

The Carbide Courier

The
Dayton Underground Grotto
of
The National Speleological Society



Volume 18, Issue 12

December 2009

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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 (\$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:

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You can also pay online using PayPal at:

www.dugcaves.com/joindug.htm

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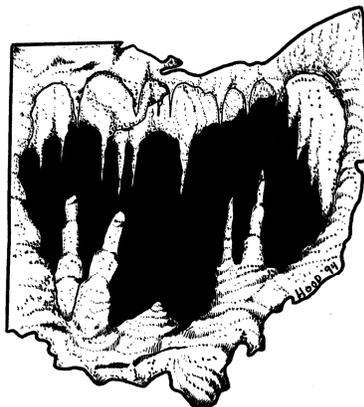
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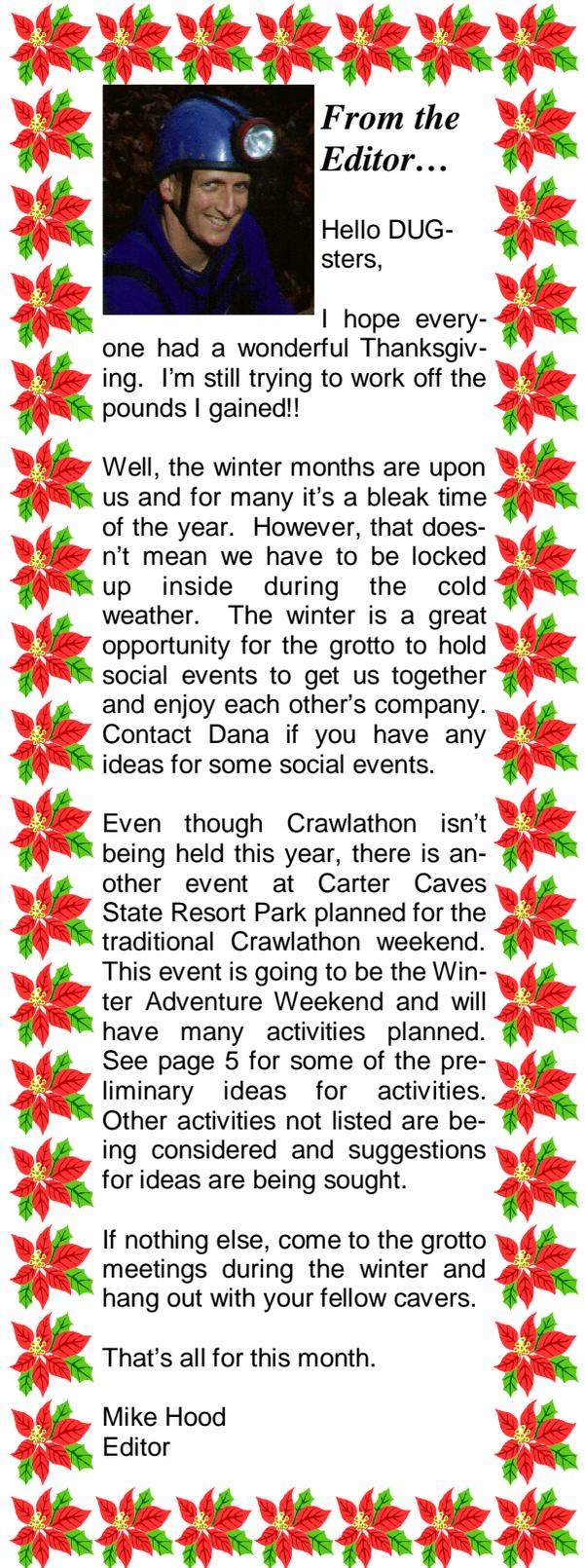


Happy Holidays!

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Front Cover: DUG's Rick Gordon in the sinkhole after the OVR clean up. Photo © by Harry Goepel.



From the Editor...

Hello DUGsters,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. I'm still trying to work off the pounds I gained!!

Well, the winter months are upon us and for many it's a bleak time of the year. However, that doesn't mean we have to be locked up inside during the cold weather. The winter is a great opportunity for the grotto to hold social events to get us together and enjoy each other's company. Contact Dana if you have any ideas for some social events.

Even though Crawlathon isn't being held this year, there is another event at Carter Caves State Resort Park planned for the traditional Crawlathon weekend. This event is going to be the Winter Adventure Weekend and will have many activities planned. See page 5 for some of the preliminary ideas for activities. Other activities not listed are being considered and suggestions for ideas are being sought.

If nothing else, come to the grotto meetings during the winter and hang out with your fellow cavers.

That's all for this month.

Mike Hood
Editor

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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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Calendar of Events

- December 5th** Grotto Christmas Party at the Airport Travel Lodge Motel (same location as past years)
- January 10th** 7pm - Grotto General Membership Meeting
Roger & Lynn Brucker's House (See back of Courier for map)
- January 29th-31st** Carter Caves State Resort Park Winter Adventure Weekend (replacing Crawl-a-Thon) See page 5 for more details.
- February 14th** 7pm - Grotto General Membership Meeting
Roger & Lynn Brucker's House (See back of Courier for map)
- March 5th-6th** The Adventure Summit—Wright State University Student Union
<http://www.metroparks.org/adventuresummit/>
- March 14th** 7pm - Grotto General Membership Meeting
Roger & Lynn Brucker's House (See back of Courier for map)
- April 11th** 7pm - Grotto General Membership Meeting
Roger & Lynn Brucker's House (See back of Courier for map)
- May 9th** 7pm - Grotto General Membership Meeting
Roger & Lynn Brucker's House (See back of Courier for map)



December Birthdays!

Brandon Damon—9th
Jay Moore—14th
Sheila Gallogly—15th
Elizabeth Lykins—24th
Jeff Thien—24th





From the Chairman:

Hello...

I truly thank all of you for renewing your DUG membership. It's hard to remain a member of an organization that can't participate in their activity. In a few months we will be bombarded with more information and new findings about WNS. The future of caving as we have known it has changed, and will continue to evolve in the post-WNS world.

For this year, to keep DUG active I have started putting together a list of monthly outdoor activities. As soon as I get the dates hammered out they will be posted on the DUG calendar.

I hope to see all of you at the Christmas Party on December 5th.

Dana Sutherland
Chairman

Editor's Comments:

Allow me to take the opportunity to comment on Dana's message. Yes, it is hard to remain a member of an organization that can't pursue its purpose. However, just because we can't cave as much as we used to (or like to), does not have to mean the end of the Dayton Underground Grotto.

I would like to think we have dedicated members who see beyond the purely caving aspect of the club and will continue to contribute to its well being. After all, we all joined not just to go caving, but to belong to an organization who's members share the same interests.

Just because we cannot cave like we once did, we should still remain active members and support the grotto. There are many activities above ground we can get involved in and still have a lot of fun!

I hope you will continue to support YOUR grotto and stay involved. I know I will!

WINTER ADVENTURE WEEKEND AT CARTER CAVES STATE RESORT PARK

The Winter Adventure Weekend at Carter Caves State Resort Park is scheduled for January 29-31, 2010. This event is replacing Crawlathon since caving has been curtailed due to WNS.

Park Naturalist, Coy Ainsley, states "Obviously without the caves this event will not draw nearly as many participants as Crawlathon. The goal is to have around 10-15 different trips/programs offered for folks to choose from and draw 100-200 participants."

Some of the suggested activities include:

- Tygarts Creek Cliff Hike
- Surface Karst Features of Carter Caves State Resort Park
- Down for Dummies
- Historic Lighting Trip
- History of Mine Lighting
- Winter Survival Skills Workshop
- Rappelling and Ascending
- Zipline
- Tygarts Creek Canoe Trip(s)
- Extended Hikes
- Geocaching Workshop
- Squeezebox Program
- Corrugated Cave

Some ideas for evening entertainment include a squeezebox competition, bluegrass band and other music, and stargazing.

Coy is looking for ideas for more activities. Please contact him at coy@crawlathon.com, or 606-286-4411 x2543 if you have any other ideas or suggestions for events.

Even though caving is going to be severely limited (other than a couple of events in Cascade Cave), it should still be a fun weekend and a break from the monotony of winter.

Ohio Valley Region Sinkhole Clean-up in Ohio October 3rd and 4th 2009 Article and Photos by Harry Goepel

Grottos Represented:
Central Ohio Grotto
Dayton Underground Grotto
Greater Cincinnati Grotto
Pine Mountain Grotto
Wittenberg University Speleological Society

The OVR Sinkhole Clean-up was organized by Erin Hazelton with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and Bill Walden of the Ohio Valley Region (OVR).

The four sinkholes we focused on are located on private land near Rushsylvania in central Ohio, more near the western part of the state. All four sinkholes were filled with trash, scrap metal, old fencing and other fill. The landowner talked about "wandering in a cave" at the bottom of one of the sinkholes when he was a child.

According to the latest details from Bill, the volunteers for this clean-up gathered 1.5 tons of material from three of the sinkholes and recycled 410 pounds of metal.

Even a local Mennonite farmer got involved. He happened by with his backhoe and pulled the remains of a culvert or cement bridge from one of the sinkholes, dug a lot of dirt mixed with restaurant material (chairs, tables, adding machines, dishes, etc.) from a second sinkhole, and cleared a path down into a third and the largest

of the four sinkholes. Feedback from volunteers tells us that the third sinkhole - the largest one - requires a larger machine to dig out the bottom and open a cave that's located there. Of particular help were Rick Gordon and Don Conover. Rick brought his truck and a large trailer and Don brought his 4X4. Don and Rick took turns pulling the trailer from sinkhole to sinkhole to collect material and take the items to the dumpster. Using his 4X4, Don pulled heavy material and rolls of wire fencing from each sinkhole.



The Sinkhole Before the Clean up

The OVR, said Bill, was organized to do conservation-oriented projects in the Ohio Valley region, which includes Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky. For years, these projects rotated among these three states. Significant clean-up projects have been accomplished in the past.

Below are the names that were on the sign-up sheet for this clean-up. More people may have volunteered so if your name is not listed here, please send me an e-mail to let me know so we can give credit where credit is due. A huge thanks to Bill and Erin for organizing this clean-up and thank you to everyone who volunteered to help out.

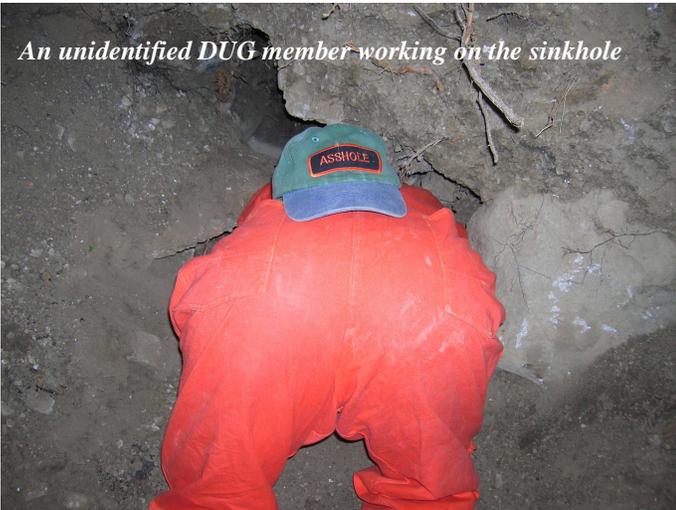


A Local Mennonite Helps Out

Erin Hazelton - WUSS
Bill Walden - COG, DUG,
and BGG

Polly Bargor - WUSS
Dani Courey - WUSS

Holly Gerbacher - WUSS
 Holly Kellar - WUSS
 Jordan Hilebranit - WUSS
 George Hagen
 Clayton Black - WUSS
 John Cassidy - DUG
 Mike Goltzene - WUSS and DUG
 Travis Croxall - WUSS
 Darrell Adkins - COG
 Steven Greene - DUG and RRG
 Don Conover - WUSS, DUG, SSG, and TRA
 Rick Gordon - DUG
 Richard Hand - PMG
 Dale Andreatta - COG
 Harry Goepel - GCG and DUG
 Bruce Warthman - COG and DUG



An unidentified DUG member working on the sinkhole



Moving?? Be sure to let Alan Leach know your new address and phone numbers so he can keep you updated in the grotto's membership database! (see page 2)

RKC FUND DRIVE FOR MISTY CAVE

The Rockcastle Karst Conservancy, the central Kentucky areas only karst conservancy, is starting its E-fund drive to retire the recently acquired Misty Cave Preserve mortgage. The Misty Cave Preserve is RKC's first purchase and expands its management to three preserves properties that also include the Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve and Cornhole Cave, part of the Goochland Cave system. Located in Jackson County Kentucky, Misty Cave was pursued because of it's unique cave and karst features , its Grey Bat hibernacula, the biological diversity of the cave and current karst management issues (such as white Nose Syndrome). This made Misty an excellent candidate and priority for purchase.

You may ask, why me, our grotto or organization? Good question. As a collective of groups and individuals with like minded goals, greater achievements can be made with your donation. Many donations large and small, near and far, add up quickly. This keeps the process of conserving karst, caves, and their surrounding environment, moving forward. We have seen this with other conservancies such as SCCI, Texas Cave Conservancy, IKC, and others. Ever increasing encroachments such as development, vandalism, environmental change and even White Nose Syndrome, make your donation count even more

And this is where you can help! The RKC is making an appeal to cavers and caving organizations and the NSS to help. Making a donation to the RKC Misty preserve is what the RKC needs to close the Misty mortgage. You can go to the RKC web site at, rkci.org, and donate to Misty Cave, or buy a piece of Misty Cave. Donations are fully tax deductible. The Cave has many sections to buy and you too can own a piece of the cave and help us pay off Misty. Thank you for considering the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy Inc. Please, **Mail A Check To:** RKC Misty Cave c/o Werner Jud 1044 Vacationland Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45231 **Make Checks Payable To:** Rockcastle Karst Conservancy. Indicate Misty Cave on the check memo. The Rockcastle Karst Conservancy is a 501-3 (c) Tax exempt organization. All donations are fully tax deductible. Thank you for your support.

Huber Heights Karst Study Continues

Article and Photos by Jerry Baker

October update - pretty leaves, and I found mushrooms (giant puffballs).

After digging through 6 inches of mud and sticks I opened swallowhole #2 and found it to possibly be a collapsed small room about 3 feet in diameter. The creek ends here now, swallowhole #3 at the former end after the turn appears to be defunct, with the water flow at an earlier time flowing back under the streambed (to the north) to swallowhole #2. There are several larger flat rocks at the bottom of the hole (about 5 feet below surface), perhaps the original 'roof'. It could be concluded that the stream end, swallowhole #3, was the first to open, then swallowhole #1 at the turn, and with the water flowing to a central point from the north and south, swallowhole #2 opened and is now the main drain location.

The passage to the north is blocked by a tire and presumably continues to swallowhole #1, about 10 feet north at the turn of the creekbed. There is a small opening to the right, a couple of inches wide that joins the north-south passage at this 'room'.

All of the stream water and some from nearby surface drains end up at the bottom of swallowhole #2, and from there appears to drop down below the rock at the bottom of the hole. The water from swallowhole #1 and the passage to the north flows to this point around and under the tire.



Where the water goes from there is still unknown, except that based on water flow during rain, it most likely exits at the spring several hundred feet to the west. More passages yet to be located...hopefully no more tires.

Water flow - Includes data from Oct 2:

Water goes around the turn. There is additional debris on the right side by the Christmas tree covering stream swallowhole #1.

The results of the digging, taken Oct 2 after the rain. It's a complicated picture but I believe with a little "fluid dynamics" thinking it provides good answers:

- The blue circle at the bottom is the spring at the surface. We observed water here, and at the base of the trees on the left and right when we looked back in April or May. The blue areas are where water was coming out. The purple/pink line is where I believe the water to be flowing under the pile; it may start either at the center cliff face (dot by the center boulder) or to the left where there is an area that has been filled, or BOTH! The center marked by a large boulder may contain one exit, and a possible second exit on the north side. The surface limestone would seem to indicate this, and it is one way to explain a very large sinkhole directly to the north about 100 yards that doesn't fit in the pattern of most of the other sinkholes.

The red line is where the water level appears to have been behind the pile, as water was coming out from within 2 feet of the top, described below. The white line at the top of the pile is a metal sign/fence post that was laying there.



Back to digging... my next 'experiment' is to dig more of the loose rock at the cliff face to see if the next rain will show the backup of water at the surface.

One side note - the rocks have provided an abundance of Brassfield and Dayton layer fossils. I have collected fossils from the Ordovician layer for the past ten years and this collection is now at the Waynesburg University in PA. Now I get a chance to collect from the lower Silurian layer... two birds with one 'stone'...

Man can move a mountain one rock at a time.



**MARCH 5-6, 2010 AT THE
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT UNION**

For more information:

**[http://www.metroparks.org/
adventuresummit/](http://www.metroparks.org/adventuresummit/)**

USFWS Awards \$800,000 in WNS Grants
Original from: Cheryl Jones <cheryl.caver@verizon.net>

The USFWS announced \$800,000 in grant awards for WNS-related projects, following this past summer's Request For Proposals (RFP) with a July 31 deadline. (See news release below) Nearly \$5 million worth of applications were received. While this money will certainly help, the gap points out the need for significantly more funding for research, monitoring, surveillance, prevention, and mitigation. This is why we are still lobbying Congress for money in the 2010 federal budget.

We were particularly pleased to see projects from Dr. Hazel Barton and Dr. Thomas Kunz funded, as previous awards of NSS grants from the WNS Rapid Response Fund laid the groundwork for these successful applications. Your donations at work - leveraging significantly larger amounts of funding.

Peter Youngbaer
NSS WNS Liaison

NEWS RELEASE

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Fish and Wildlife Service Awards \$800,000 in Grants to Explore Cause, Control of White-Nose Syndrome in Bats.

At an event held in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institution's National Zoo in Washington, DC, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today announced 6 grant awards totaling \$800,000 going toward research efforts to explore the cause and control of white-nose syndrome, a wildlife health crisis of unprecedented proportions that has now killed more than a million bats in the Northeast and remains unchecked.

"These grants will provide critical funding to help the Service and our partners find the cause, find a cure and stop the spread of this deadly disease," said Interior's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Jane Lyder. "Bats are an incredibly important component of our nation's ecosystem, and the loss of even one species could be disastrous for wildlife, agriculture and people."

One of the bat species currently affected by white-nose syndrome is the endangered Indiana bat. White-nose syndrome has been documented in six counties in Virginia and West Virginia and is now within the range of two additional endangered bat species, the Virginia big-eared bat and gray bat. The Endangered Species Act protects six bat species in the contiguous United States.

Federal and state biologists, academia, researchers and non-governmental partners have been overwhelmed by the unanticipated effects of this wildlife health crisis, but are committed to finding answers before species are lost forever.

The Fish and Wildlife Service provided the grants through the Preventing Extinction program. The Service selected recipients from among 41 grant proposals totaling \$4.8 million for research into WNS. "We are very pleased and hopeful about the work funded by these 6 research grants. Our only regret is that we were unable to fund many more of the project proposals that could lead us to answers about what is killing our bats and how to control this devastating problem," said the Service's Jeremy Coleman, Ph.D., national white-nose syndrome coordinator.

One of the grants was awarded to the Smithsonian's National Zoological Park to establish a captive population of the Virginia big-eared bat at the Conservation & Research Center near Front Royal, Virginia. There are only 15,000 Virginia big-eared bats remaining in a few caves in West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky and North Carolina. White-nose syndrome has already infected some of the caves in this area,

and if it continues, this bat subspecies could likely become extinct. The Conservation & Research Center to the National Zoo has developed a multidisciplinary team of scientists, veterinarians, nutritionists and curators who are working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and West Virginia Division of Natural Resource to establish this insurance population of Virginia big-eared bats, thereby buying time to determine the cause of, and cure for, this disease. Bats in this population may eventually be needed to re-establish the subspecies in the wild. Virginia big-eared bats have never been kept or bred before in captivity, so lessons learned from this project will be of broad interest to agencies and organizations if white-nose syndrome in wild bat populations makes it necessary to consider captive breeding of other bat species.

The other recipients of the white-nose syndrome funding include the following:

Analyzing Indiana bats to determine their susceptibility. Sybill K. Amelon, Ph.D., USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station; Guy Knudsen, Ph.D., University of Idaho; Sara Oyler-McCance, Ph.D., U.S. Geological Survey, Rocky Mountain Center for Conservation Genetics and Systematics; and Lori Eggert, Ph.D., University of Missouri. This project focuses on assessing the impact of white-nose syndrome on the genetic viability of Indiana bats.

Identifying compounds to stop the fungus associated with white-nose syndrome. Hazel A. Barton, Ph.D., Northern Kentucky University, and Kevin Keel, DVM, Ph.D., University of Georgia. This research is on the propagation and decontamination of white-nose syndrome in the environment.

Examining immunity and body composition in white-nose syndrome affected bats versus bats unaffected.

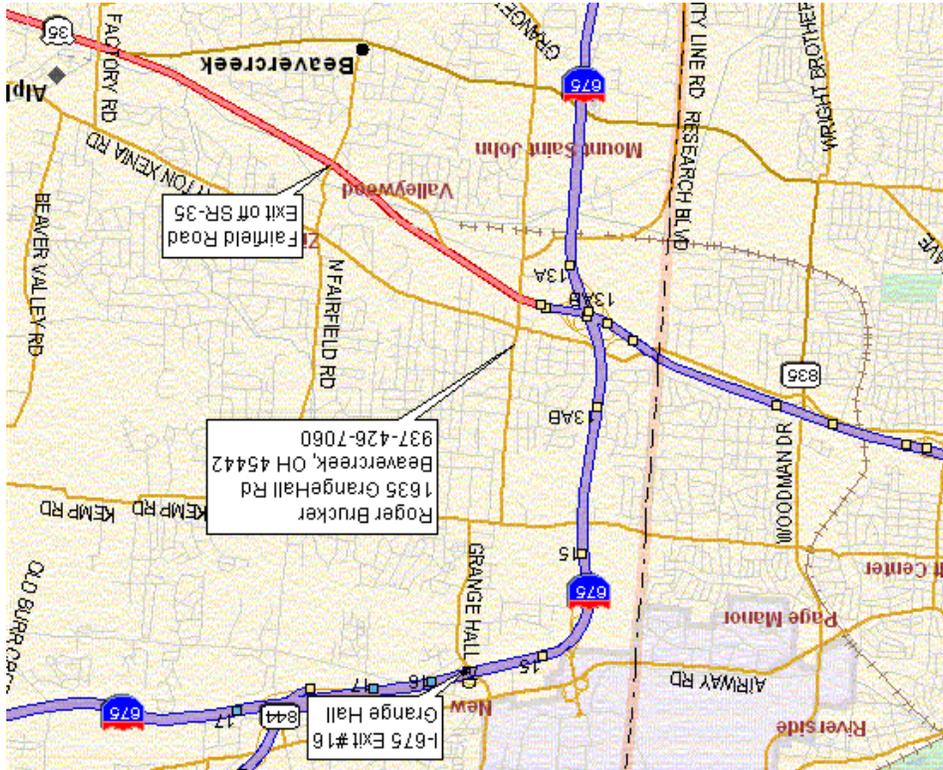
Thomas H. Kunz, Ph.D., and Michael D. Sorenson, Ph.D.; Center for Ecology and Conservation Biology, Boston University, Massachusetts. This project will focus on Immune function, body composition and genetic correlates of bat white-nose syndrome.

Developing a rapid WNS diagnostic test. Alison Robbins, MS, DVM, and Donna E. Akiyoshi, Ph.D.; Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, Massachusetts. This funding will support the generation of *Geomyces destructans* specific monoclonal antibodies.

Identifying the genetics of white-nose syndrome affected little brown bats to predict at-risk populations before white-nose syndrome hits. Deborah D. Iwanowicz, Ph.D., and Tim King, Ph.D.; U.S. Geological Survey, Leetown Science Center, West Virginia. This project will expand our understanding of white-nose syndrome in the Northeastern Vespertilionidae with emphasis on the little brown bat.

Additional information about WNS may be found at http://www.fws.gov/northeast/white_nose.html.





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