

The Carbide Courier



The Dayton Underground Grotto
of the National Speleological Society



In This Issue:

“Quotable Quotes from El Cap”, “2010 Wormfest”, “Bats and White Nose Syndrome - Georgia Cave Advisories”, and more!

GROTTO OFFICERS

Chairman

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

Vice Chairman

Tama Cassidy
937-322-9078
tamac at woh.rr.com

Secretary

Bonnie Guess
937-299-9938
cavebones at woh.rr.com

Treasurer

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

Carbide Courier Editor

Mike Hood
937-760-2416
carbidecourier at yahoo.com

Board Members

Pam Carpenter
937-294-3715
pcarpenter at woh.rr.com

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership

Alan Leach
alan.micah.6.8 at gmail.com

Conservation

Vacant

Rescue

Kenny Hedges
khcaver at aol.com

Safety

Dana Sutherland
dana377 at yahoo.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 Cincinnati.rr.com

Library

Dave Rice
cubelo at woh.rr.com

Youth Groups

Vacant

Webmaster

Roger June
rej at current.net

REPRESENTATIVES

Great Saltpetre Preserve

Tim Hale
tim.hale at woolpert.com

Second Rep Vacant

Indiana Karst Conservancy

Mike Hood
mkhood at woh.rr.com

Kentucky Speleological Survey

Jim Perkins
jim666 at aol.com

GROTTO MEETINGS

Grotto meetings are held the 2nd Sunday of each month (except for September, December, and the month of Wormfest) at 7:00pm 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 webpage:

www.dugcaves.com

Inside This Issue:

Officers, Committee Chairs, and Representatives 1

Calendar of Events, Birthdays, and New Members 3

From the Chairman 4

Quotable Quotes from El Cap 5

2010 Wormfest 7

Bats and White Nose Syndrome - Georgia Cave Advisories 8

Urgent - Contact Congress about WNS 9

Cover Photo: “Bubbles” resting during her climb of El Cap. Photo (c) by Dana Sutherland.

MEMBERSHIP INFO

Annual membership is \$15 per individual, or \$20 per family (\$5 additional for those wanting a paper copy of the newsletter). 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 Cleneay Ave.
Norwood, OH 45212

Please make check payable to:
Dayton Underground Grotto

You can also pay online using PayPal at:

www.dugcaves.com/joindug.htm

From the Editor:

Nominations of officers for 2010-2011 are now underway. I **will not** be running for a third year as editor. Let me know if you're interested in being the editor next year and I'll try to answer any questions you have.

July was a busy month for the grotto. We had our annual grotto cookout and swim party at the Brucker's home, complete with the first ever "Tower Karst Olympics." If you haven't had a chance to crawl around in their huge play set, complete with tunnels, zip-

(Continued on page 4)

Volume 19, Issue 8 August 2010

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.

Printing is done by DocuPros, 9933 Alliance Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45242.

The Carbide Courier, copyright (c) 2010 by the Dayton Underground Grotto. Excluding reprinted material and individually copyrighted articles, permission is granted to caving and cave conservation organizations to reprint material from this publication, with proper credit given to the author and *The Carbide Courier*. Articles appearing in *The Carbide Courier* do not necessarily represent the official views of the grotto and/or its members.

Calendar of Upcoming Event

- August 2nd-6th** **NSS Convention, Essex Junction, Vermont**
<http://www.nss2010.com>

- August 8th** **7pm - Grotto General Membership Meeting (Officer Nominations open)**
Roger & Lynn Brucker’s House (See back of Courier for Map)

- September 11th-12th** **Caver Appreciation Weekend at the Great Saltpetre Preserve**

- September 18th** **5pm - Grotto Auction and General Membership Meeting (Officer Nominations open) At the “Great Rice Preserve” (Dave and Sandy Rice’s house)**

- October 10th** **7pm - Grotto General Membership Meeting (Election Results)**
Roger & Lynn Brucker’s House (See back of Courier for Map)

- November 11th-14th** **19th Annual Wormfest in Las Vegas. See page 7 for information**

- December 4th** **20th Annual Christmas Party at the America’s Best Value Inn, 75 Corporate Center Drive, Vandalia, OH (same location as last year).**

August Birthdays

- Debbie Moore - 1st
- Chris Lucas - 4th
- Mike Goltzene - 5th
- Robert Yuellig - 20th
- Emma Cullion-Fearday - 31st



From the Chairman:

Greetings.

It has been a couple months since I've wrote for the newsletter, but I've not had much to say. Well... this month is different. I have several things to point out and they're all of great importance.

Historically we kick off the DUG Executive Committee nominations at the Aug meeting. This year will be no different. I have not spoke with the other E/C members, and do not know their intent for their positions. I can, however, speak for myself. My position of chair(person) will be open. It's time to pass the gavel, hard hat and funny flash light rainbow sword thingy (If you been a chair you understand, and my successor... I've got the chair's box of "stuff" for you).

Along with nominations, DUG needs three members to run the election. These people will be needed very soon to make the election happen. Please contact me if you're interested in either an E/C position or the election commitee.

I would like to thank Chris Hacker for his work over the past few years as one of DUG's GSP representatives. Because of other obligations with GSP and GCG, Chris is unable to continue acting as the DUG rep. The E/C will have to fill this opening in the near future. If you're interested, contact me or an E/C member. An E/C meeting will be held to discuss this further.

DUG is going to Vegas for the 2010 Wormfest! This is no joke folks. Tama, along with the help of Mary Beth Pierce (DUG member, and Vegas resident), have been working very hard to make this happen. Two years ago Las Vegas was picked by Outside magazine as the #1 city to live in for outdoor adventure. So far a hand full of trips have been planned. This will be a Wormfest you don't want to miss! More e-mails and info to follow.

Dana Sutherland
Chairman

(From the Editor - Continued from Page 2)

line, bridges, slides, and a climbing wall, then you need to check it out sometime. Roger even prepared nice certificates and buttons for those who ran the course (I can tell you that it got tiring after a couple of times through).

Several DUG members made a trip to Yosemite National Park, in California, to conquer El Capitan (known as El Cap). A short article about the trip is in this issue. I also received some photos that I will publish in an upcoming *Carbide Courier*.

Finally, if you haven't considered running for DUG office, do so! We need members to run for office and govern the grotto!

Quotable Quotes from EL Cap

By Bob Ausdenmoore and Amy Hill

"This is what turns a trip into an adventure" stated by Dana as he did the stream crossing first time from trailhead to campsite. He wasn't singing that same tune thirteen crossings later.

"I hate goddamn tourists" Dana screamed as he sat in Yosemite Valley traffic. Reply from Bob: "But you are a goddamn tourist, yourself. And you are in goddamn Disney Valley with all of your goddamn tourist friends."

"It's not long enough. I know what 3000 feet of rope looks like and this isn't 3000 feet" - Tyler as he bagged the coil.

Bob to the rig team as they heaved the main line to the top: "If the accessory cord breaks we have bigger things to worry about than losing the main line... we'll end up going teeth-first into the granite and then we'll roll over the edge"

"Sorry about chomp-chomp-chomping up that rope, partner." Brandon to Dana, after Dana explained that he had been sea sick while climbing.

"That white thing that you see in there is the bone" - Kellie M

showing Bob's elbow wound to PD.

"Amy something wrong with this water filter, the water is black" "Now my camelback is contaminated." This happens when a charcoal filter is used for the first time---no worry on contamination

"No worry." Something the locals seem to say a lot

"What's the rangers name in Jellystone?"

"You can park the RV on the street but you can't sleep in it." Thus the meaning of sleeping in shifts

"They're lazy bears." The bears check the bear boxes like it's a morning routine.

"Batten down the hatches bubbles, we got a storm coming in." "Climbers we got a storm coming." This was the hail storm up top , 2 climbers on rope hooked onto rock climbing hardware 400 feet up for 40 minutes then continued their climb. Kueen and Harold from Cullman grotto.

"Help I'm lost!" Sharon O got lost in the dark in the base camp. Luckily good friends

were looking out for her and lit a Tiki torch for her to find her tent

"You might want to hurry up and get on rope, there's a bear coming your way. " This is from the climber on rope

"Next time I'm bringing my bear suit." Conversation at the RV in the wee hours of the night, every noise was a potential bear encounter.

One of my favorites: "BEER NOT GEAR!"

"I can change over if I want and come back up right?"

"There's a ranger knocking on the door. Wake up."

"Are those matchstick looking things TREES?"

"A lot of moles and ducks die for us this week." This is reference to the amount of mole skins and duck tape used on feet.

"That stinkin' red light never gets any closer." Reference to the red light at the lip for the climbers to look at.

"I got the mountain house gas." Self explanatory.

"I'm sorry sir, you can't ship boxes UPS to the United States post office." "But it has my food in there for the week." Grocery shopping time

"It's electric." "Bees."

The bus tour announcer passing the RV. "We have a group of rappellers in this week, rappelling El Cap, stop by the RV and ask question."

"That was my shooting star."

"You heard rattlesnakes at the belay area?!"

"Hey aim I went like this just a little (sitting on the ledge and leaning over) and I got that feeling, you know, like you're going to fall." Greg M talking to me at the lip before my first rappel.

"Jerry's rack made it to El Cap and he didn't." "lets take pictures of it."

"The half dome hike was harder than doing El Cap!"

"BAD BEAR, Git!" "Michael don't run!"

"I'm sorry I licked you in the face."

"That's they way they do it around here." Trying to park in Curry Village. Oops bumped the car.

"You're going to cry when you get to the top."

"Oh, so you're the one with the sleeping pad up top with dog hairs on it." Result of using shared gear at the top base camp

"Nothing you can do that can't be done; nothing you can sing that can't be sung; nothing you can be if you can learn how to be you in time, ITS EASY!"

"How much is a tire for an RV?"

"The gentle lapping of the tarp in the wind under the moon light, with a loooooonnnnnngggggg rope attached to a few trees."

"There was candy in the duct tape attached to the haul line and rope."

"One word sentences please."

What I asked Kelly Murphy to do when she was at the lip during my second rappel.

"This tree smells like butterscotch!"

2010 WORMFEST

Tama Cassidy, DUG Vice Chairman

All you DUGsters with non caving significant others...Here is your chance!

It's Time DUG descended on Vegas! Wormfest this year will be out in Las Vegas!!.... really I swear... The dates are Nov 11-14 (over Veterans Day). We will be staying at the Stratosphere. Special Group rates and information to follow soon!!!

There is plenty to do in Las Vegas. We will have some cave trips as well as hiking at Red Rock, mountain bikes for rent, rock climbing, oh and some fabulous night life and just a little gambling.

Worm Feast will be held at the Hofbrauhaus at 6:30 pm on Saturday evening as always.

If we get a big group of cavers, we can add on more cave trips.

For special group rates call 1-800-998-6937 between 7am and 10 pm. Give them our group name Dayton Underground Grotto and/or our group code C-DUG10 and provide your credit card information. We have 10 rooms at the group rate of \$28.00 on Thursday night, \$75.00 on Friday night, and \$75.00 Saturday night. There is a \$7.50 a night room fee, plus tax. They will take a cashier check or money order (ask them if that is how you wish to pay). We have 10 rooms reserved and its first come first serve. so get your room now.

Mary Beth has also found some additional trips available. Please email me if you are planning on going on any of these trips so that we can be sure to have enough space. Caving trips will be with borrowed gear courtesy of the Southern Nevada Grotto. This is a WNS precaution and will save some weight in packing!

Here are a few links to tellyou about the area!

Wormfeast will be at the Hofbrauhaus! The Las Vegas Hofbrauhaus:

<http://www.hofbrauhauslasvegas.com/>

While you are there take a trip to see Hoover Dam. Hoover Dam Tours: <http://www.usbr.gov/lc/hooverdam/service/index.html>

There is a lot of beautiful hikes in the area. A Guide to area hiking:

<http://www.birdandhike.com/>

Hope to see you all there!!

Bats and White-nose Syndrome

Georgia Cave Advisories, Closures

State Issues White-nose Caution: Disinfect Gear, Limit Caving

To minimize risks from the epidemic white-nose syndrome, the Wildlife Resources Division is urging cavers to reduce trips to Georgia caves and follow federal guidelines for disinfecting clothes and gear.

The syndrome discovered in New York in 2006 has killed an estimated 1-2 million bats. Named for the fungus *Geomyces destructans* often found on the muzzles of affected bats, white-nose apparently arouses bats during hibernation, causing them to use fat reserves and leading to starvation. White-nose has not been documented in Georgia but was in Tennessee in February.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommends closing caves in states where the syndrome is confirmed and in adjacent states. The Wildlife Resources Division considered some closures – most state-lands caves are on Crockford-Pigeon Mountain Wildlife Management Area in Walker County – but chose voluntary limits after weighing research, the resource and public interests.

There are no known large bat hibernacula or significant maternity caves on state lands, although bats hibernate in many of the caves. At two information meetings earlier this year, cavers voiced concern about white-nose. Yet most opposed mandatory closures, questioning the effectiveness and potential economic, enforcement and safety issues.

Wildlife Resources will work with caving groups and post signs to emphasize fewer trips and strict adherence to Fish and Wildlife Service decontamination protocols. Studies suggest that *Geomyces destructans* can be transmitted by bats and possibly from gear used in affected sites.

The division will also seek cavers' help in spreading the word about white-nose and monitoring and evaluating caves on state lands. Some grotto members have volunteered to set up weekend decontamination stations at Crockford-Pigeon Mountain WMA, where

Pettijohn's and Ellison's caves draw thousands of visitors combined.

The cautions are part of Wildlife Resources' white-nose response plan. The document outlines steps for raising awareness about the syndrome, slowing its spread, reporting and analyzing bats, and managing caves. About 15 percent of Georgia's caves are on state-managed lands.

Recommendations will be evaluated in a year, or sooner if new information is available.

Some caves have been closed in Georgia to try and prevent the spread of white-nose syndrome. For more information or a listing of closed caves in Georgia, please visit the Southeastern Cave conservancy website (www.scci.org/Preserves/preserves.html). For a copy of the U.S. Forest Service cave-closure policy, visit www.gohuntgeorgia.com/sites/default/files/uploads/wildlife/nongame/pdf/2009_05_21caveclosure.pdf, and www.gohuntgeorgia.com/sites/default/files/uploads/wildlife/nongame/pdf/NR-06-09_Forest_Service_Closes_Caves.pdf for a related press release.

Georgia Wildlife Resources Division
2070 U.S. Hwy. 278, SE, Social Circle, GA 30025



URGENT - CONTACT CONGRESS ABOUT WNS!

by Peter Youngbaer, NSS WNS Liaison

Your help is needed now. The first House Committee in Congress is beginning its mark-up of the Department of Interior Appropriations Bill for the coming federal fiscal year. The NSS has signed on to joint testimony with dozens of conservation organizations and a host of key WNS scientists in support of an increase to the budget of \$5 million for WNS. A copy of that testimony, for your reference, can be found here:

http://www.caves.org/WNS/House%20Appropriations%20Testimony%203_19_2010.pdf

Please urge your Congressional representative to sign Representative Carol Shea-Porter's letter requesting \$5 million in the 2011 federal budget to combat White-nose Syndrome. Representative Shea-Porter was a strong supporter of the additional funding last year, and is urging her colleagues to join the effort this year.

A sample letter is below, but feel free to tailor it to your own style. If calling is more your style than writing, then do that. Ask to speak to your Congressperson, or specifically their environmental staff person. Tell your Congressperson what the impact of WNS has meant to you.

To contact your representative, go to <https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>.

Last year, it was largely due to our efforts that the additional funding for WNS (\$1.9 million) was added to the budget. The problem is bigger now, and the need for money for hard science research is high. Thank you for your efforts.

Sample letter:

Subject: Please Support Funding for White-Nose Syndrome

Dear Representative,

As a constituent, a caver and member of the National Speleological Society, I am writing to urge you to sign on to Rep. Carol Shea-Porter's letter to the Appropriations Committee requesting \$5 million in the 2011

Interior Appropriations Bill to help combat White Nose Syndrome, or WNS.

WNS has already killed over a million bats in the United States, spreading from the Northeast into the South and now heading Westward. A never-before identified fungus appears to be the primary cause of the disease, but little is known of how the fungus attacks and kills the bats.

Scientists have called this the most precipitous decline in North American wildlife in the past century, with mortality rates at some caves and mines approaching 100%.

Bats are a keystone species in our ecosystem. They are the only nighttime predators of insects, consuming half their body weight and more in a night of hunting. The sheer magnitude of uneaten insects raises serious concerns for the economic effects and health effects. Bats are vital for controlling agricultural and forest pests that can cost billions of dollars, and can carry diseases that effect humans.

Congressional support is essential to fighting this devasta-

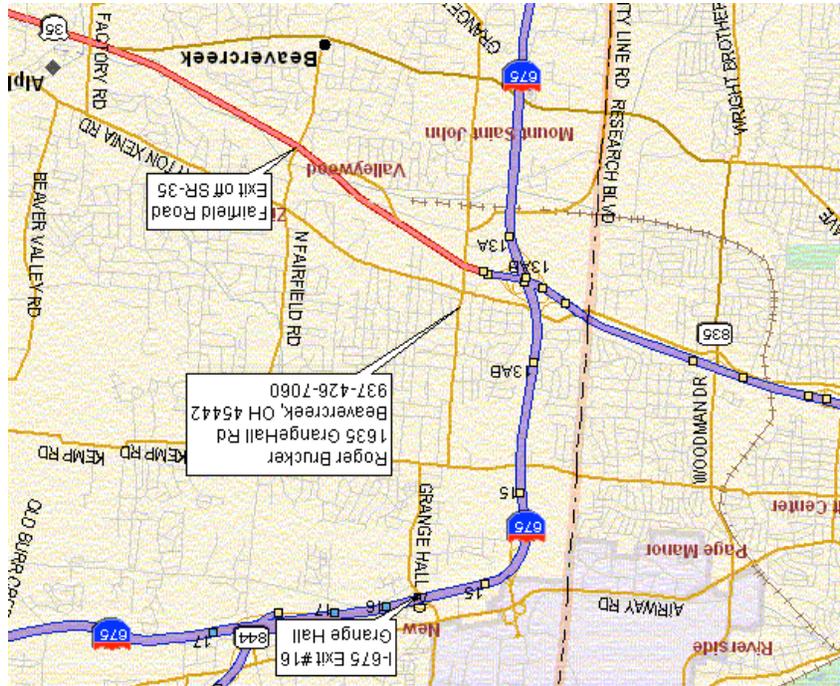
ting disease. Last year, Congress appropriated \$1.9 million for WNS in the 2010 budget, which was a help but not enough. It is beyond the capacity of states' budgets to address, and the scientific research community cannot pursue critical hard science without sufficient funding. WNS has spread faster than science can keep up. Our federal and state agencies can do little more than monitor the spread of WNS without a significant boost of research funding that focuses on how the disease progresses and how it might be stopped, including treatments or vaccines.

As one who spends considerable time exploring and studying the underground resources of our country, I care deeply about bats and their niche in the under-ground ecosystem. Bats are an important part of that system, but only one part. The impact of WNS has meant not only the death of bats, but closure of caves to further study by those who care most about them. Until we can figure out WNS, access by our citizens to these underground treasures and progress in other fields of science are at risk. Please support increased White Nose Syndrome funding in the upcoming budget. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Here are some photos from the "Tower Karst Olympics" at Lynn and Roger Brucker's house during the July grotto meeting. I'll have more about it in next month's *Carbide Courier*.





The Carbide Courier
C/O Mike Hood
4668 Airway Rd.
Riverside, OH 45431-1368

FIRST CLASS

Deliver To: