tank Tops	(S) \$13	_____	_____	M or W
(Not guaranteed after August 9 th)	(M) \$13	_____	_____	_____
Please specify mens or womens	{L} \$13	_____	_____	_____
	(XL) \$13	_____	_____	_____
	(XXL) \$15	_____	_____	_____
Raffle Tickets	\$1 each or 6 for \$5	_____	_____	

(Register before Aug 14th and receive 2 free raffle tickets per form!) **Total** _____

Make checks payable to: **Dayton Underground Grotto**. Mail Forms and payment to:
Wormfest Registration c/o Debbie Bowers 4208 White Hawk Ct. Beavercreek, OH 45430



**The Carbide Courier
C/O Mike Hood
4668 Airway Rd.
Riverside, OH 45431-1369**

FIRST CLASS

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