

# The Carbide Courier



The  
Dayton Underground Grotto  
of  
The National Speleological Society



THE INFAMOUS AND ELUSIVE  
"BARKING CAVE SPIDER" PHOTO-  
GRAPHED FOR THE FIRST TIME. IT  
WAS THOUGHT TO BE A MYTH UNTIL  
THIS SPECIMIN WAS DISCOVERED  
AND PHOTOGRAPHED!

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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](http://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:

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You can also pay online using PayPal at:

[www.dugcaves.com/joindug.htm](http://www.dugcaves.com/joindug.htm)

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**Front Cover:** “Barking Cave Spider.” Photographer unknown.

Volume 18, Issue 10

October 2009

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

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***From the Editor...***



Hello DUGsters,

By the time you get this, the October meeting will be nearly upon us. Your officers for 2009-2010 will take over their respective duties at the conclusion of the meeting and I ask that you give the new Executive Committee your full support.

The grotto picnic and auction at Dave and Sandy’s was another fun time, and if you weren’t there, you missed another good time. The auction did bring in somewhere around \$200 for the grotto, so every little bit helps (I did have the exact amount from Debbie, but have managed to lose the e-mail).

Attendance at meetings and participation at grotto events has been down the past several months. This is your grotto and it’s only as healthy as the membership makes it. I hope more of you will attend meetings and events this coming year and keep your grotto going strong!

The Holiday seasons are almost upon us and we’ll need volunteers to help organize and run the grotto Christmas party. Contact the chairman if you want to help. More info about the party will be published as it becomes available.

One last request: Please send me articles and pictures for the Courier so that I don’t have to scramble to put a newsletter together!

Thanks! Until next time.

Mike Hood  
Editor

## Calendar of Events

October 11th	7pm - Grotto General Membership Meeting. 2009-2010 officers take office at end of the meeting. Roger & Lynn Brucker's House (See back of Courier for map)
November 8th	7pm - Grotto General Membership Meeting Roger & Lynn Brucker's House (See back of Courier for map)
December 5th	Grotto Christmas Party (location may be changing, so stay tuned...)
January 10th	7pm - Grotto General Membership Meeting Roger & Lynn Brucker's House (See back of Courier for map)
February 14th	7pm - Grotto General Membership Meeting Roger & Lynn Brucker's House (See back of Courier for map)
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)

### October Birthdays!

Bob Dobb—1st  
 Kenny Hedges—1st  
 Wendy Ferris—1st  
 Roger June—2nd  
 Norma Seehawer—9th  
 Bonnie Guess—11th  
 Hank Parton—11th  
 John Happensack—14th  
 Mary Beth Pierce—17th  
 Jenna Jackson—20th  
 Tracy Hood—31st



### New Member!

Greg Anderson  
 Milford, Ohio



**Welcome!**

## Huber Heights Karst Area Update

Photos and Report By Jerry Baker

*Editor's Note. Jerry Baker e-mailed me about his continued monitoring of the spring and sinkholes in Huber Heights (refer to the July edition of the Courier). While his e-mails weren't actually true articles, I am including them in this edition (and somewhat edited), along with the photos he sent me.*

I've been monitoring the Huber karst area and found that the holes are clearing out. Hole 1 (the 3rd picture in the July issue of the CC) is a couple inches bigger but still not large enough to crawl into.

Hole 2 (the large elliptical area shown in the distance in the 2nd picture included in the June CC) has sunk considerably around the edges. Many drain holes have opened in this area. The center looks to be a pile of pea gravel, possibly used to fill the hole. Must have been a big hole if they dumped a couple of truckloads to cover it?!

A "swallow hole" has been found along the creek bed. It may have been there when I first walked the woods, but it appears to be opening rapidly. This hole is almost at the start of the creek, about 200-300 feet from the houseline, and I'm estimating it drains the backyards and woods of about 15 houses. Attached are two photos taken Jul 31 and Aug 23, and a close up from Aug 23. The length is about 4+ feet from the start of the hole by the tree to the smaller hole opening on the left by the green plastic bottle. It is about 2 feet deep and drains through a opening under the dirt between the two surface holes along the tree root. This is now the most promising hole!

1.1 inches of rain Oct 2, midnight till 10:00am. Some very good data gathered on water flow at 10:00 am - 11:00am, pictures and video. I don't think we need to dye trace.



The first streambed swallow hole ('crack' or probably better termed 'passage') is on the right under the old Christmas tree. I covered the hole to try to stop the trash from going into the passage (plastic and cans now, glass earlier which I've found at the exit and is to be painfully discussed later). This picture was taken looking west toward the exit spring and the cliff face. The 'old' streambed continues to the west above the rise, to the swallow hole sent in the previous e-mails, and to the cliff face at the spring.

A long shot here, but..., I would guess this turn, and the holes, occurred after 1990 by the garbage found partially buried here and in the rocks at the exit dig. The stream may have eroded by this time to hit the far rock wall and had to turn. Some items found include a "Phantom of the Menace" can, and buried at the exit bottle caps for "Penguin" Budweiser. The pottery shards found around the surface and the exit are from the 1920-1930s, and a brick piece found in the exit debris is probably from the late 1800s. One could assume that Huber in clearing the land had an old farmhouse that he removed that may have contained the old pottery and it was dumped in the area with the mixed limestone rocks, and unfortunately, some glacial rocks and boulders cleared from the land.

The second pic is of the 'passage' that runs in a north/south direction. Ok I was a little overzealous... 16 inches wide at the top, I do believe it widens out to about 2 feet based on the surface features shown in pictures of the creek end. The rock looks to have been worn by water flow, and appears to be a old passage!

The surface 20 feet north has several small drain holes, and given the slope of the bottom sediment (about 2-3 feet down), I would assume the water enters these holes and flows to the south, following under the stream bed after the turn to the south. There is an open passage to the south but I don't have a good pic, just one with a piece of plastic in the way.

From the surface features including a depression past the stream dead end, this passage presumably continues to the south with a slight curve to an area where there are at least 10 sinkholes approximately in a line with this area, and to the north where it would run near several of the sinkholes in the field, especially hole #2, the large elliptical area (North/South) that appears to have been filled with pea gravel. Where it connects to a passage that leads to the exit spring is unknown.

With the surface at the passage about 40-50 feet higher than the exit spring, there is plenty of room for depth. The water may flow to the south and at some point drop and flow back to the north in a lower level of the same passage covered by debris and soil. All speculation at this time.

Good exit water flow pictures today, I have fountains literally from three of the four dig sites and one within 1 foot of the top of the fill pile about 6-7 feet above the exit spring..., all in the next message.

Jerry



*Small passage starting to open up in the Huber Heights Karst area.*

## Great Saltpetre Preserve Report September 2009

This is my last report as Chairman of the GSP Committee. Managing GSP takes lots of hard work and dedicated people. I would like to thank the following committee members that have given up their time and energy the last two years: Jamie Dixon, Richard Duncan, Chris Hacker, Tim Hale, Pat Hutson, Werner Jud, Mike McNabb, Shawn Pollack, and Bob Yuellig. Of course the committee didn't do all the work. It takes a Grotto to run a preserve, in fact, it takes three Grottos. Also a special thanks to Deb Bledsoe, Bill Carr, and Neena Jud. Although not officially on the committee, they did more than their fair share to support GSP. Together we have accomplished a lot in the last couple of years. But, there is much more to be done. There are many projects in the works and many more in the planning stages.

Some of the things we did that you can see: Added lighting in the cave, put up a new "rules" sign, added a tankless hot water heater, build a fence around the dumpster, replaced trailhead signs, painted and re-signed the (2) pipe gates, added an outside shower, put new siding and roof on the upper outhouse, and bought a zero turn mower.

Some of the things we did that you may not notice: Had a trapper come in to trap beaver, wrapped trees with chicken wire to prevent beaver damage, repaired the hinge on front gate, replaced the window in the lower mondo, replaced some steps going up to the cave, replaced incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents in the cave, replaced some wiring in the cave, bought a camouflaged "trip" camera to be used to record intruders and/or wildlife, and repaired the "timber walkway" at the water-falls in pinch'em tight alley.

Much of what the GSP Committee does is non-visible behind the scenes stuff accomplished at monthly meetings or at home. At some of the first meetings in 2007 and 2008 the committee began discussing the need for a long range plan for the Preserve. Since two of the outhouses are almost full and the cost of port-o-lets is a big part of our budget, we determined that permanent "Leed approved" composting out houses would fit with our mission. Neena Jud volunteered to develop plans and estimates. Another long range project is to build a permanent welcome/education building to accommodate the many school field trips and other groups visiting the Preserve. (Presently we hang tarps around the shelter and can only do this in the early spring and late fall.) At this point we realized that, because of the high costs, our long range projects would have to be funded by grants. Therefore the "fund Raising Committee" was formed to seek grants for those large projects. Neena volunteered to head that committee also. Research revealed that we needed a Strategic Plan before we could apply for grants. After much discussion and many meetings a Strategic Plan for GSP was recently developed. Neena and the committee have been actively searching for grants and have applied for several.

Other notable events in the past two years: The committee added the "Banishment" clause to the GSP management plan, has started the process to get GSP placed on the National Register of Historic Places, purchased (2) albums of historic pictures from the Brunner collection for resale, contracted with John Agnew to do paintings of the Preserve and cave to be used as the GSP logo and be sold for fund raising, passed an "act of the committee" stating that all large items donated to GSP must be preapproved by the committee and all items donated or left at GSP become property of GSP and can be used or disposed of as seen fit by the committee.

Several media events took place: Gary O'Dell did research in the cave for a film documentary, Kentucky Living Magazine did an article on the Preserve, Kentucky Backroads did a short segment on the cave, and Ken Tankersley did two research projects in the cave, one about sediment, and the other was on historic Indian drawings. The discovery of the petroglyphs, many in pinch'em tight alley, has made us more aware of the need to protect these areas. Climbing or chimneying in that part of the cave is no longer allowed without permission from the committee.

Some things sitting on the back burner we have discussed: Rebuilding the swing bridge, new sign at front entrance, repair or remove deteriorating black-top, build rail fence around museum area in the cave, run permanent electric to point and sauna, add heat to shower house so it can be used in winter, and build concrete tank (pumpable) outhouse in back field.

In the past year we lost two prominent supporters of GSP. Ellie Schiller, the person responsible for us managing and owning the Preserve, and Wayne Barton, a long time supporter, both physically and financially, of GSP. A large plaque is planned for Ellie. The back field has been named after Wayne, a tree will be planted there and a plaque has been placed on the tractor in his honor.

This is only a brief summary of some of what has occurred in the last two years. As you can see, much is happening. Neena Jud is the new GSPC Chairwoman. The GSP Committee cannot run and maintain the Preserve without the help and support of GCG, BGG, and DUG. Please consider getting involved. GSP desperately needs your continued help and support.

Bob Dobbs  
Chairman, GSP Committee

## Misty Cave Property Clean-up Jackson County, Ky. September 12, 2009 By Harry Goepel

For Caver Appreciation Weekend Deb Bledsoe and I agreed to lead a clean-up of an RKC property, Misty Cave.

I had never been to Misty before, but all the help I got from the whole crew made it unnecessary for me to make a site visit. Shane Mullins made a site visit and reported the big items that needed to be removed: a very big arcade racing game and two large satellite dishes. Deb made a site visit as well and arranged for the metal and tires to be recycled. I talked to Bob Dobbs (GSP Chair) and got the OK to use GSP's trailer and dumpster. Deb picked up the supplies, drinks, snacks and dust masks.

After hooking up the GSP trailer to Bob Dobbs' truck, we were off. On the way, Bob and I caught up with Deb and Bill Simpson and followed them. Shane and Dan Spangler were following us.

When we arrived, Bob and Pat Yuellig, Pete Stow, Mike Wuerth and Howard Kalnitz were already hard at work. Junk had been piled by the road and a fire was ablaze, burning wood scraps. (Pete had brought his own trailer for the clean-up.)

As I removed bolts from the video game, Mike picked up an old piece of carpet to dispose of it and stirred up a bunch of mad bees. As I watched Mike run like lightning, I felt sharp stings on my right arm and side. My jeans were protecting my lower body, but the bees were stinging me through my shirt. Mike and I were stung three times, Dan was stung a couple of times, and Deb and a few others were stung also. Deb passed along her sympathies in an e-mail, and at the time, her stings still itched.

After the bees dissipated, a rat made its appearance.

Deb recalled that "numerous gentlemen screamed 'like girls' when they saw the poor little dispossessed homeless guy running around the edge of the barn . . ."

"Not only were there screams," Shane said in an e-mail, "but as the poor (now homeless) rat hit the ground, I watched an amusing ballerina dance that could compete with anyone on 'Dancing with the Stars.' I give it a 10."

The attack of the bees and the appearance of a rat may have caused some pain and some panic, but the eleven of us who volunteered for the clean-up managed to fill the two trailers with junk and trash that we hauled away. We burned some of the wooden items on-site and the rest we towed to GSP's campfire. Metal and tires are being recycled. (A "New and Used Tires" sign was placed in front of Bill Carr's house.) We used a circular saw to cut up the two large satellite dishes and after removing bolts from the large arcade machine, some folks had fun using a sledge hammer to break the machine into smaller pieces. All these cut and broken pieces as well as other remaining junk, went into the dumpster at GSP.

We had a good group of workers who had to battle bees and a rat. In e-mails, Deb and I passed along our thanks to all who ventured to the Misty Cave property to help, but I'd like to pass along another "thank you" here. Deb said it best in her message: "Again, thank you all for putting together such a great project and caring enough to come out and work on a kick-back Saturday. You are the core of the caver family, staying involved and active, helping and willing to work project after project."



## Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve Manage Committee Meeting 6/13/09

Start 7:20 pm

### Committee members present:

Bob Dobbs  
Werner Jud  
Mike McNabb  
Pat Hutson  
Tim Hale  
Shawn Pollack  
Richard Duncan

### Also Attending:

Neena Jud  
Bill Carr  
Deb Bledsoe  
Joetta Hudson  
Shane Mullins

### Announcements:

Bob Dobbs thanked all for the work done this weekend. Z Radius mower has been purchased and works quite well! The United Methodist Camp starts to arrive tomorrow. Several field trips were a success over the past month. Two more are now scheduled for the fall.

### Minutes were read.

### Treasurers Report:

Income for May \$3,341.45. Expenses \$1,113.00. May, net \$1,837.26

Open House. 1,123 people registered this year. We were short on guides! The Mt. Vernon Signal had a good write up the week after. Income was approximately \$ 1,158.00 after expenses.

**Caretaker.** 0 Radius mower purchased in Ida, TN. Used for \$3,800.00. GCG gave \$3,500.00 towards the purchase. Voiced concerns about damage to GSP equipment. We have gasoline, 2 cycle, and diesel in the tractor barn and people might be using wrong fuel in various engines. Blower is dead. Need to develop a way to control access. Need 2 or 3 5 gal. gas cans and an air compressor. BC going

on vacation after K.O.R. Ron Crawford gave GSP a digital recorder for security camera system.

Fundraising. Joetta Hutson is now on the committee. George Clark (Berea Banker) approved of our Strategic Plan and asked for a wish list.

National Register. Working.

Road Improvements. Greer is blacktopping Mullin's Station this summer. We will look in to possibility of driveway repairs while their equipment is near. Committee approved a budget of up to \$1,000.00 to gravel the drives.

Projects. Remodeling of outhouse will be completed this weekend. Outside shower is complete. Tractor 'Quick Hitch' has been returned. Light is out in the big room and Mercury light at the ticket house is out. Discussion of how to limit access and damage to Tractor Barn equipment, Cave and kitchen.

Dumpster. Discussion of how to make Dumpster and Portolets less obvious and not block the view of Crooked Creek from the shelter.

*Motion. PH made a motion to move the dumpster for a trial period. RD second. PH RD TH SP, Yea. BD MMc., no.*

### New Business:

#### Memorial Trees.

Motion to plant a White Oak tree in honor of Wayne Barton, and to rename Long Bottom, Wayne Barton Field. All Yea. Mary Gratsch will take care of planting the tree.

Cave. The recently acquired knowledge of the vast amounts of historical markings on the walls and reed torch fragments has caused concern about having the cave freely open during events like Scout weekends, the Methodist Church Camp week and KOR. Bob Dobbs requested the Cave be open only under Grotto or GSP supervision for Youth Groups and to not have the cave open all weekend for KOR. Bringing up examples of the initials scratched in the wall near the 'Bird Ladies' on a youth weekend and the arrow shot into the ceiling of the big room by a

caver. BD is changing the lock to the front gate of the cave and issue keys to only those who qualify. Too many keys out. All agree. The North Entrance gate lock is OK.

A Renfro Valley flyer located at many interstate rest areas lists Great Saltpetre Cave as a point of interest. Good or Bad?

We will add the open house dates and a web address to the sign at the front gate.

WJ suggested a need to develop a products for sale page on our web site. RD will photograph images and send them to whoever volunteers to develop the page.

Next meeting will be on August 11<sup>th</sup>. Location TBD.

There will be no July meeting.

PH motion to adjourn. TH 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Adjourned 9:15 pm**

RD20132



*From the Chairman:*

Hello.

First I would like to thank all of you who helped out last year. From the DUG Christmas party to the cave clean up in Ohio last weekend.

DUG will face several challenges in the next couple years. Caving has been restricted in our area, and people will begin to lose interest in caving and the grotto. I don't want to see membership and interest drop just because we can't get under ground. Yes... DUG is a caving organization, but I think we need to look at other outdoor activities to keep interest and momentum in the grotto.

We (the Executive Committee) are interested in hearing from you, the DUG members. What can we as a grotto do to keep DUG strong until the caving restrictions are lifted? Give it some thought and contact one of us with your ideas.

Dana Sutherland  
Chairman





**Announcing . . .**  
**GCG's Annual Halloween Party!!**

October 24, 2009  
Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve  
Mt. Vernon, KY

**EVENTS INCLUDE:**

**Carbide / Lamp Tour of Climax Cave**

Saturday afternoon led by Chris Hacker;  
Please contact him via email if you are interested.

**Chili Cook-Off / Potluck Dinner – 6:00pm**

- \* Bring your best, hottest, most unique chili, toppings, and sides  
(We will have a Power Strip for your Crock Pots!)
- \* Contest Categories include: Best Overall Flavor, Hottest Edible Chili, Most Unique ingredients, and Best Vegetarian Chili
- \* If you don't want to make/eat chili, bring along a dish or side for the potluck
- \* Bring along your favorite Seasonal Beers to share and compare!

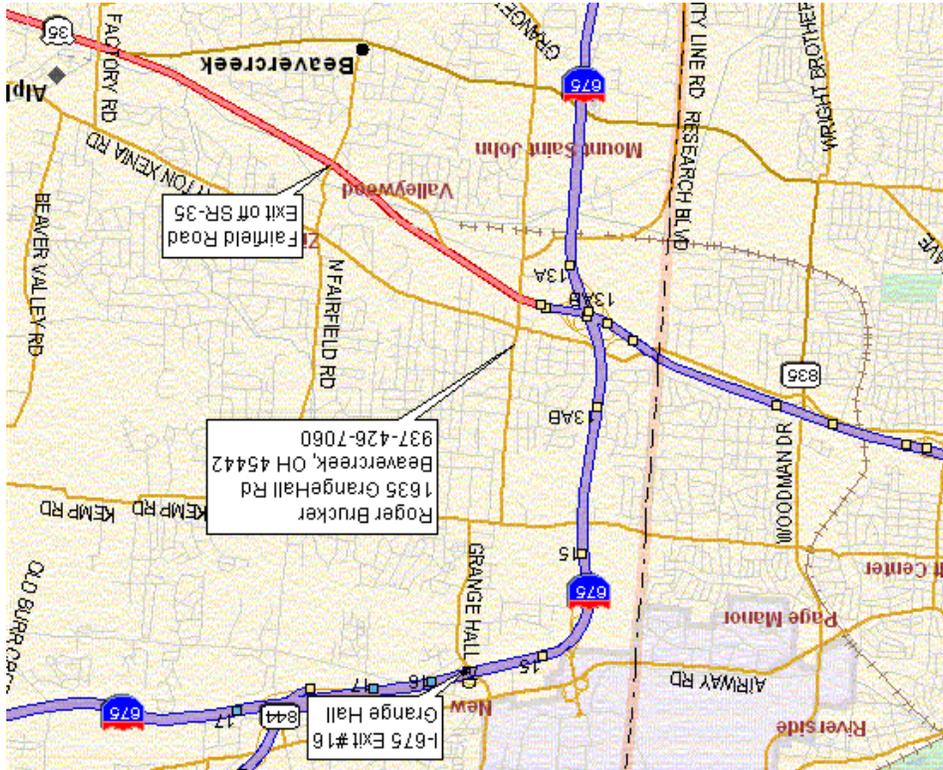
**Costume Contest – 8:00pm**

- \* Contest categories include: Best Overall Costume, Most Unique Costume, Scariest Costume, Funniest Costume, Most "Green" (Earth-Friendly) Costume, and Best Overall Kids Costume

Kids are encouraged to attend and we will have activities available for them.

For more information or if you are interested in volunteering for this event, please contact Brittany Fille (419) 464-8529 or [GCG.Membership@yahoo.com](mailto:GCG.Membership@yahoo.com)

I need volunteers to coordinate/bring items for: Bobbing for Apples, Decorations, Caramel Apples, Apple Cider, Kids Halloween Activities, etc. Please let me know if you are willing to help or bring items! Thank you for all your help!!



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**The Carbide Courier  
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# FIRST CLASS

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