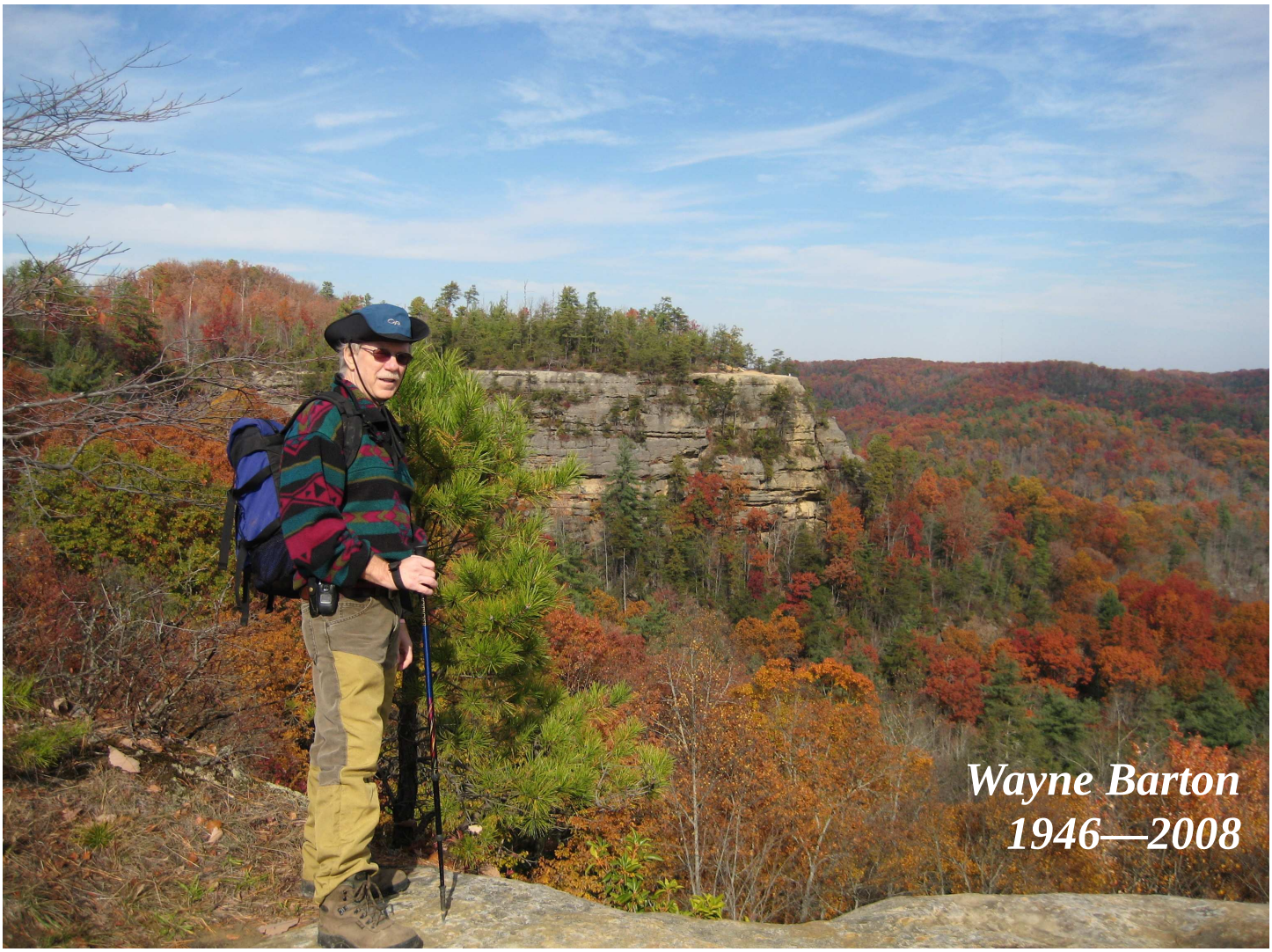
The Carbide Courier

The
Dayton Underground Grotto
of
The National Speleological Society



November 2008

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Front Cover: Wayne Barton hiking in Kentucky. Photo © by Ron Crawford (See *"From the Editor"*)

November 2008

The Carbide Courier is printed monthly and is sent to the publisher the Monday preceding the regular grotto meeting. Submissions must be sent to the editor by the weekend before at mkhood (at) woh.rr.com.

Printing is done by DocuPros, 4890 Gray Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45232.

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From the Editor…

Hello DUGsters,

I'm honored to be your newly elected *Carbide Courier* Editor for 2008-2009. DUG has been fortunate to have had dedicated editors since its very beginning and I know I have big shoes to fill to continue the tradition of producing a high-quality newsletter every month.

This month's cover is a photo of Wayne Barton, who passed away in late September. Although Wayne wasn't a member of DUG, he was a good friend to many of us DUGters, and so I thought it fitting he grace the cover of this edition.

I'll need your help in producing the *Carbide Courier* each month. I need you to send me trip reports, announcements, photos, maps, articles, etc. After all, we can't have a newsletter if we don't have any news to print! I know people are caving every month, so take a moment to write a trip report and send it to me!

Thanks!

Mike Hood
Editor

DO YOU GET A PAPER COPY OF THE COURIER? DO YOU HAVE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET OR E-MAIL?

If so, why not consider switching to electronic means of getting the Courier? You'll get your Courier quicker and save the grotto some money to boot! Contact Alan Leach to change your status.

GROTTO OFFICERS

Chairman
Dana Sutherland
567-204-0073
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Vice Chairman
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Lunacy
Colin Gatland
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GROTTO MEETINGS

Grotto meetings are held the 2nd Sunday of each month (except for December and month of Wormfest) at 7:00 pm at Roger and Lynn Brucker's house, 1615 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
Address
City, State, Zip

Please make checks payable to:
Dayton Underground Grotto

You can also pay online using PayPal at:

www.dugcaves.com/joindug.htm

Attention!! 2008-2009 dues are now due!!

Calendar of Events

November 8th	**7pm - Grotto General Membership Meeting Roger & Lynn Brucker's House (See back of Courier for map)**
December 6th	**6pm to ??? - 17th Annual DUG Christmas Party (see page XX for information)**
January 11th	**7pm - Grotto General Membership Meeting Roger & Lynn Brucker's House (See back of Courier for map)**
January 23rd-25th	**Crawlathon at Carter Caves State Resort Park, Olive Hill, KY (www.crawlathon.com)**
February 11th	**7pm - Grotto General Membership Meeting Roger & Lynn Brucker's House (See back of Courier for map)**
March 8th	**7pm - Grotto General Membership Meeting Roger & Lynn Brucker's House (See back of Courier for map)**
April 12th	**7pm - Grotto General Membership Meeting Roger & Lynn Brucker's House (See back of Courier for map)**

Congratulations to Scott Sweet for receiving the 2008 Joe Windows Cave Fellowship Award!

November Birthdays!

Tim Grissom (Nov 1st)

New Members!!

(Since Last Newsletter)

Tabitha Ferrell
Jim Odom (rejoined)
Shawn Pollack
Helen Pollack
Joshua Sweet
Rick Gordon
Debbie Moore
Jay Moore
Joe Hall
Lilly Hall
Morgan Hall
Dewayne Asher

Welcome!!

DUG OFFICERS FOR 2008-2009

DUG's newly elected officers for 2008-2009 are:

Chairman—Dana Sutherland
Vice Chairman—Amy Hill
Secretary—Traci Fearday
Treasurer—Debbie Bowers
Carbide Courier—Mike Hood
Board Member– Jim Pisarowicz
Board Member—Sandy Rice

From the Chairman:

Hello all.

It is with a great deal of honor that I hold the position of DUG Chair for 09. At the EC meeting we discussed a few ideas for getting more member participation. This plan is for meetings, cave trips and events, (both caving and non-caving events). One of the idea is to have a social/happy hour either before or after the meeting at a local restaurant/pub. Along with schedueled cave trips, we are going to post other events of interest.

If any of you have ideas that you feel will better the grotto please pass them along to a EC member or me. We will be glad to look in to them.

Should you have any concerns with in the grotto please contact my by e-mail. (that way its in black & white and I don't forget).

Thanks!

Dana Sutherland
Chairman

WANTED:

Someone to chair the DUG Christmas party. There's always enough volunteers that the party tends to run itself. We just need someone to oversee it. Contact Dana if interested!

COMMITTEE CHAIRS NEEDED!!

The grotto is seeking chairs for the following committees:

Landowner Relations Committee

Youth Groups Liaison Committee

Webmaster

The grotto is also looking for a grotto representative to the Great Saltpetre Preserve Committee.

Contact Chairman Dana at dana377 at yahoo.com or call 567-204-0073, if interested in serving.

FLETCHER'S CAVE CLEAN-UP
ROCKCASTLE COUNTY

Text by Dorothy Goepel
Photos by Harry and Dorothy Goepel

September 6, 2008
Janeen Sharpshair, Pam Carpenter, Scott Sweet, Dorothy and Harry Goepel

Harry discussed with Pam the idea of setting up a DUG Grotto clean-up trip and she suggested Fletcher's Cave, so on the way home from Karst-O-Rama the two stopped by Fletcher's. Trash was strewn along the path to the cave and graffiti marred a rock just outside the entrance. Graffiti seemed to shout its disrespect from the dome and corridors of this small cave. Yeah, this cave would be ideal for a clean-up: it had been vandalized by folks who hadn't learned or didn't care to protect our natural resources.

The plan was set and Harry sent out an e-mail announcing a cave clean-up scheduled the Saturday of Caver Appreciation Weekend at Great Saltpetre Preserve. Pam sent a later e-mail to coax more folks to help out; the turn-out remained small, likely because this was a weekend to appreciate cavers and Bob Yuellig promised he would not ask anyone to do any work at the Preserve, like mow the grass. (My theory was that cavers anticipated a work-free weekend but Harry countered that the clean-up was not occurring at the Preserve.) Five was a good number for a small cave like Fletcher's.

Janeene, Pam, Scott and Harry at Fletcher's Cave

After a good breakfast at Jean's Restaurant, the five of us headed for Fletcher's where Deb Bledsoe met us at 10:30 a.m. From her car she pulled out these long tools for picking up trash, a box of latex gloves to protect our hands, a box of trash bags and bright orange safety vests that we were to wear if we trekked along the side of the road to pick up trash. Deb cheerfully greeted Scott, Janeen, Pam, Harry and me. It was the first time I had met Deb in person. Harry and Deb had exchanged e-mails and it was Harry's first face-to-face meeting with Deb, too. Deb's face brightened upon seeing Pam, their first in-person meeting as well. "I'm pleased to finally meet you," Deb said.

Deb got down to business. "You don't have to worry about hauling the trash," she said. "Just put your trash bags near the road and someone will come by and collect them on Monday morning." She gave Harry a form that we were to fill out with printed names, signatures and hours worked. This information is compiled and kept on file; the information is required, Deb pointed out, when applying for grants. A huge thank-you to Deb for her part in the project and for making it easy to focus on the clean-up.

After saying goodbye to Deb, we picked up garbage in the pathway leading to the cave entrance, scattered in the stream bed, and strewn on the roadside near the cave. Among the surprise discoveries were one boot, a pair of men's cotton briefs, and three diapers (one obviously filled with an unmentionable brown substance and quite heavy). Other items included beer bottles, a mop head, a plastic liter bottle and broken glass. After an hour, we had picked up enough to fill eight trash bags.

We weren't finished yet. We suited up, Pam bringing wire brushes of different sizes and Scott bringing his battery-powered drill. Shortly, we were wading through water and I couldn't help saying, "Aye, yay, yay, yay, yay," to offset the shock of moving through icy water that covered my legs up to my bottom and holding on to jutting sides to prevent from winding

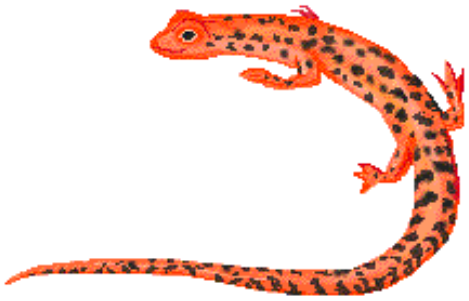
up in the center. This was my first time in Fletcher's and not the first time Harry had forgotten to mention the important characteristics of a specific cave.

We reached a dome spray painted with graffiti to include foot-high letters in red that spelled "MEXICO." I thought to give the culprits a piece of my mind, in Spanish: ¡Por favor protegen y respeten las cuevas! ¡Viva Mexico, pero no hay que pintar ninguna palabra en una cueva! Scott used his drill and Harry used a wire brush to remove "MEXICO" and other graffiti. Pam, Janeen and I remained in the lower section of the dome using wire brushes to clean the walls. I imagined a job like this would require lots of muscle and time, but was pleased to discover, at least in the dome, that graffiti was easily coming off with the use of a wire brush. The experienced cave cleaners (I don't count myself among them) knew to spread mud where graffiti had been removed.

Harry exited the cave to retrieve his drill as well as my new digital camera. He put the camera in a dry bag to keep it dry so I could document the clean-up.

In other parts of Fletcher's, more graffiti was found, from arrows pointing the way out to the word "OUT" on a ceiling. One corridor was defaced with first and last names, likely the names of the offenders. Here, while I snapped photos, Janeen, Scott, Pam and Harry used a lot of elbow grease to remove the stubborn graffiti.

Each volunteer worked four and a half hours that day. There was a sense of accomplishment and, at least for a while, Fletcher's Cave would be clean. We enjoyed solid teamwork and on occasion, moments of humor like (one of us pointing to an arrow), "Look, guys, the way out," knowing that the cave is so small and the entrance so close that direction indicators are not vital for survival. Or, when I imagined the perpetrators returning. "They'll be confused when they find the arrows missing," I announced.



MINUTES OF THE DUG GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
October 12, 2008

The Chairman, Ron Fulcher, called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

EC and Committee Reports:

Chair: Nothing to report.

Vice Chair/Vertical Committee:
Vertical practice is still being held on Thursdays @ Happy Corners. Emails will be sent with information/directions. If you would like to participate or even watch practice, contact Tama Cassidy.

Secretary/Youth Group Committee:
Not present.

The Chairman reported that Ken had indeed moved, and that the grotto needs a new leader for the Youth Group Committee. Also, the signs are still at GSP waiting for Bob Dobbs and Werner Jud to speak to landowners.

Treasurer:
Checking balance is $1327.28; Savings Balance is $2077.46.

A final 2008 Fiscal Year report is available for membership perusal.

A final 2008 Wormfest report is available for membership perusal. After the latest T-shirt sales, Wormfest made a profit of $108.30 for the grotto.

Courier Editor:
Not present.

Board Member Roger Brucker:
Not present.

The Chairman reported that the invitation to continue DUG meetings at the Brucker household stands.

Board Member Steve Greene:
Not present.

The Chairman reported that the Rockcastle River Run cleanup (attended by Steve Greene and others) was a success.

Membership:
Before renewal, DUG stood at 185 members.

October is Membership Renewal Month. Before tonight's meeting, DUG was down to 132 members, however several memberships were renewed at tonight's meeting.

Conservation:
Not present.

Rescue:
Not present.

Landowner Relations:
It is hunting season AND youth gun season in Rockcastle County. Consider wearing orange when outside for your own safety.

Equipment:
The grotto has purchased 4 new sets of kneepads and 2 new packs for rental.

Total gear available for rental is:
- 12 packs
- 13 sets of kneepads
- 10 helmets
- 10 lights

Safety:
Nothing to report.

Survey:
Jesse Cave in Wayne County is now being surveyed.

Triple-S Cave Re-Survey is going on.

Conservation:
The Fletcher Cave cleanup was a success. Only 5 people showed, but a significant difference was

made. A full report will be in the *Carbide Courier*.

Webmaster:
Not present.

Representative Reports

Great Saltpetre Preserve (GSP):
Not present.

Indiana Karst Conservancy (IKC):
There have been no new acquisitions.

Buckner Cave: Volcano Room cleanup and graffiti removal is currently being worked on.

Rockcastle Karst Conservancy (RKC):
Not present.

Richard Blenz Nature Conservancy:
Final transfer of property to the NSS is almost complete (hopefully within three months).

New Business

1. SCCI: Rumor has it the Surprise Pit entrance of Fern Cave has been purchased by the SCCI.

2. Bat Cave Closures: It's that time of year again. Please refer to:
http://www.caves.org/grotto/tcbg/forms/batlist.htm
for a good list of KY, TAG and FL bat cave closures. If you have any questions on bat cave closures in another state, contact a local Grotto for more information.

3. Joe Windows Cave Fellowship Award:
This award is named in honor of Joe Windows, charter member of the Dayton Underground Grotto and affectionately known as the "Father of the Grotto." Joe was dedicated to introducing novices to caving and led hundreds of cave trips for beginners to educate them on safe caving and conservation practices. The Joe Windows Cave Fellowship Award is presented each year at DUG's Wormfest to a caver who has followed Joe's ideals by introducing novices to caving. The recipient of the award is a caver who has led numerous beginner trips, given presentations to groups about caving, and any other activity that promotes caving to beginners. The recipient of this award receives a framed certificate and a $50 cash award. ***Congratulations to Scott Sweet who received this year's award.***

4. NSS Award Nomination Deadline: The deadline for NSS award nominations is November 15. Mike Hood is heading up the NSS Fellow Award – speak to him concerning nominations for this particular NSS award.

5. Wayne Barton: Wayne passed away on September 26. GCG is putting together a special newsletter to honor Wayne. Please send contributions (photos, stories, comments – even just a sentence) to Amy Hill.

6. DUG Elections: 47 Ballots were received. All non-contested positions were overwhelmingly confirmed. The write-in vote for board member was tallied and a second board member was elected. Results are as follows:

Chair: Dana Sutherland
Vice Chair: Amy Hill
Secretary: Traci Fearday
Treasurer: Debbie Bowers
Courier Editor: Mike Hood
Board Member 1: Jim Pisarowicz
Board Member 2: Sandy Rice
Congratulations to our new Executive Committee!

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

MINUTES OF THE DUG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
October 12, 2008

Dana Sutherland called the meeting to order at 8:00pm. The entire EC Board was present, along with several general DUG Members.

The first action of all new EC Members should be to read/review the DUG Constitution, Bylaws, and Acts. A test will follow…

http://www.dugcaves.com/membership/bylaws/index.html

The EC drafted a list of items to discuss/decide/plan for the 2008-9 DUG Fiscal Year:

Budget: The EC and Committee Leaders will be asked for budgetary requests for the year.

Christmas Party: A request will be sent to the general membership for a volunteer to head-up the Christmas Party. *It is noted that the party basically takes care of itself due to a core group of people, however someone is needed to organize/coordinate.*

Grotto Gatherings: While, in the past, it was common for the EC to organize monthly cave trips, the new EC believes that non-caving activities may add to membership participation and interest.

DUG Meetings:

A formal list of Grotto Meeting Dates should be published on the DUG website. Dates are traditionally on the second Sunday of each month, with the exceptions being the December meeting (cancelled for the DUG Christmas Party), and the September meeting (usually on a Saturday at the Rice's residence.

Because Roger Brucker has offered his residence for continued DUG meeting use, the meetings will remain here unless circumstances require a change.

Programs: Ideas for programs are needed.

Snacks: Volunteers are needed to bring snacks to each DUG meeting. Tama Cassidy volunteered for the month of November. Thanks Tama!

Raffle: It should be decided whether to have money-making raffles each month. Raffles consist of either an inexpensive "prize items" format, or 50/50 format.

Before and/or after meetings: The evening of the meetings would be a good time for additional grotto socialization events. In the past, the DUG executive committee would take the meeting speaker out to dinner, and the current board would like to continue this tradition. Ideas for eating places are needed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Traci Fearday
Secretary

PAST CHAIRMEN OF THE DAYTON UNDERGROUND GROTTO

1992 - Dan Flynn
1992-1993 - Dan Flynn
1993-1994 - Dan Flynn
1994-1995 - Andy Niekamp
1995-1996 - Andy Niekamp
1996-1997 - Mike Hood
1997-1998 - Kenny Hedges
1998-1999 - Kenny Hedges
1999-2000 - Colin Gatland
2000-2001 - Colin Gatland
2001-2002 - Alan Fearday
2002-2003 - Alan Fearday
2003-2004 - Tama Cassidy
2004-2005 - Tama Cassidy
2005-2006 - Mike Hood
2006-2007 - Mike Hood
2007-2008 - Ron Fulcher
2008-2009 - Dana Sutherland

PAST CARBIDE COURIER EDITORS OF THE DAYTON UNDERGROUND GROTTO

1992 - Sandy Coleman
1992-1993 - Colin Gatland
1993-1994 - Colin Gatland
1994-1995 - Colin Gatland
1995-1996 - Colin Gatland
1996-1997 - Phil Davis
1997-1998 - Traci Fearday
1998-1999 - Traci Fearday
1999-2000 - Steve Lugannani
2000-2001 - Steve Lugannani
2001-2002 - Steve Lugannani & Traci Fearday
2002-2003 - Richard Van Arsdel
2003-2004 - Richard Van Arsdel
2004-2005 - John Cassidy
2005-2006 - John Cassidy
2006-2007 - Dorothy Goepel
2007-2008 - Amanda Woolums
2008-2009 - Mike Hood

Finding Caves on Earth, the Moon, and Mars

Scientists are furthering the ability to detect caves on Earth, the moon and Mars by studying the conditions under which caves are detectable in thermal infrared. Finding caves on Earth is important for locating habitats of bats and other animal populations. Martian cave detection is vital to the search for life if life existed or exists on Mars, the best place to look will be underground. Scientists recently monitored two caves in the Atacama Desert of northern Chile and identified the conditions under which they were detectable in thermal infrared. Research was conducted by USGS scientists in collaboration with partners from Northern Arizona University and Chile's Universidad Católica del Norte and recently published in the journal Earth and Planetary Science Letters. For the complete article, go to http://www.caveexplorer.org/pdf/WynneEtAl2008.pdf.

—Submitted by Scott Sweet

Protecting Cave Rivers

A one-day informal working group meeting

Saturday November 8, 2008 in Lexington KY
9 am – 4:30 pm eastern time
Lexington Public Library, Central Library at 140 East Main
Directions: http://www.lexpublib.org/central/

Admission free/donations freely accepted!
Sponsorship: Our thanks to the National Speleological Society Conservation Grants Committee.

MEETING SCHEDULE
9:00 am - Registration, coffee & snacks.

9:30 am - Plenary session: Introductions, overview.

10 am - noon
A. Working Meeting for Karst Rapid Response Team Development, led by Roger Brucker, Hilary Lambert and George Phillips (at a distance) in cooperation with KEEP, 8 Rivers Safe Development, A-SPI (Appalachia – Science in the Public Interest), RKC (Rockcastle Karst Conservancy), the NSS (National Speleological Society), and other groups. **GOAL: Develop methods and tools to ensure effective community education and response when faced with a karst development issue.**

B. Working Meeting for Cave and Karst Waters Biota, led by Deb Bledsoe, Ken Cooke, and Tom Poulson (at a distance) in cooperation with KEEP, RKC, the NSS, and other groups. **GOAL: Develop better metrics for understanding and measuring cave and karst water health.**

Noon to 1 pm - Lunch (provided).

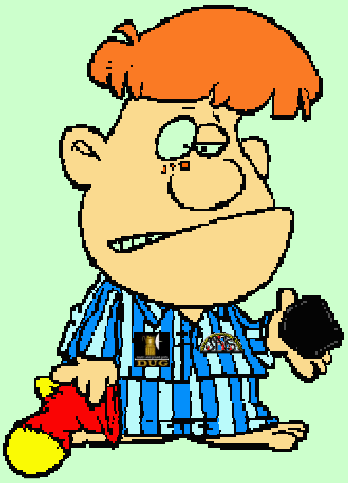
1 pm - **Plenary session:** Each group will report briefly on its findings and decisions from the morning.

1:30-4 pm - Improving Cave and Karst Waters Legal and Regulatory Protection – all to discuss the legal and regulatory problems facing karst waters protection. **GOAL: Develop first action steps toward improving cave and karst waters legal and regulatory protection.**

4:30 pm adjournment - The meeting will be followed by a social hour and supper, if folks can stay around.

Karst Horizons
15th International
Congress of Speleology
Kerrville, Texas USA

http://www.ics2009.us



17th Annual DUG Christmas Party!
6pm till ???

Where: The Travelodge Motel
75 Corporate Center Drive
Vandalia, Ohio 45377
937-898-8321

Take I-75 to I-70 (exit #61)
Go west on I-70.
Exit I-70 at the Airport Access Road (exit #32).
Go 2 miles on the Airport Access Road and go right (east) on SR-40 towards Vandalia.
Go 7/10 mile on SR-40 and turn right (south) onto Corporate Center Drive.
You are there!
Go past the check-in area to middle of complex to find the party room

COST: A $3 donation per person will get you two raffle tickets for door prizes to be given away throughout the evening. Additional raffle tickets will be available for $1 each at the party.

WHAT TO BRING: Food and munchies to share. Also bring your drink of choice. Of course, you can bring your spouse, friends, anyone you wish! Also, we're asking for folks to donate door prizes. If you wish, please bring an item gift wrapped and marked as a door prize.

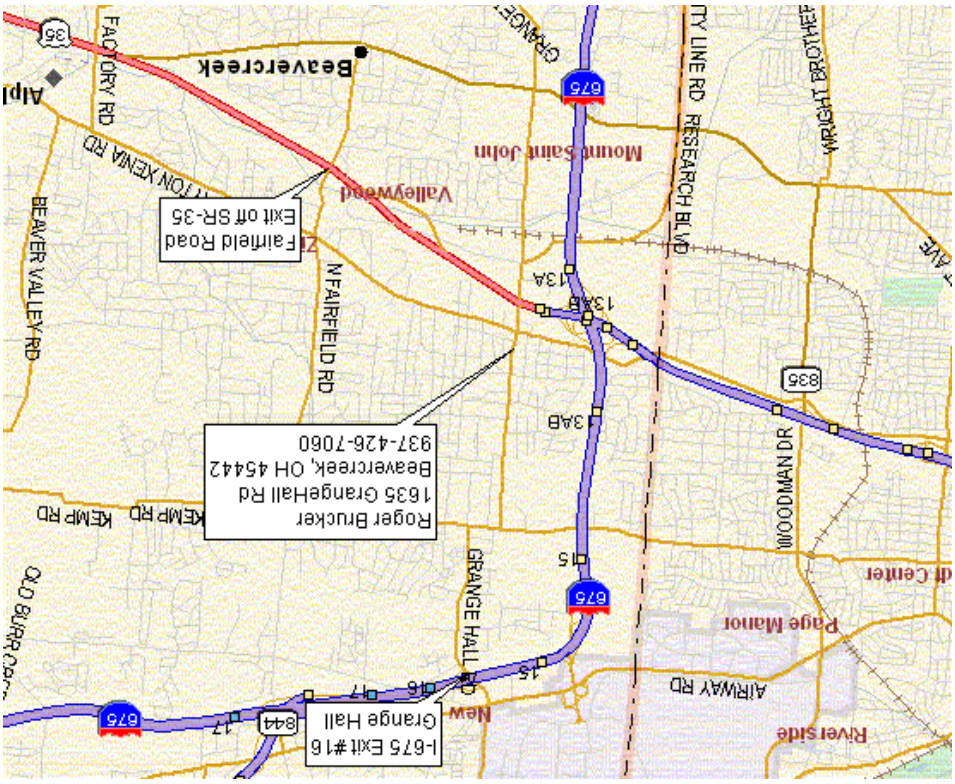
GIFT EXCHANGE: If you wish to participate in the gift exchange, please bring a wrapped gift. If you bring a gift, you will get a number at the door. The lowest number gets first choice, so come early if you want the best pickings! The suggested range for the gift is $10-$15.

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT: You can have a certificate of merit awarded to anyone for $1 per award. You can nominate anyone for anything, serious or funny. You can pay for your nominations at the party. Blank certificates will be available at the party for last-minute nominations, but the nicest certificates go to those who are nominated before the party.

RICHARD STONE AWARD: It just wouldn't be the DUG Christmas Party without the infamous Richard Stone Award presentation. Who will it be this year?? Could it be YOU?? The Richard Stone Committee has been watching, so it could be anyone!! Come to the party and find out who will be this year's Richard Stone!

Our group rate for a room at the Travelodge is $49.94 + tax. Tell them you are with DUG that has the party room for the evening. Be safe - plan to spend the evening.

www.dugcaves.com/christmasparty.htm



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FIRST CLASS

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