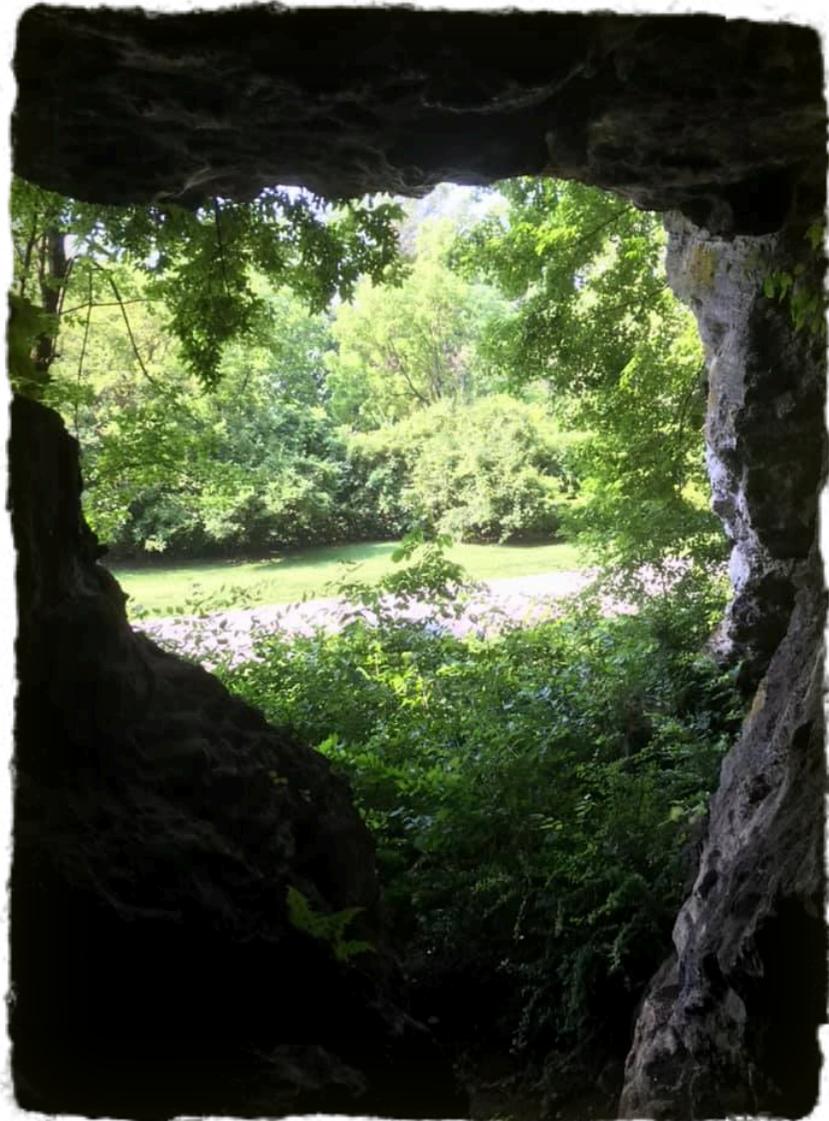


The Carbide Courier

The Dayton Underground Grotto

of the National Speleological Society

Internal Organization 366, chartered March 16, 1992



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Don Conover

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Grotto meetings are held at least once every six months "in the field." Executive Committee meetings are the 2nd Sunday of each month and are open to all members. Check our web page for information on times and locations:

www.dugcaves.com<https://www.facebook.com/groups/DUG.NSS>

Find Us On the Web:

www.dugcaves.com

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/DUG.NSS>

www.twitter.com/DUGCaves

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Cover Photo: Looking out the entrance of a small cave in Springfield, Ohio. See article on page 9.

MEMBERSHIP INFO

Annual membership is \$5 per individual, \$10 per family (three or more in household). Memberships renewable on January 1st. Dues can be mailed to the membership committee chairman (see page XX for an application):

John Cassidy
414 Michigan Ave.
Troy, OH 45373

Please make check payable to:
Dayton Underground Grotto

You can also pay with PayPal.



<http://www.dugcaves.com/membership-and-renewals.html>

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The Carbide Courier is e-mailed to all DUG members and is available for download from the Dayton Underground Grotto website. The newsletter is published quarterly. Submissions must be sent to the editor by Friday preceding the last week of the month prior to publication. Send submissions to:

MikeHood24166@gmail.com

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www.caves.org

Calendar of Events

- July 19-21 Karst-O-Rama - Great Saltpetre Preserve, Kentucky
- August 2-4 Indiana Cave Capers, Crawford County 4H Fairgrounds, Indiana
- August 11 Executive Committee meeting - Time and location to be determined
- September 8 Executive Committee meeting - Time and location to be determined
- October 13 Executive Committee meeting - Time and location to be determined
- November 10 Executive Committee meeting - Time and location to be determined
- December 8 Executive Committee meeting - Time and location to be determined



July 19-21, 2019

<http://karstorama.com/>



From the Chairman
Mike Hood, NSS 24166RL FE



Here it is, July already, and the summer is passing fast! Summer always brings about opportunities to cave and attend caving functions (NSS Convention, Karst-O-Rama, Indiana Cave Capers, and more.

I had the opportunity to attend the 2019 NSS Convention in Cookeville, Tennessee. Even though it was relatively close by (about a 5.5 hour drive from Dayton), not many from the grotto attended. In spite of the daily thunderstorms, the convention went well, and in my opinion, was one of the best organized conventions I've been to (and I've been to several). Convention Chair Maureen Handler, and her staff, did a remarkable job! The 2020 convention will be the last close to us (it's being held in Elkins, West Virginia). The 2021 convention is pending for Weed, California, and 2022 is confirmed for South Dakota. I hope we can get a larger turnout next year. Camping is at the Old Timers Reunion property, so there is plenty of room.

Our grotto currently has 59 members. At the last Executive Committee meeting, we had a discussion about what can be done to bolster our numbers and get members involved. The problems pointed out is with the advent of social media, e-mail, and such, there is no real need to attend meetings anymore to get information. So, meetings are mostly for social interaction. The Executive Committee voted last year to end monthly grotto general membership meetings as very few were attending them. It was decided that we would hold two meetings "in the field" each year--spring and fall. The spring meeting was held in conjunction with the Great Saltpetre Preserve Open House. The fall is pending and may be a scaled down Wormfest in September. More to come on this.

The Executive Committee is open to any suggestions you have to make the grotto stronger. Please feel free to share your ideas.

Until next time, cave safely and softly.

Mike Hood, NSS 24166RL FE
Chairman

Grotto Committees in Need of Chairs

The following committee chairman openings are being advertised in accordance with Grotto Act 06-02.

- Safety and Rescue Committee
- Wormfest Committee



Members interested in chairing any of these committees should contact the group chairman.

Has Any of your Information Changed??

- Address?
- Telephone?
- E-Mail?
- Joined the NSS?
- Other?

If so, please make sure you update your information on the DUG web page. Just go to www.dugcaves.com and click on the “Update Your Information” button, or contact our Membership Chairman, John Cassidy, with your update.

GROTTO E-MAIL GROUP!

A new DUG e-mail group has been established and has replaced the old Yahoo Groups account. The new group is DUGCaves@googlegroups.com. To subscribe, send an e-mail to:

DUGCaves+subscribe@googlegroups.com

Put “Subscribe” as the subject. The DUGCaves@ yahoo groups.com e-mail group was shut down on December 31st.

Cascade Cave trip at Winter Adventure Weekend, 2019

By Ben Schantz

This past winter, I took a weekend to go caving at Carter Caves State Park in Kentucky, where a number of trips were going on as part of the yearly Winter Adventure Weekend. As things worked out, I ended up making two trips to Cascade Cave that Saturday – a tourist trip in the morning and attending a surveying clinic there in the afternoon. The morning trip was with a big group, heavy on boy-scouts, who were right at the age to be excited to be crawling into tiny holes and poking their noses into everything. The cave was ex-commercial and as spacious and decorated as that tends to imply, with an enormous water exit, a number of formation rooms, and a tall cascade (perhaps 50'). There were also some smaller, crawler parts that I was the only adult to explore, aside from the two trip leaders (a couple of local cavers). The afternoon survey clinic was led by Tama Cassidy, and was my first experience sketching passages (I'd only taken passage measurements before on surveys), and the people taking the measurements were new to that as well. We got done with maybe 3-5 shots in the two hours we were there, but I was reasonably pleased with the floor plan and profiles I drew of that passage (a wide one perhaps 15' across and 10' high, with a sloping floor containing a mix of rocks, sand, and gravel – in ideal thing to learn sketching on, really). Later that night was a talk by a local caver who'd been on an expedition to Lechuguilla, as well as a party that the WAW staff hosted (a number of them were from DUG, so I got an improptu invitation). After that was just the drive back to Dayton, which is quite picturesque when it's light out and you aren't in a big hurry to make your trip time.

Functions Check, Lloyd Mullins Cave

By Joshua Heinbuch

The fireflies in Barton Field were putting on a show like a silent Fourth of July, first a volley of blasts in the distance, followed by intermittent sparks falling in the immediate foreground. Owls howling like monkeys from the surrounding canopy, nightbirds and bullfrogs advertising their prowess and availability through their own various songs, providing the music for the evening. The candlelight cast a gentle glow in the alcove of trees where we were executing a final pre-trip gear check. In carbide conservation mode, and eyes already adjusted, we begin to navigate our way up the hill by red-lens flashlight. Once we reach the rock-face and narrow path leading to our goal we opt to abandon use of our electric lights and sally forth by way of carbide lamp. As the dim red lights turn off, the dark of night settles in quickly, moonless and still, the rush of water in the creek below and the occasional adventurous lightning

bug blinking into sight to wish us luck. A few clicks of the dropper and soon that familiar smell of acetylene seeps into our nostrils. Whoosh, the blank dark slate of our vision is brought to light as our lamp reflect off the rock face and illuminate our path ahead, we continue forward.

The cool cave air is a refreshing welcome on this muggy 80 degree night, and we eagerly enter the cave. The gatekeeper (likely the largest black-spotted orange salamander I have ever seen) waves us on as we continue through the crouched passage. Awestruck by the beauty of the lamplight in the first open section of the cave, and spoiled from the freedom of movement that comes with electric lamps, I hear the sputter of water meeting fire and see the drips of my recently upturned reservoir falling from the bottom of the lamp. With the way still lit I don't think much of a little water and head forward to a

small canyon passage, and scurry my way to the upper path. Moving easy and taking care not to thwack my precious lamp on the cave walls, about halfway (though I didn't know how far at the time) my previous carelessness paid off.

The crackle and sputter of a wet reflector and the dimming glow of an empty water reservoir, my movement slows. "How far is the ground?" I ponder as the last few flickers fade away and leave me in peace in the quiet dark of the cave braced atop the canyon passage. An excellent exercise in mindfulness if nothing else, for in the following few moments there were no thoughts in my mind. Slowly, and maintaining enough points of contact that my body was more or less suctioned to the cave wall, I slithered my way down to solid ground. Everything packed to specificity and with purpose, I fish a dry rag and water bottle from my pack, thinking to myself, a small funnel would have helped. Using my fingertips as a guide I gently and slowly pour the water into the lamp, and gauge it with my pinky. Cap closed, bottle closed, bottle stowed, and

wipe the outside of the lamp dry. As the dripper begins to work its magic and the smell of the gas begins to bleed out, I cup the reservoir and prep to strike. Another whoosh, and the world comes into existence again. I mutter the only word spoke during the trip "carefuller" and continue through the cave. A beautiful trip, and a great functions check.

As a recognized science, speleology is relatively young (though folks have been going in caves since there were folks), but as a young caver there is nothing I might be able to accomplish that has not been influenced by those who have caved before me. A huge thank you to the cavers that helped me set my hat on fire: Werner Jud, Mike Lucas, Denny Wortman, and Jerry Brandenburg. From crash courses in soldering, to tips on the workings of the lamp's mechanisms to providing the last missing pieces of the puzzle, I am eternally grateful. Lastly the iron worker I've yet to coax underground, Tommy Super, for gifting me the lamp!

Ergor's Record-Busting Caves

By Ergor Rubreck

Worldwide and statewide record caves are being announced almost daily. There is the longest salt cave in Israel, the probably longest underwater cave in Yucatan, and the largest cave in China (or is it Cambodia? Or Thailand?), and the largest room cave in Sarawak. Bob Gulden, a caver in Maryland, who keeps the official record on long and deep caves, must be suffering from writer's cramp!

Maybe it is time to add to world speleological knowledge some other record caves. For example, the Longest Cheese Cave has been found recently in Wisconsin's Door Peninsula. It is formed in Swiss cheese. An aggressive

fermentation process made continuous holes in a large commercial vat of Swiss cheese, discovered on 1 April. The cheese cave does not technically extend into darkness (a requisite for official recognition), but it is located in a cheese cave where the commodity is stored and technically is in the dark all the time.

Officially a cave must be large enough to hold a human being. The new Swiss cheese cave is 30-inches long, so I suppose a newborn baby 21-inches long would make it qualify. To be fair, Wisconsin has other cheese caves but they are limestone caves in which cheese is stored, so they are not in the same category as caves IN

Swiss cheese.

The longest Wisconsin cave is in the country of Switzerland, next to Hölloch Höle. It is called Wiscönsin Höle and is plugged with ice eleven months of the year and underwater one month. Because of this, it has not yet been mapped by the Society de Speleologie, but the president of that organization testified, "It's pretty big."

The Shallowest Cave title is held by Scotty's Grotto in Death Valley, NV. The surface of Death Valley is -282.2 ft. MSL and the cave is 42 feet below that. This establishes the Shallowest Cave at -240 ft. MSL. At the bottom of this shallow cave is a salt water sump in which the blind cave pupfish has been seen. They were last seen in 1963, just before the annual banquet of the NYC Explorers Club where the pupfish appetizer was served as the first course of the Woolly Mammoth banquet. (Nothing to do with Mammoth Cave or Wool-Over-Eyes, D.C.)

The world's Thinnest Cave is fifty-three miles northwest of Milan, Italy. The cave was used for spaghetti storage for more than 84 years (1903-1987). The failure of the spaghetti harvest in 1987 doomed the cave's usefulness. Pasta Italiano Cave is 6.2km long and 0.91m wide by 3.7m high. There is a macaroni cave in Italy that claims the title of the Crookedest Macaroni Cave, but that title belongs to Mafioso Cave in Sicily. Since helictites were accidentally stripped from the cave during the last macaroni inventory, Mafioso Cave has been downgraded to 3.1 on a scale of 100 on the international Cave Desirability Scale.

Sally Hemings Cave, Monticello, VA, is the Longest Slave Cave in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The cave housed rutabagas, turnips, and parsnips during the time Thomas Jefferson lived at Monticello. When Jefferson and Sally

Hemings moved to Paris, France (He was appointed Ambassador by George Washington), the vegetables were shipped to the Cordon Bleu Ecol de Gatronomique where their fragrance established the French preference for odoriferous foodstuffs for the next 100 years. France was famously an ally of the fledgling United States during the Revolutionary War. Sally's Cave was 35 feet long x 6 feet high, and with a semi-circular cross-section and red brick floor.

The term Man Cave comes Outaluck Cave, the first and longest cave discovered on the Isle of Mann. This island is located in the sea between Ireland and Great Britain, and is famous for a motorcycle race, castle ruins featuring a multitude of steps, and said cave. Lord Parkbench is said to have retreated to Outaluck Cave after his wife, Lady Parkbench, forbade him from wearing his knickers in bed. He and his King Charles Spaniel, Miffy, lived on and off in the cave for a period of four years. The cave has been renamed Man Cave after the Board of Tourism took over its commercial operation in 2006. Its fate in the Brexit controversy is in doubt.

The Longest Echo Cave is Longswallet Cave in Mendip County, England. The cave contains an underground river some 13km long with tributaries of various cross-sections, all naturally tuned (approximately) to a musical scale. It is said that when the Halleluiah Chorus of Brahms Requiem is sung in the cavern, the echo persists through nine stanzas of repeated "Halleluiah," with tributary reverberations added at various pitches. The defect realized when the Mendip Chorus attempted to sing the work was the staging area beach at the only access point was so small that only four members of the chorus could stand and sing. A workaround was found after the initial live attempt in 2008 wherein a 32-inch

loudspeaker with a subwoofer was mounted in the staging area and Blue Tooth connected to a 1000 watt tube amplifier of the recording. The pipe organ of the Mendip Cathedral was featured as well as the chorus.

What is the Roughest Cave? "Velcro Crack" in the USA's Great X Cave scars up every caver for life and scrapes off most tattoos. However, the Roughtest Cave title belongs to Behr- Manning Garnet No. 24 Cave in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Instead of calcite, the BMG cave has orthogonal crystals of pure garnet on walls, floors, and ceilings. Moreover, it varies from 7-

to 9-inches wide by 73-inches high for its entire 2.6-mile length. Knowledgeable cavers experimented and learned that only one-direction travel was possible due to roughness. They took explosives on their one-and-only trip and blasted a second entrance (exit) at the end of the expedition. "They resembled 80-20 hamburger meat at the end of that trip," said Sheriff Bighat.

Mammoth Cave at 412 miles in length is the world's longest, BUT ALSO it is the Most Surveyed Cave. CRF teams have surveyed it 12 times because they can't seem to get it right. Total surveyed miles is 4,944 approximately.

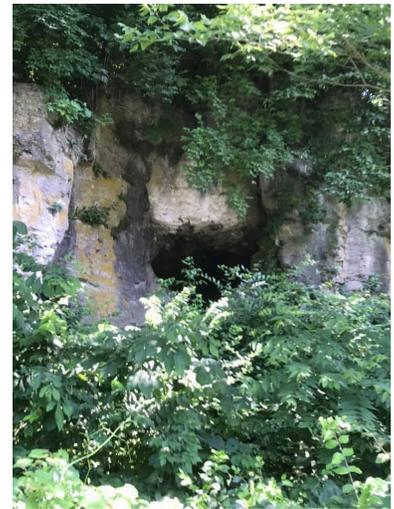
Another Small Ohio Cave

By Mike Hood

Back in the early to mid 1990s, Dr. Horton Hobbs told me about a small cave near the Wittenberg University campus that was easy to get to, and easy to explore as it wasn't a big cave. I had always intended to go check it out, but never did, and as the years passed, it fell out of memory.

As I'm out for summer break from the school, I was looking at checking out some of the small and obscure caves in Ohio, especially since several of us Ohio cavers are looking to reorganize the Ohio Cave Survey. So, on a sunny June 27th, I decided to see if I could find it. Going by the general information and directions Dr. Hobbs gave me, I drove to Springfield to see if I would find it. Following his directions, I found myself parked beside a dolomite cliff, approximately 25 to 30 feet high with several solution pockets in the face of the cliff. This looked promising, so I simply walked along the road and in no time spotted the fairly large, obvious entrance about halfway up the cliff face.

I bushwhacked my way through the foliage to get to the entrance. The cave (and I have no idea what the name is, or if Dr. Hobbs even told me) is quite small. Maybe 30 to 50 feet long max and no lights are needed. It's very similar to the cave at Charleston Fall Park in Miami County. I spend about five minutes in it. I can now check off another cave in Ohio.



MINUTES OF THE MAY 12 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

DUG EC Roundtable (not an official meeting - not enough officers for a quorum)

Roll Call:

Mike Hood (Chair): present

Anna Scherschel (Vice-Chair): present

Becca Sweet (Treasurer): present

Ben Schantz (Secretary): present

All other officers are absent.

Ben read the minutes from 3/10.

Treasurer report (Becca): We have \$3,079.63 in our business checking account and \$1593.51 in our savings account.

Committee reports:

Mike: No new IKC news.

Don Conover: The KSS annual report has come out, and has a nice tribute to Bill Walton, who won the Bicking Award.

Mike: No April-JUNE newsletter was published due to lack of submissions. The webpage was updated today.

Old business:

Wormfest, Safety & Rescue committee chairs still open.

Rockcastle Karst Conservancy may still want donations. The garbage pit entrance was renamed as the "Crockett Entrance."

Possible donation to NSS (can't vote on it tonight).

2019 Budget: Do we need one? We haven't had one in several years, ever since the hard-copy newsletters went away.

2019 Wormfest: not held yet, possibly at Richard Blenz Nature Preserve (Buckner Cave) – primitive camping; no toilets; Tama was looking into it.

New Business:

Spring General Membership Meeting – required to have such a meeting every six months. We’ll have it at the GSP open house Saturday night (5/18). Sounds like most officers would be there. No cost to attend except camping fees.

Ana and probably Mike plan to attend the NSS convention in June. If anyone wants to attend or be the Congress of Grottos representative, talk with Mike. If you’re the Congress of Grottos rep, your trip is tax-deductable. We get two such reps based on our membership size.

June EC meeting – keeping at Stebbins HS for now.

Ana: GSP open house is this coming weekend. It was almost 4000 people last year. There will be bean soup, hamburgers, and cornbread. Free breakfast and a dinner for volunteers. Help needed in the kitchen and to lead cave tours. Josh, Mike, Anna, and Ben plan to attend.

Ben brought up the idea of doing a monthly Grotto trip. Mike gave a history lesson (the issue is to get someone to organize it). Ben will try to organize a Buckner trip for the first weekend in June (need to schedule via the cave website).

The NSS conventions the next two years will be nearby; the ones afterwards will be out west. Don says the Geology Field trip is worth it, even for the non-geologist.

Robertson Association membership (\$10 one-time fee) saves your \$15 for going to OTR; just need a sponsor. OTR is Labor Day Weekend, and is 1970s themed in honor of the 70 th OTR Anniversary.

Unofficial meeting adjourned.

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 30, 2019 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Dayton Underground Grotto Executive Board Roundtable (there were not enough officers for a quorum).

Officers Present:

Mike Hood (chairman)

Kelly Johnston (director)

Ben Schantz (secretary)

John Cassidy (membership committee & KSS committee chairman)

Reports:

Mike: The Indiana Karst Conservancy is raising funds to pay off the new property added to Wayne Cave preserve.

John: no KSS business to report.

KSS uses gotomeeting to hold meetings online – John will check what the fee is to piggyback on their service.

We have 59 members at present.

Josh Heinbuch (report emailed in): Josh cleaned several caves & cleaned up storm damage and trash around Great Saltpeter Cave, relocated stray cows that had wandered onto the property, and promoted the GSP to local landowners.

Josh has relocated to KY.

Rebecca (report emailed in): What are we doing with this grotto anyway? Nobody shows up to anything. Mike and John discussed different ways to get people involved – weekend caving events, reaching out to colleges, etc.

KSS does a lot of surveys, and John can introduce people to them.

Should we announce trips at meetings to get people to attend?

Kelly would like to host a weekend caving event in September (maybe a scaled down Wormfest?)

Old business:

Mike is working to publish a newsletter this week.

We voted earlier to donate to the NSS; Mike will ask Becca if she's written the check.

New business:

This year's NSS convention, in Cookville, TN, was well-organized, and many fun caves were open. Mike went, but wasn't able to cave on account of stitches in his finger. Next year's convention will be in Elkins, WV.

Next EC meeting will be in early August, we'll poll the rest of the board about a date.

Meeting adjourned.



The Dayton Underground Grotto
 Of the National Speleological Society
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM
 www.dugcaves.com

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

NAME:		NSS NUMBER: <i>(if member)</i>	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP CODE:
E-MAIL ADDRESS:			
HOME PHONE NUMBER:	CELL PHONE NUMBER:	WORK PHONE NUMBER:	
I AM 18 YEARS OF AGE, OR OLDER: ____ YES ____ NO			
DUES PAID: \$5 (or \$10 family) ANNUAL FOR ____ YEARS = \$ ____ TOTAL			

Dues are \$5 per person (\$2.50 if after July 1st). Make checks payable to the Dayton Underground Grotto and mail application and payment to: John Casaldy, 414 Michigan Ave., Troy, OH 45373

Family dues are \$10 per year (\$5.00 if after July 1st). To qualify for family membership, at least three members must reside in the same household of which at least one is a regular or associate member age 18 or older. Family members residing in the same household under the age of 18 are exempt from annual dues. Family members residing in the same household who are age 18 or older will pay the annual \$5 dues. Please list family member names on the back of this application.

NOTE: Members who join and are not NSS members are associate members and may not vote or hold grotto office. NSS members are regular members and have full grotto privileges.

WILL THE DAYTON UNDERGROUND GROTTTO BE YOUR PRIMARY NSS AFFILIATION? ____ YES ____ NO

Signature

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian if under age 18

Date

SUBSCRIBE TO THE DUG E-MAIL LIST: DUGCaves+subscribe@googlegroups.com