

RKC NEWS

A Quarterly Publication of the
Rockcastle Karst Conservancy, Inc.
www.rkci.org



*Wayne Barton
1946—2008*

Volume IV, Issue IV

Fall 2008

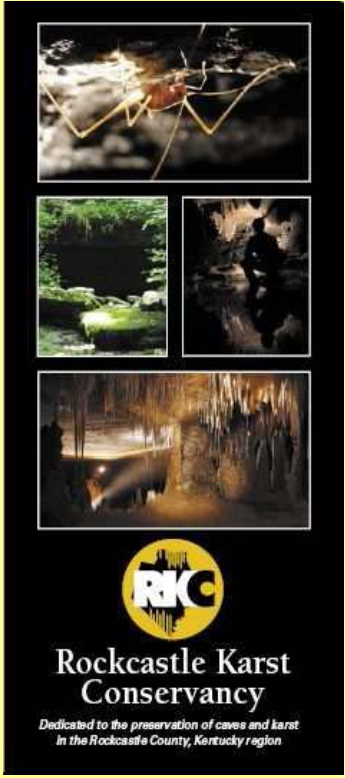
The Rockcastle Karst Conservancy is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation and preservation of caves and karst in Rockcastle County, Kentucky.

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Front Cover: Wayne Barton hiking in Rockcastle County. Photo © Ron Crawford.

Back Cover: A sketch of what the leaching station in Great Saltpetre Cave's Rotunda Room looked liked.



Tell people about the RKC!
Give them a brochure!
 GET YOUR BROCHURES AT:
www.rkci.org/brochure.htm

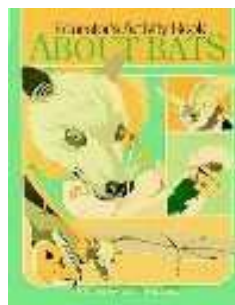
Volume IV, Issue IV

October 2008

For more information about the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy, please visit our website at www.rkci.org. Membership is open to anyone interested in protecting the caves and karst of Rockcastle County, Kentucky. See page 15 of this issue for a membership application and the different membership levels and dues.

The *RKC News* is published quarterly for members and other interested parties. The purpose of this publication is to keep members aware of RKC activities. Articles published in the *RKC News* do not necessarily represent the opinions or policies of the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy or its represented members.

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RKC has educational material for lending. See the website:

<http://rkci.org/library/index.htm>

or contact Tammy Otten: tammyotten@yahoo.com



The RKC News is published during January, April, July and October. Deadline for submissions is the 10th of March, June, September, and December. Send submissions to: mkhood (at) woh (dot) rr (dot) com.

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Congratulations to Keith Wheeland, RKC 157, who received the NSS' William J. Stephenson Outstanding Service Award at the 2008 NSS Convention in Lake City, Florida. The Outstanding Service Award is the Society's highest award.



Wayne Barton RKC #38

I am very sad to pass along this message from Ron Crawford and Keith and Lea Turner:

A very good friend of ours is no longer in pain, he is standing in the clearing in the back field of GSP, smiling.

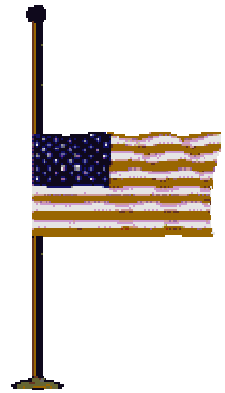
Wayne Barton was diagnosed with a rare form of kidney cancer almost three years ago. After two surgeries, several rounds of chemotherapy and various forms of treatment, he lost his battle late Friday evening. Most of us did not know of his struggles until the past months, he did not like to burden others with his problems. Wayne will always be remembered for his smile, his laugh, always lifting others spirits in his own way.

In the past eight months Wayne was losing his battle, and while many of us wanted to stay involved with him, he did not want to bring others down or be remembered for the frail stature at which he finished his days.

In Wayne's final wishes, he arranged to have a small funeral and visitation.

Wayne's friends in the caving community are endless, if you've ever met Wayne, you would not forget the kind word or smile he brought. While his wishes can be hard to understand, we must all respect them.

—Howard Kalnitz



From the Chairman:

The board of directors met on Sunday, September 28 as scheduled. Not the turnout I was hoping for but we did take care of some business. The minutes are printed in this newsletter and will be posted to the website very soon.

I'd like to address a topic that seems to come up fairly frequently. It seems to come from those who are unfamiliar with the history of GSP or are of the opinion that RKC is being unfair to its members.

RKC was formed to become the legal owner of GSP, and hopefully other caves, not to be the ticket agent for GSP access. Access policy is spelled out in the GSP management plan which is posted on the GSP website. Please take time to read it if you've not done so. Additionally the Greater Cincinnati Grotto has a special signed Memorandum of Understanding document with RKC regarding GSP access. These declarations

have been generated from years of dedicated volunteer effort. They need to be honored. This does not mean access is denied to RKC members. It just means that there is a controlled process by which access is managed. GSP frequently has sponsored guests, many youth groups and other organizations which make arrangements to visit. This is the way GSP has been managed for 18 years and the system has worked.

GSP committee does recognize the demand to be more open to the community and cavers. How to promote and share the preserve is up to that committee and would require a great deal more volunteer commitment. If this is an area of interest for you, attend a GSP meeting. There is a lot at stake and anyone who values their belongings and is concerned about who comes and goes from their own property should certainly be able to respect GSP policy. Don't gripe and moan if you don't have easy access to GSP. Be nice about it. Get to know the landowner, or in this case the land manager, and ask politely. It is called caver-landowner relations. Often times something can get worked out.

(Continued on Page 12)

FLETCHER'S CAVE CLEAN-UP ROCKCASTLE COUNTRY

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.

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



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

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.



Fletcher's Cave clean-up. Photos by Dorothy and Harry Goepel.

**THE RKC EXPRESSES ITS
APPRECIATION TO THE
GREATER CINCINNATI GROTTO
FOR ITS \$500 DONATION TO
THE RKC LAND ACQUISITION
FUND!**

NEW RKC MEMBERS

As of this Publication

(RKC Membership Number in Parenthesis)

Sherry Hall (162), Barlow, OH (Individual)
 Dick Blenz (163), Bloomington, IN (Lifetime)
 David Burgess (164), Goshen, OH (Individual)
 Mary Murton (165), Nicholasville, KY (Individual)
 Josette Rose (166), Goshen, OH (Individual)
 Daniel Hart (167), Pensacola, FL (Individual)
 Brian Heckman (168), Loveland, OH (Individual)
 Art Chaney (169), Cincinnati, OH (Individual)
 Hillary Endorf (170), Cincinnati, OH (Individual)
 Kimmy Smith (171), Cincinnati, OH (Individual)
 Kimberlynn Campbell (172), Maysville, KY (Ind.)
 Brian Lloyd (173), Knoxville, TN (Individual)
 Mark Joop (174), Maryville, TN (Individual)
 Andrew Sowell (175), Berea, KY (Individual)
 Chris Clark (176), Mammoth Cave, KY (Ind.)
 Ron Koontz (177), Bluffton, OH (Individual)
 Dana Sutherland (178), Lima, OH (Individual)
 Mike Armstrong (179), Anderson, IN (Individual)
 Shane Slay (180), Mason, OH (Individual)
 James Jones (181), South Lyon, MI (Individual)
 Mike Moser (182), Mount Joliet, TN (Individual)
 Adam Landrum (183), Walton, KY (Individual)
 John Boyer (184), Lexington, KY (Individual)
 Helen Pollock (185), Livingston, KY (Individual)
 Shawn Pollock (186), Livingston, KY (Individual)
 Jason Pugh (187), Glasgow, KY (Individual)

The RKC now has
 129 Individual Members
 And
 8 Organization Members
Welcome!

RKC DONORS

The RKC thanks the following members who made a donation to the RKC along with their membership dues:

David Burgess
 Chris Clark
 Brian Lloyd
 Mary Murton
 Josette Rose
 Shane Slay
 Andrew Sowell

GREAT SALTPETRE PRESERVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Great Saltpetre Preserve is in the process of developing a strategic plan to better define our mission and plans for future use. Neena Jud is conducting a survey to get input for this plan. So far most respondents are saying that the major focus of our efforts should be education. Not just education of cavers, but the education of youth groups, local school groups, church groups and other local groups that may request tours from time to time.

This strategic plan will also play a role in helping us acquire grant dollars so we can do a better job of educating and to become more environmentally friendly. Two of our priority projects are (1) to build composting outhouses to lessen our dependence on port-o-lets and (2) improve the waste water drainage from the kitchen sink at the shelter. The first composting outhouse will be along the service road to the cave where the concrete slab now sits, which is where the wild animal cage was in years past. The outhouse will have a men and women's side and will be handicap accessible. Visitors to the cave, especially during Open House, will be able to use the outhouse and learn about the benefits of composting. Other composting outhouses will be added as grants become available.


We recognize that GSP has long been a Rockcastle County treasure and that we need to share that treasure with the local community as much as possible. Since spring four local churches have requested and received tours of the cave. That being said, the access policy to GSP will remain as stated in the current management plan. We now have two Grotto members living in Rockcastle County who are being trained to help with leading these local day tours.

Since the four-page article about Great Saltpetre was recently published in the August issue of

Kentucky Living magazine we have been getting about one inquiry or request per week about GSP. These have ranged from "what are your hours and how much does it cost" to "could we bring the Rockcastle High School football team to the cave for a motivational speech?" Deb Bledsoe, Beth Brickley, Richard Duncan and I met coach Parkey and the football team at GSP on the evening of Thursday, August 28th for this event. The young men were interested and very well behaved. They listened to a short talk about the history and importance of the cave and then the speaker and coaches talked to them for about 45 minutes. Upon leaving Coach Parkey said "it turned out much better than I ever expected it would."

Last September the GSP committee made a very aggressive project list for the year. I am happy to report that many of the projects have been completed and more will be finished before the year ends. These projects along with the general maintenance and the hours spent for tours and open house add up to hundreds of volunteer hours. A sincere thank you to the following people that donated their time to serve on the GSP committee this past year: James Dixon, Richard Duncan, Tim Hale, Pat Hutson, Werner Jud, Mike McNabb and Bob Yuellig. Also a special thanks to Neena Jud, Deb Bledsoe, Hilary Lambert, and Beth Brickley for their all her work on the Grant Committee and thanks to all the grotto members who just showed up to help on the various projects. We are very lucky to have so many unselfish and dedicated cavers to support The Great Saltpetre Preserve.

Bob Dobbs, GSP Committee Chairman



October 25 will be Halloween at GSP. Come dressed up in your scariest or funniest costume with the rest of your favorite cavers. Pot luck dinner so bring a dish to share. Cave trip or clean up during the day. Contact Bob Dobbs.

Editor's Note: Following is the article from Kentucky Living magazine mentioned in the GSP Committee report.

KentuckyLiving.com **August 2008**

Preserving Rockcastle's Great Saltpetre Cave

by: Jennifer Pinkley

Walking through spacious passages of solid rock, you feel like you're in another world. Soft light illuminates the winding cave passage. Water droplets gently fall, punctuating the silence. As the tour guide leads you into the depths of Great Saltpetre Cave, you'll experience the thrill of a whole new world under the surface of Kentucky.

The cave, located in Rockcastle County, is deeply entwined in Kentucky's history. Through the years, the cave property has passed through many hands, and in late 2006, the 306-acre cave preserve once again changed owners. Now, a new nonprofit organization, the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy, or RKC, owns the unique cave.

Great Saltpetre's rich history

Great Saltpetre Cave has played an important role in Kentucky history. "It's got quite a bit of human intrigue," says Mary Gratsch, past chair of the Great Saltpetre Preserve Management Committee, the group that manages the cave property.

The first person to describe visiting the cave was John Baker, who one day in 1799 noticed a dark hole in the hillside. He and his family ventured into the cave to explore, but their torches soon went out, trapping them in the inky darkness for two days.

In the early 1800s, miners discovered a valuable mineral in the cave: saltpeter, one of the main ingredients in gunpowder. Miners started digging the mineral out of the cave to help provide gunpowder for the War of 1812. "A vast amount of human effort went into mining that saltpeter," explains

Gratsch. "At one time, more than 60 people were working in that small, cramped environment. The sound must have been terrific: digging, pounding, blasting, all (those people) working in saltpeter pits with no electricity." Even today, you can see remnants of the saltpeter mining operations inside the cave.

After the mining days were over, the cave changed hands many times, at one point becoming home to the Renfro Valley Barn Dance in the 1940s. Audiences gathered deep inside the cave to watch some of the best acts of the day perform in the enormous Echo Auditorium. The cave later became a commercial tourist attraction, but was then closed to the public for many years until a private historical foundation purchased the property in the late 1980s.

But no matter who owned the cave, it has always been connected to the community. "The cave actually appears on the county seal," says Andy Niekamp, past chairman of the RKC, "so the cave and the property are very much associated with the county and its residents."

People who grew up near the cave, in fact, considered it not only a natural wonder, but a shortcut under the mountain. "One woman told me she lived on the side of the cave where the main entrance is now, and her boyfriend lived on the other side," Gratsch says. "It was a lot shorter for him to ride his horse through the cave to pick her up, and then they would go back through the cave and go on their date."

Visitors are lured to the cave not only because of the intriguing scenery and history underground, but also by the beauty of the preserve itself. Many people don't know what to expect when they first plan to visit the preserve, but Niekamp says, "When they get there, they find it's kind of a magical place. You look up and all you see are trees and mountains."

Protecting the rich history and scenic beauty of the cave for future generations is the main goal of the new conservancy.

What is the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy?

The RKC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving caves and karst in the Rockcastle region

of Kentucky. Great Saltpetre Cave is the first acquisition for the RKC, but protecting the historic cave is only one of their objectives.

"Another part of our mission is also education," explains Niekamp. In fact, the RKC plans to work with the local community to educate the public about caves and the unique geology called "karst" that dominates Kentucky. Karst geology (terrain featuring sinkholes, underground streams, and caves) is very vulnerable to pollution, so the RKC wants to work with area residents and landowners to teach people about karst in addition to protecting caves.

Niekamp says there are many different ways the RKC would like to work with area residents to help protect caves and karst areas. The group can work with landowners to protect caves from vandalism and advise them about liability issues. In addition, the RKC can use many tools to help protect sensitive caves and karst: conservation easements, memos of understanding, leases, or even purchasing land.

The RKC started working with the Daniel Boone National Forest to help the Forest Service manage access to two caves and to keep an eye out for vandalism. "We can be the eyes and ears in the field for them," says Niekamp.

If a resident of the Rockcastle region needs help protecting caves or karst, Deb Bledsoe, RKC's karst monitoring coordinator, says RKC can help. "One of the best things they can do is meet with someone from the RKC and talk to them about all the different options for protecting their land," she says.

One of RKC's projects is working with the local elementary school in Mt. Vernon to develop educational programs; volunteers take 2nd- and 4th-graders on a tour of Great Saltpetre Cave every year. Bledsoe and other members of the RKC are also looking into ways to develop additional programs to get the community involved in their work.

Visiting Great Saltpetre Preserve

Each year on the weekend after Mother's Day, the entire Great Saltpetre Preserve is open to the public for an open house, which usually attracts nearly 1,000 people.

Visitors choose from a variety of activities, including hiking, picnicking by the creek, and venturing into the cave. The hour-long cave tour takes visitors through many historic parts of the cave, and the tour guides sprinkle in generous bits of geology, history, and humor.

In addition to touring the cave, visitors can also explore the many trails meandering along the creek or winding up nearby hills.

RKC representatives also take the time to share information about their new organization, discuss what they hope to accomplish in the community, and explain how area residents can get involved.

Although the cave is only open to the public once a year for a large event, the cave can be visited, with advance notice, throughout the year by special arrangement with RKC for educational purposes, such as for school groups, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and other similar groups for campground use, hiking the trails, and touring the cave.

Jud Werner, Great Saltpetre Preserve treasurer, explains that visitors are "sponsored" by one of the grotto members who have access to the preserve. The group needs more volunteers to handle requests, so if you are interested in joining, contact the Great Saltpetre Preserve committee by e-mail at gsp@caves.org or go online to www.caves.org/conservancy/gsp to read more about Great Saltpetre Preserve.

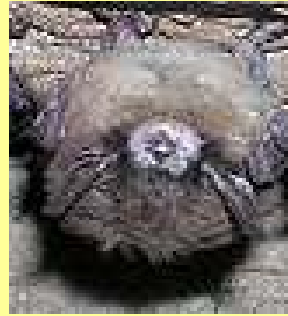
Werner says, "RKC and GSP are aware of the gem we have in Kentucky. We do not consider Great Saltpetre as a commercial tour cave or just an amusement for the public. It is a very special place that many feel highly protective of. Sharing this concept is just as important, if not more so, as sharing the place itself."

Those who do visit Great Saltpetre Cave understand what has lured thousands of people to this cave for more than 200 years, and also why so many people

are now working to preserve the pristine world under Kentucky's rolling hills.

White-Nose Syndrome Report

By Gary Casady, RKC 151



I live in a small town between Flint Michigan and Lansing. A friend of mine, an old classmate has an antique store named "IMN Antiques." Last week I happened to just stop in to talk and Al wasn't in but

his granddaughter was with a sweater over her head. The temperature was about 85 degrees so I asked her what she was going to do when it got cold? Her response was "There is a bat in the store." Well when it flew near us I saw it had a very pronounced white face. Since I remembered reading about the "White Face Disease" (*also known as White-Nose Syndrome-Ed.*), out east, this became the first case that I had seen. I had thought that it was just out in the New York area—I was wrong. I opened the doors and then one of the older women started swinging a tennis racket at the bat when it would fly over her 10 feet above her. I told her bats were protective species and that if she touched it I would call Officer LaPage. His older brother and I graduated, back in 1963, and Officer LaPage was just a kid then. I grabbed the racket so she couldn't swing at anything after that. As far as the bat was concerned: it seemed healthy and flying ok. She grabbed another racket and swiped at the bat again. Breaking two antiques in the process. The bat must have been attacked by fat women before. The bat was no match for her. It went up stairs and I blocked the stairs so she couldn't go up. Since then it either died or got out. I never found any carcass. She tried to blame me and wanted me to pay for what she broke. This was the first incident of White Face disease that I have seen. There isn't any caves or mines within about 100 miles of here, just old farmhouses and barns that the bats could get into.

A GSP Trip Report

By Richard Duncan, RKC 131

Went to GSP on Thursday, Aug. 28 to assist with the Rockcastle Rockets football team visit to the big cave for a motivational speak before their first game of the season. Go Rocks! When I rolled in, Bob Dobbs was already there along with Shawn who was mowing grass and swapping tales. We drove up to the cave and were soon joined by Beth Brickley, Deb Bledsoe, and the football team. I must admit I was a bit concerned about the impact 40 revved up teenage boys could have on our cave. As it turned out, they were perfect guests! Courteous and curious. I would welcome them back anytime.



I brought down a friend who was in town from Boulder. Janice works with ranchers and land owners in Colorado to appraise their conservation easement donations in order to qualify for federal and state tax abatements. She was quite impressed with what we have and where we're going with it. I was hoping she could hear the scream of Chupacabra <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SmHmnfgON4A> or whatever that thing is that roams the Preserve. Friday and Saturday were spent finishing the work needed on the entry and service road gates, mowing, and hanging a Kentucky Cave Law sign in Sinks of the Roundstone Cave. Sinks has received a huge amount of garbage and graffiti this summer.



I started reclaiming the old stone BBQ pit area from the forest. Once completed all I ask is that it's used for cooking fires only, and you 'leave no trace' when your done. Speaking of cleaning up the grill, some are abusing the privilege of using the grill by the kitchen. While down a couple of weeks before KOR someone opened the grill to find maggot infested meat. When I went to use it this weekend it was gross with grease and greasy utensils laying on the ground from the last time someone used it. That's pretty lame. Clean up your mess when you're done, or bring your mom next time to clean up after you!

Tammy, Jason, and Laura were also down for the weekend. While we were under the shelter on Saturday afternoon two different groups of people just kind of wandered into the campground. One group was from out of town attending a family reunion just up the road a bit. They were good people, neighbors, and Tammy offered to give them a cave tour on Sunday. The other group was a young couple looking for an adventure. Tammy told them about Open House. ...Good call.

Just a reminder that Waterfall and Goochland Cave (right side) are now locked until April 30, 2009, to protect hibernating bats.

(From the Chairman, Continued from Page 4)

I won't presume to speak for the entire RKC board, but I believe that becoming involved with a non-profit cause, either by action or by simply paying membership dues, should be largely motivated by altruistic reasons. If getting a personal return on your investment is most important then invest in a for-profit cause. I am a member of another non-profit organization, besides the NSS, and I pay my dues because I believe in the cause. These organizations provide me a membership #, a little card for my wallet, and a very nice newsletter. I'm glad to receive them, they keep me informed, but I did not join specifically to get this paperwork. And, by the way, being an NSS member does not give me unrestricted access to the caves they own. NSS is over 65 year's old, has a huge international membership, paid staff, etc. There's a lot going on. RKC is four years old. We're still very young. So"Ask not what RKC can do for you, but rather.....{you know the rest}.

Thank you.



Werner G. Jud
RKC Chairman

RKC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Sunday, September 28, 2008
Kenton County Public Library,
Erlanger, Kentucky

In Attendance:

Howard Kalnitz
Werner Jud
Neena Jud
Bill Addington
Deb Bledsoe
Tammy Otten
Greg Martin
Robert Yuellig
Bob Dobbs
Rob Coomer
Matt Keller
Jim Perkins

Meeting Called to Order
By Werner Jud, Chairman, at 2:05pm

Announcements:

Werner announced this is the 16th meeting of RKC.

Ellie Schiller of the Felburn Foundation is sick, and in hospital. She was always a great supporter of RKC and was the key individual responsible for the transfer of GSP to RKC. Some discussion was had how we can recognize her for the efforts she put forth for us.

Wayne Barton passed away Friday September 26th. He attended the first and several subsequent meeting of the RKC, and was another great supporter. He made many contributions to GSP as well as a lot of hard work. He will be missed.

RKC received a donation in the amount of \$20.00 from The Robertson Assn. (the group that runs Old Timers). Jim Perkins dealt Blackjack at a function and the profits were split up and sent to the conservancies represented by those helping.

Minutes of Last Meeting:

Vote to accept as published on website.
Motion – W. Jud
Second - H. Kalnitz
Vote – unanimous

Treasurers Report

Cash on Hand - \$20,497.00

Expenses Approximately - \$200.00

Recent income - \$1313.00 comprised of: \$503.00 from bar at KOR party
\$440.00 from RKC raffle at KOR
\$345.00 from new members at KOR
\$20.00 misc donations (keep the change)
(plus \$20.00 handed over during meeting for Land Acquisition Fund)

No income from Open House this year.

Taxes were filed with forms found on-line for non-profit organizations, therefore no fees paid to accountant.

We also received a \$200 donation from Dick Blenz

Comment from Deb Bledsoe:

Appalachian Federal Credit Union has offered ASPI approx 5.75% interest on CD with complete liquidity (no delay to withdraw money under \$50,000; one week delay over \$50,000). This credit union is FDIC insured up to some amount. She recommends investigating this as an alternative to leaving all our funds in a checking account with little or no interest.

(Continued on Page 13)

NOTICE TO ALL CAVERS AND HIKERS

September ushered in deer season. According to the KY Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Rockcastle County is listed in zone 4. Hunting season (deer and turkey) begins September 6, 2008 and runs until January 19, 2009 (archery). Crossbow season for deer and turkey is within that (October 1-19 & November 8-December 31) For deer, muzzle loaders can be used for a few days in November and December, Modern guns can be used November 8-17 and youth have one weekend in mid-October then at the end of December. For turkey, shotguns can be used October 25-31, and December 6-12.

There are a several tracts of land near and around the Great Saltpeter Preserve in which hunting is actively done during this time span. Property owners and hunters do not appreciate cavers tromping through the woods scaring off game or being misled to thinking you are the game. Please respect this activity by avoiding those properties used for hunting. If you are not sure of a particular area, ask around or take the time to confirm with the property owner whether you can access a cave on his land. In short, be aware of the situation before going to a particular cave or hiking off the GSP property. Besides, many of these same remote caves are bat hibernaculums and this is the time of year when it's best to avoid them anyway.

Reminder: The above applies especially to the property on which Crooked Creek Ice Cave is located. The landowner, the Wynns, has put up posted signs and want no trespassing at all. CCIC remains closed for the time being so please stay away.

Werner Jud
RKC Chairman

RKC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES (Continued from Page 12)

Committee Reports:

GSP Report – Bob Dobbs:

A New Lease was signed with Bill Carr in March 2008. Bob Dobbs Report was read

GSP has almost completed last year's Project List, and now the composting toilets and the kitchen wastewater are high priority.

GSP is applying for grants and raising funds for construction of the first Composting Outhouse.

Shawn Pollock and Beth Brinkley are proving valuable as local members.

Hillary Lambert held a workshop on building organizations and raising funds for GSP and RKC Unfortunately due to mixed communications it was not well attended. However she shared many ideas such as:

- Forming a 'Friends of GSP' local organization
- Building a better fundraising committee
- Expand our membership

She has agreed to hold another workshop if it will be better attended.

Impact of beavers at GSP has been investigated by a Wildlife Biologist with the State of Kentucky. Options for handling this problem will be discussed at the next GSP Committee meeting

The Next GSP meeting will be Tuesday October 7, 2008 at Bob Dobb's house.

Fundraising Committee - OPEN:

There was much discussion about the lack of people willing to step up and be the Fundraising chair. Joetta Hutson is willing to help run small fundraising events (such as the raffles at KOR) but is does not want to chair the committee at this time.

We had much discussion on how to use Hillary Lambert's ideas to generate fundraising and possibly use that to help grow a leader



TEAMER'S CAVE ACCESS

Until further notice, please do not go to Teamers Cave by way of the old road leading off Mullins Station road. This road is closed by the landowner.

-We should look at bringing this workshop as a program to Grottos to spread the ideas and build ownership of fundraising.

Several people were mentioned as possible leaders.

Bill Addington raised the issue of 'marketing' GSP and questioned if this was a good thing.

Discussion about GSP marketing was defaulted back to the GSP committee.

Some discussion followed on what Membership to RKC stood for and what we can do in the future to make membership in RKC more attractive for various types of cavers and non-cavers.

Land Acquisition Committee – Bill Addington:

The LAC met twice in the last 6 months.

Notes are on the RKC directors group.

Wynn's' property and CCIC has been posted for No Trespassing. It is now hunting season which is an added issue for them. Due to a recent encounter between the landowner and cavers it is important to stay clear. Negotiations were tried to lease the cave, but have so far proved fruitless, we will continue these as we can.

Cornhole cave lease is being worked on. We have authorized Bob Yuellig to make contact with a local lawyer to get the lease examined. He will get an approximate cost on the fees and get back to the board for a vote. Several names of lawyers were offered. Discussions resulted in a preference for a lawyer local to Rockcastle County, familiar with the challenges of verbal property surveys in the area and easing potential conflicts with adjacent land owners.

Business:

The Land Acquisition Committee Restructure Proposal was read

Motion to Vote: W. Jud
Seconded: H. Kalnitz
Vote Unanimous

The Case Manager Proposal was read:

Motion to Vote: W. Jud
Seconded: M. Rzesutock
For: WJ, HJK, MR
Against: JP

Land Acquisition Fund Proposal was read:

The purpose of this motion is to formalize the fact that a Land Acquisition Fund was established when the books were set up, and establish the rules surrounding this as a restricted fund. Discussion included legal concerns about emergency use of funds from a restricted account, the suggestion that in an emergency, money would be loaned out of this fund, rather than just used, and a need to maintain sufficient liquid funds to cover general operating expenses of the organization and each property. Suggestions were made that members asking for donations and marketing materials refrain from asking for restricted donations; and that we become aware of the proportion of our balance that is restricted. Mike Rzesutock thinks it is currently about 30% restricted.

Motion was tabled until after we get a legal opinion.

During discussions with a member of another cave conservancy, it was shared that they purchase two kinds of cave properties:

the "popular caves" that cavers want to protect and are willing to contribute towards their purchase; and the "unpopular caves" that need to be saved, so this conservancy must front the money.

It was suggested that RKC may need to purchase a "popular cave" next to diffuse the issue of "what access do I get for my contribution?"

Discussion of access to RKC owned properties relative to new acquisitions. Some concern was raised about entering into purchase negotiations for a property before defining what the access will be to that property. Bylaws state that each property shall have its own management plan which will incorporate access to property. In other words, each property will have its own hoops to jump through. The management plan can begin to be developed as negotiations are underway. It probably should be developed concurrently to consider funding for operations and maintenance. It is the job of the stewardship committee to start the management plan and arrange for an independent management committee to take over.

Membership Involvement in RKC: It should be noted that the general membership tends to not show up at RKC Board meetings to make their input known. Conversely, publishing detailed meeting minutes and proposals seems to aid in communication with members. Members can then respond back to the Directors. It seems to the Directors and members present at the meeting that communication is working.

Election Committee – Howard Kalnitz:

The New Election Committee Rules were read:

Motion to Accept: W. Jud
 Seconded: M. Rzesutock
 Voted Unanimous

Nominations Are Opened!

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Next Meeting: Sunday December 14, 2008 at 2:00 pm – Location to be published.

Meeting minutes prepared by Howard Kalnitz, Secretary

Become a Member of RKC!

Join RKC and help preserve caves and cave access in the Rockcastle County, Kentucky region! Your membership dues go directly to efforts to purchase and manage caves.

Date _____

Name - Please print clearly

Street

City, State & Zip

E-mail Address

Telephone

MEMBERSHIP FOR INDIVIDUALS - VOTING

_____ Individual Member \$15/year

_____ Sustaining Member \$75/year (After five consecutive years a sustaining member becomes a Life Member (along with a special T-shirt)

_____ Life Member \$300/one time

MEMBERSHIPS FOR ORGANIZATIONS OR INDIVIDUALS - NON-VOTING

_____ Supporting Member - Non-profit, grottos, and youth organizations \$25/year

_____ Supporting Member - All other organizations \$50/year

_____ Benefactor Member - \$1,000/one time



Dues expire on January 1 of each year. Individual and Supporting Member dues are half the amount after June 30.

Membership Amount \$ _____

Additional Donation \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Make checks payable to the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy.

Mail completed form and payment to:

Rockcastle Karst Conservancy
 C/O Alan Leach
 2217 Cleneay Ave
 Norwood, OH 45212

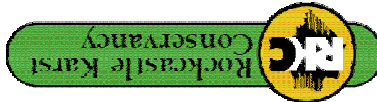
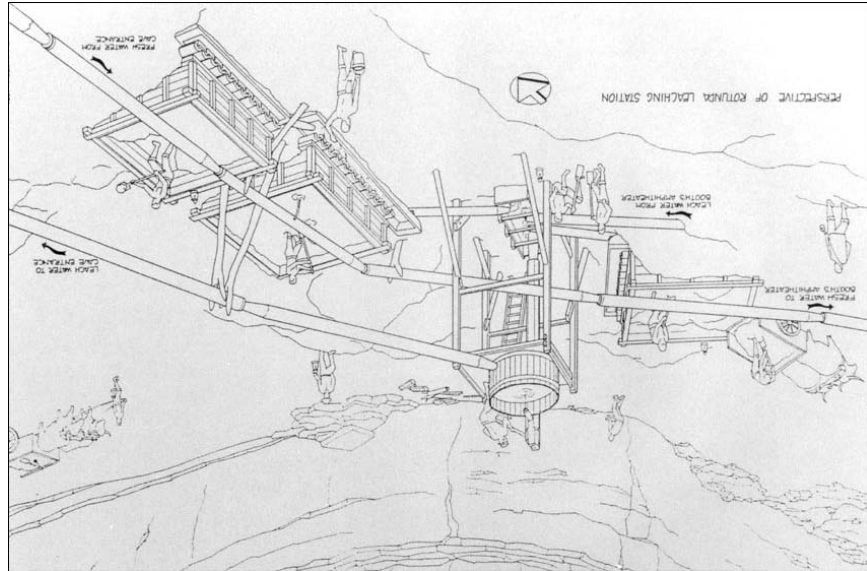
RKC T-Shirts!

Price: \$15.00, RKC member price \$10.00
 100% Pre-shrunk Heavy Weight Cotton, Navy Blue / Gold
 Designed by Robert Coomer
 Sizes: M, L, XL, XXL (sorry no S). Quantities are limited.

All proceeds benefit The RKC. Order on line:
<http://www.rkci.org/tshirt.htm>

RKC Life Member T-Shirt

Green with RKC logo
 See membership details for more information.



Rockcastle Karst Conservancy, Inc.
1515 Cordell Dr
Dayton, Ohio 45439

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