

# RKC News

Volume V, Issue I

Winter 2009





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**ATTENTION!!**

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

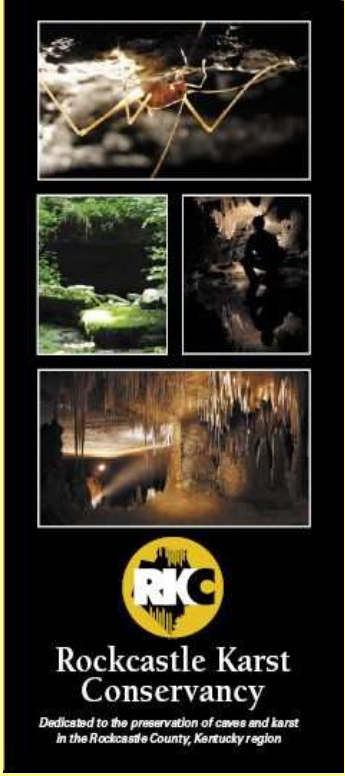
The Rockcastle Karst Conservancy is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation and preservation of caves and karst in Rockcastle County, Kentucky.

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**Front Cover:** Sabrina Simon in Pine Hill Cave. Photo © Nathan Williams.

**Back Cover:** Cave Cricket like those found in many Rockcastle County caves.



**Rockcastle Karst Conservancy**  
Dedicated to the preservation of caves and karst  
in the Rockcastle County, Kentucky region

*Tell people about the RKC!*  
*Give them a brochure!*  
GET YOUR BROCHURES AT:  
[www.rkci.org/brochure.htm](http://www.rkci.org/brochure.htm)

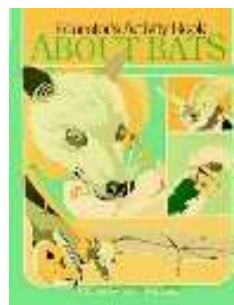
Volume V, Issue I

January 2009

For more information about the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy, please visit our website at [www.rkci.org](http://www.rkci.org). Membership is open to anyone interested in protecting the caves and karst of Rockcastle County, Kentucky. See page 23 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](mailto:tammyotten@yahoo.com)**



### *From the Chairman:*

The board of directors met on Thursday, December 18, 2008. All five board members were present along with a very good member attendance. All items on our agenda were addressed.

After the agenda items, another topic regarding property access issues, was brought up again as a motion and seconded. Read elsewhere in this newsletter for more information and comments about this issue. This initiated quite a heated discussion among attendees. Since the motion was a change to RKC bylaws, as a matter of procedure, it was tabled till the next meeting. No vote was taken.

Readers might recall my thoughts concerning GSP access from the previous RKC newsletter. Members are encouraged to submit their own views or reactions on this topic or any other which concerns them, by contacting the board via email, phone, or even write your own editorial. Open direct communication is always encouraged and preferable over rumors and hearsay.

Nominations have closed for the upcoming election for three board members. Ballots will be mailed in the near future. This is the first time members are able to be an integral part of the process. When you get your ballots read the bios for each candidate. Remember who you elect will affect the direction of RKC in the coming years. Consider their experience with conservancy issues, the image projected to the public, and the overall vision they see for RKC.

I encourage all members to thoroughly read this edition of the newsletter. Print this one out and sit down with your favorite beverage. Important documents of RKC are reprinted along with election information. Consider your role in what the future will be for RKC. Vote.

Thank you for supporting Rockcastle Karst Conservancy.

Werner G. Jud  
RKC Chairman

## THOUGHTS FROM ONE OF THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE ROCKCASTLE KARST CONSERVANCY

By Werner Jud

When RKC was being formed during the three year period of 2004 thru 2006, hundreds of personal volunteer hours were put in by dedicated cavers of the Greater Cincinnati Grotto, The Dayton Underground Grotto, and the Blue Grass Grotto. Many of these were the same people who managed the Great Saltpeter Preserve for many years. The idea of this new and separate, independent, nonprofit entity was conceived at the suggestion of the previous landowners, the Felburn Foundation. The prime directive was to form an organization which would obtain the deed to GSP and also be in a position to acquire other properties in the region for conservation purposes. They were very pleased with how their property had been managed and it is for precisely this reason, that they passed the land on to us. Many people were dubious about the 'takeover' by RKC, worrying that the property may be managed in different ways or with different agendas than in the past. To help convince grotto members and other concerned individuals that this was not the intent, the newly formed board (one person from each of the three grottos) proclaimed that "it would be just like it was before....except instead of the Felburn Foundation being the property owner, it would be RKC." Since the three grottos, and especially the Greater Cincinnati Grotto, had been doing an excellent job of managing the property for nearly 18 years, RKC went further by creating and signing a Memorandum of Understanding with GCG as recognition of the past efforts AND assurance of their future participation with help from the other two grottos. This was in effect, a directive to RKC that the standing committee continue with the only difference being that they report to RKC rather than the Greater Cincinnati Grotto.

The bylaws were created with all these thoughts in mind and went through numerous versions. The final version was hammered out and completed after countless hours of discussion and debate. The reason Rockcastle Karst Conservancy exists is *because* of Great Saltpeter Preserve. The purpose of the

(Continued on page 18)

# Great Saltpetre Preserve Refreshers and Reminders

By Werner Jud

The GSP committee wants to make sure that grotto members can always stay informed on the discussions, business, and decisions that manage the Preserve.

The secretary keeps minutes at each meeting. Once they are completed and proofed, the standard distribution list includes GSP committee people and the GSP caretaker, however they are available to view by any grotto members---but you have to ask for them. Meeting minutes are frequently sent to other grotto board and committee members. If you've attended the meeting, you would also receive a copy. For any grotto member who is unable to attend a meeting but would still like to know what's going on, they need only contact a GSP rep and a copy will be provided. And if you'd like to get more involved in the future, requesting to be on the distribution list is one way to ramp into it. You'll be informed and better prepared when you come to a meeting.

Over a year ago (Sept 07), I wrote an article for the Executive Committee highlighting some of past efforts at GSP. It bears some repeating with a bit of editing to bring it up-to-date.

Great Saltpetre Preserve is financially independent from the grotto and must sustain itself through donations and camping revenues. We invest all of those dollars back in to GSP. Some of those costs have not been minor but they have been within our operating funds. The kitchen has received much attention because it is heavily relied on. With so many different people using the kitchen, heavy use means diligent care and maintenance. This means kitchen users need to be fully aware of the routines of "opening up and closing down" the kitchen. This is especially important during the winter months.

For example, the water supply for the kitchen sink is protected from freezing by use of heat tape on the pipes and heat lamps, all under the sink. Electric power for these devices is supplied by an outlet under the sink. This outlet has a small light on

it to show that it is on. Do not turn off the breaker at the main panel that feeds this outlet, otherwise we lose freeze protection. When closing down the kitchen make sure the water shut off valves are closed and the faucet handles are open. Our propane stove uses pilot lights for the top burners. When turning on the gas supply, these pilots must be lit. There are three of them. If you are unfamiliar with the procedure, please let someone else do it. GSP will be putting up small instruction signs to remind designated and authorized users of the kitchen how to deal with these chores. More discussions and plans are in the works to keep the kitchen fully functional. Future upgrades include the manner in which waste water is handled and eliminating the wooden floor platforms in the process, to improve hygiene.

Other projects are in the works. Bob Dobbs has recently updated the list. Frequently a new one is suggested but each one gets filtered for compliance with the conservation principals we stand for and long term practical benefits as stated in the GSP management plan.

A reminder for those who drop money in the pipe for camping or donations: put your first and last name on the payment envelope if you want your contribution logged other than "unidentified"; and write your grotto affiliation. If you want a receipt, provide an address. Print legibly. There are many donations with no identification written on them at all, and if there is but I can't read it.....that's the same as no identification. If you pay by check, make it out to GSP. And please remember to sign the register book.

When visiting the preserve, treat it with respect. Clean up your messes and avoid leaving debris under the shelter. If you and your guests are there on a regular weekend, and there are other people in the camping area, be mindful of them. Quiet hours start around 11:00 PM. That doesn't mean go to bed....that just means music volume should be reduced and maniacal screaming and cacophonous laughter at jokes funny only to you, should be di-

minished. Sound travels very well in that valley in front of the shelter.

So, I don't mean to be waving the GSP committee finger in everyone's face. There have just been a variety of different incidences over the last several months that suggested all these things needed mentioning again. Remember Great Saltpetre Preserve provides a wonderful benefit for the grotto(s). New members, guests and visitors are inevitable and if we want to maintain what we have, we need to educate them all about our vision and management policies. Refer them to our website [www.caves.org/conservancy/gsp/](http://www.caves.org/conservancy/gsp/) for information, requirements, and to read the management plan. Thank you for your support.

## GREAT SALTPETRE PRESERVE VISITOR RULES

The following are rules for visitation of the preserve. Please read them carefully before planning a visit.

### Visitation Eligibility:

The Preserve is governed by a management plan. All visitors are expected to adhere to the management plan. All visitors must either belong to the Greater Cincinnati Grotto, Dayton Underground Grotto, or the Blue Grass Grotto or have a sponsor from a grotto.

Others may visit or camp at the Preserve provided they are sponsored by a member of GCG, DUG, or BGG. The sponsor must be onsite during the visit.

The front gate to the Preserve is gated and locked with a combination lock. The gate must be locked at all times. Only members of GCG, DUG or BGG are given the combination to the lock.

The Great Saltpetre Cave is gated and locked with a key lock. The cave must remain locked even while visiting the cave. Members of GCG, DUG and BGG may request to borrow a key from their GSP Committee Representative or a GCG Executive Committee Member. Please review the cave rules before visiting the cave.

The onsite caretaker is not responsible for giving out the front gate combination or a key to the cave.

### Liability Waiver:

All adults and minor children of GCG, DUG, and BGG members that camp at the Preserve are required to sign a liability waiver. These people only need to sign the

All youth group members under the age of 18 are required to have a signed liability waiver for each visit to the preserve whether they camp or not. No exceptions. Parents must sign for minor children. These waivers are available on line or at the kiosk on site and are to be collected and retained by the sponsoring grotto member.

### Fees and Regulations:

Camping fees are \$5 per person per night for youth groups. Camping fees are \$4 per person per night for everyone else. There is a fee collection box at the Preserve at the kiosk. Electric sites are \$4 per night in addition to the per person camping fee. DUG, GCG, and BGG members may purchase an annual camping pass. The cost of an annual pass is \$30 for an individual pass and \$50 for a family pass. Stays for more than three nights must be approved by the GSP Committee.

Camping and sleeping cabins are on a first-come first-serve basis. The first person occupying a cabin has sole discretion of allowing additional occupants. No pets are allowed in the sleeping cabins. Sleeping Cabins are not for use by Youth Organizations. Youth Groups must stay in the area reserved for them at the far end of the main camping field.

Visitors are asked to sign in to the registration book at the kiosk upon arrival at the preserve.

No firearms, horses, ATV's, fireworks, or collecting are allowed at the preserve.

## NEW RKC MEMBERS

As of this Publication  
(RKC Membership Number in Parenthesis)

**Terri Schuh (188) Bellevue, KY**  
**Raymond McCartney, III (189) West Harrison, IN**  
**Dan Zubel (190), Orient, OH**  
**Eric Weaver (191), Cincinnati, OH**  
**Janeen Sharpshair (192), Cincinnati, OH**  
**Amber Yuellig (193), Bowling Green, KY**  
**Lee Florea (194), Bowling Green, KY**  
**Reading Community Schools (Benefactor) in**  
**memory of Jim Shafer**

The RKC now has  
 135 Individual Members  
 And 9 Organization Members  
**Welcome!**

# Rockcastle Karst Conservancy, Inc Bylaws

## CHAPTER I. NAME AND OFFICES

### Section A. Name

This organization shall be known as the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy, Inc. (RKC). RKC is a non profit organization incorporated in Catlettsburg, Boyd County, Kentucky.

### Section B. Offices

The principal office of RKC shall be the mailing address or residence of the Chairperson or secretary of the organization, or such other mailing address as designated by the Board of Directors at the annual meeting.

## CHAPTER II. PURPOSE

This non-profit corporation is organized and shall be operated exclusively for charitable, scientific, conservational, environmental, educational and recreational purposes and as described within Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Laws). The corporation shall receive contributions and fees and shall distribute its funds to organizations and individuals in order to further the purposes of the Corporation and permitted for an organization exempt under said Section 501(c)(3).

To acquire, lease and negotiate easements for caves and karst areas primarily within the county of Rockcastle and the surrounding region, in the state of Kentucky, to protect the scientific and environmental value of these resources and to maintain accessibility of these caves and karst areas for continued exploration.

To create management plans for the above mentioned caves and karst areas that serve to maintain, protect and preserve the value of these resources.

To aid in the dissemination of educational material concerning the need to protect caves and karst areas for the geological, hydrological, biological, ecological and anthropological significance.

To provide a permanent, non-profit, non-sectarian, cooperative organization that works to establish and nurture a professional atmosphere among individuals and organizations that support the foregoing purposes.

## CHAPTER III. MEMBERSHIP

Section A. There shall be the following classes of membership in RKC:

1. Individual Membership. Individual members are persons who pay regular annual membership dues. Individual members shall have the right to vote for the Board.
2. Sustaining Membership. Sustaining members are persons who pay sustaining membership dues. Sustaining members shall have the right to vote for the Board.

3. Lifetime Membership. Life members are persons who pay a one time life membership dues payment. Lifetime members shall have the right to vote for the Board.
4. Supporting Membership. Supporting members are persons or organizations who pay annual supporting membership dues and whose principal goals and objectives are consistent with the goals and objectives of RKC. Supporting members do not have the right to vote in the affairs of RKC.
5. Benefactor Membership. Benefactor members are persons or organizations who pay a one time lump sum dues payment and whose principal goals and objectives are consistent with the goals and objectives of RKC. Benefactor members do not have the right to vote in the affairs of RKC.
6. Honorary Membership. Honorary members are persons or organizations to whom membership is awarded by the Board of Directors for outstanding service and/or contributions to RKC. Honorary members do not have the right to vote in the affairs of RKC.
7. The Board may establish other classes of membership that may or may not have voting rights. The Board shall determine set annual membership dues amounts.

Section B. Privileges. Members shall have all privileges and benefits of membership that may be established and approved by the Board of Directors. Membership in RKC does not confer, entitle, guarantee or assure access, visitation, exploration or any other use of any real or personal property owned, leased, operated, controlled or managed by RKC. Such membership privileges shall be determined by the Board of Directors and/or any Board approved management plans.

Section C. Membership Acceptance. Upon written application for Individual, Sustaining and Lifetime membership and payment of the appropriate dues, the applicant is accepted as a member of RKC. Upon application for Supporting and Benefactor membership and payment of the appropriate annual dues, the Board shall decide to accept an applicant for membership.

Section D. Revocation of Membership. Any Individual or organizational membership in RKC may be revoked and terminated by a 4 of 5 vote of the Board of Directors. Prior notification of the pending vote will be given to the member in question. Grounds for revocation of membership shall consist of evidence of action(s) by the member which are inconsistent with and in conflict with the purposes of RKC.

Section E. Voting Eligibility. Voting members of record on the 90th day prior to the Annual Meeting are entitled to vote in that year's election.

## **CHAPTER IV. DIRECTORS**

Section A. The Board shall consist of five (5) Directors.

1. The Initial Board of Directors shall be the three incorporating Directors and they shall appoint two additional Directors to have a total of 5. Their term shall be three years. At the end of that time two Directors shall continue for a second three year term, one shall continue for a two year term and the remaining two shall continue for a one year term.

2. The Board shall be elected by written ballot sent to the membership for the term of three years and shall serve for such term until the election of their successors, except for providing for the filling of vacancies.
3. Any voting member can be considered a nominee to the Board of Directors providing they submit a written document seeking such position.
4. In the event that there is a vacancy on the Board of Directors, the Board will designate a person to fill that vacancy. This person shall serve only until the next election of the Directors, but shall be eligible to be designated for a subsequent term.
5. Each Director shall have an equal vote during the conduct of business. Voting will be by voice. A majority vote of those Directors actually present at a meeting at which there is a quorum, will prevail on all issues, except an amendment(s) to the bylaws. Amendment(s) to bylaws require a majority vote by written ballot of 4 of 5 Directors. Directors casting a ballot for bylaws amendments be must present at the meeting in which the amendment vote is being taken.
6. Quorum. A quorum of the Board shall be necessary to conduct formal business of RKC and to adopt policies and procedures. Three Board members shall constitute a quorum. If a quorum is not present at any meeting of the Board the members present will adjourn the meeting and re-schedule by following the procedures enumerated in Section B. below. Amendments to bylaws shall only occur if consistent with Chapter III.A.6 above and Chapter VIII below.
7. The Chairperson may determine that a time-critical decision of the Board is required prior to the next scheduled Board meeting and therefore accept a motion to be considered and discussed by e-mail, conference call, or other electronic means. Procedurally, the motion will be proposed by a Board member to the Chairperson and the Chairperson will determine if the motion requires immediate action and is appropriate to be considered, given the limited ability to interactively communicate. If the Chairperson accepts the motion, it will be communicated to the entire Board, and a second on the motion will be accepted, and discussions will proceed. Any Board member may request to the Chairperson that the motion be postponed until the next meeting. The Chairperson will be obligated to postpone the motion unless the request is overruled by all the remaining Board members. If no request to postpone the motion is received, the Chairperson will monitor the discussion and call for a vote as appropriate. A majority of the Board must approve the motion for it to pass. A motion voted in this manner shall be recorded in the minutes of the next Board meeting.
8. Proxies. No voting by proxy shall be allowed.

#### Section B. Schedule and Frequency of Board Meetings

The annual meeting shall be held in the month of March. The Board of Directors shall meet at least once a year. The date of the next meeting shall be set by the Board before the adjournment of each meeting. Meeting dates shall be published in the minutes of the meeting at which they were set and shall be distributed to all Board members. Board meetings are open to the public unless the Board is confronted with issues which require confidentiality then the Board may hold a closed meeting.

#### Section C. Responsibilities of Board of Directors

The responsibilities of the Board of Directors shall be:

1. The Board shall have full responsibility and authority to conduct the operations of RKC;
2. To adopt long-range plans and budgets of RKC;
3. To select projects from among those identified which shall be target areas of protection;
4. To ensure that the funds are raised for annual operating expenses of RKC and that such funds are consistent with the provisions of 28 U.S.C. 501(c)(3);
5. To further cave and karst protection programs in Rockcastle County and the surrounding region;
6. To make decisions regarding contracts, caretakers, employees, lessees; and
7. To minimize development and preserve the natural environment.

## **CHAPTER V. OFFICERS**

### Section A. Title

The officers of RKC shall be a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson, a Treasurer and a Secretary. In addition, the Board of Directors may elect additional officers as it deems appropriate to conduct RKC activities. The officers must be a Director. A Director may hold the position of any one office.

### Section B. Terms

The officers will be elected at the annual meeting. Each officer will serve a one year term.

### Section C. Responsibilities

The officers shall have the following administrative duties:

1. The Chairperson shall be the chief executive officer of RKC and shall preside at meetings of the Board of Directors. The Chairperson shall have a general charge and supervision of the affairs of RKC and shall perform such duties as may be designated or assigned from time to time by the Board of Directors.
2. Either the Chairman or Vice Chairman shall be present at any Board meeting.
3. The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping documentation of all meetings of the Board of Directors, for issuing all notices of RKC, for recording and monitoring each Director's term of office and for notifying RKC and its Directors of a Director's impending term expiration date, and for maintaining all RKC records, except financial records. The Secretary shall:
  - a. Be responsible for taking all minutes and make minutes available to the Board after the meeting within a reasonable time.
  - b. Be responsible for all correspondence and business records of RKC; and

c. Ensure that all official and annual paper work is completed and filed with the appropriate parties, such as the Kentucky Secretary of State in order for the corporation to maintain its charitable corporation status and remain in good standing with the Kentucky Secretary of State, Kentucky Revenue Cabinet and the Internal Revenue Service.

4. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial records of RKC and subject to such regulations as may be imposed by the Board of Directors and in accordance with the policies and procedures of RKC. The Treasurer shall:

- a. Be responsible for all the funds of RKC, including, but not limited to: accounts payable, donation records and receipts, balance sheets, checkbook reconciliations and petty cash.
- b. Be responsible for submitting financial statements to the Board.
- c. Be responsible for all tax related documents and documentation to maintain RKC's 501 (c)(3) status.
- d. Be responsible for securing and keeping current all necessary documentation for other tax exempt status, such as sales tax exemption with the Kentucky Revenue Cabinet.
- e. All checks over the amount of \$1,000.00 must be signed by two officers.
- f. The Treasurer may appoint an assistant.

Section D. Removal. RKC officers may be removed from office by a 4 of 5 vote of the Board of Directors. RKC officers are subject to removal upon the same grounds and procedures as those set out for Director's removal below.

Section E. Compensation. RKC officers shall receive no compensation for their duties or services as officers except reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses.

Section F. Vacancies. The Board of Directors may appoint a person to fill any vacancy among the elected officers. A person so appointed shall serve only until the next annual election, but shall be eligible for nomination and election for a subsequent term.

## **CHAPTER VI. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES.**

The Board has the authority to create and dissolve standing committees and/or ad hoc committees and to determine the organizational structure of each. The Chairperson has the authority to create and dissolve ad hoc committees.

Section A. RKC shall have two initial standing committees;

1. The Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve Committee
2. Fund raising committee to fulfill other long range goals of RKC

Section B. Management plans by committees;

1. New management plans shall be written and submitted to RKC Board for approval. All management plans shall be consistent with RKC's purposes, articles and bylaws as written therein. All management plans are subject to review in order to ensure consistency and efficiency.
2. Management plans shall be reviewed and or updated at least once every two years by the committee.
3. The ongoing day to day decisions of the management committees will not be set aside, reviewed, or interrupted by the Board, unless there is an abuse of discretion or the Board is asked to intervene.

## **CHAPTER VII. FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of RKC shall be the same as the calendar year.

## **CHAPTER VIII. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES**

The conduct of meetings shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order as revised unless such procedures are contrary to the procedures outlined by these Bylaws, in which case the Bylaws shall govern.

## **CHAPTER IX. AMENDMENTS**

These Bylaws, with the exception of Chapter II, may be amended at any meeting of the Board of Directors by a 4 of 5 vote upon written ballot. Directors must be present to vote for (a) bylaw(s) amendment. The motion/petition to amend the Bylaws must be presented at a regularly scheduled Board meeting. The specific text proposed change(s) must be communicated to the Board in written form at least 45 days prior to final consideration and vote.

## **CHAPTER X. REMOVAL AND/OR REPLACEMENT OF DIRECTORS**

Should a Director fail to satisfactorily perform his/her duties, the position may be declared vacant by a 4 of 5 vote of the Board. Missing more than two consecutive meetings, or failure to maintain necessary membership in the representative Grotto, may be grounds for removal.

A Director can also be removed by a 4 of 5 vote of the Board when sufficient cause exists for removal. Such cause includes, but may not be limited to criminal acts, conduct in direct contradiction to the purpose of RKC, immoral acts which could lead to criminal prosecution, and any other grounds which could potentially threaten the purposes of RKC, it's contributing grottos, and/or members of the public visiting Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve or any other properties which might be owned or managed by RKC.

If a Director is removed, the Board will appoint a replacement as soon as possible to fulfill the remaining term.

## **CHAPTER XI. DISSOLUTION**

In order to choose a dissolution of RKC it shall be necessary to receive a unanimous vote of all Directors. Upon dissolution, the assets remaining after payment of just debts or debts ordered paid by law are to be turned over to some similar non-profit organization whose intent and purpose encompass those of RKC and in accordance with 28 U.S.C. 501(c)(3) regulations.

### CHAPTER XII. NON-PROFIT STATUS

RKC is a non-profit corporation. Except as otherwise listed by the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation, RKC shall have all the general rights, privileges, responsibilities, limitations and powers that may be conferred upon Kentucky non-profit corporations and charitable organizations qualifying for charitable status under the provisions of 28 U.S.C. 501(c)(3).

No part of the net earnings of RKC shall accrue to the benefit of or be distributed to its Officers and Directors or any other private person, except that RKC shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes of this non-profit corporation.

### CHAPTER XIII. DURATION

Duration of RKC shall be perpetual.

Director	Terms Beginning											
	March 2005	March 2006	March 2007	March 2008	March 2009	March 2010	March 2011	March 2012	March 2013	March 2014	March 2015	March 2016
One												
Two												
Three												
Four												
Five												

**Board of Directors of  
Rockcastle Karst Conservancy  
Terms and Elections**

Director	Terms Beginning											
	March 2005	March 2006	March 2007	March 2008	March 2009	March 2010	March 2011	March 2012	March 2013	March 2014	March 2015	March 2016
One	Andy Niekamp	Andy Niekamp	Andy Niekamp	Jim Perkins <i>appointed</i>	Election - Person with Third Highest Vote count							
Two	Werner Jud	Werner Jud	Werner Jud	Werner Jud	Werner Jud	Werner Jud						
Three	Pat Hutson	Pat Hutson	Pat Hutson	Pat Hutson	Pat Hutson							
Four	Lisa Pruitt-Thorner	Lisa Pruitt-Thorner	Lisa Pruitt-Thorner	Howard Kalnitz <i>appointed</i>	Election - Person with First or Second Highest Vote Count							
Five	Mark Moore	Mike Rzesutock <i>appointed</i>	Mike Rzesutock <i>appointed</i>	Mike Rzesutock <i>appointed</i>	Election - Person with First or Second Highest Vote Count							

The Initial Board of Directors shall be the three incorporating Directors and they shall appoint two additional Directors to have a total of 5. Their term shall be three years

At the end of that time two Directors shall continue for a second three year term, one shall continue for a two year term and the remaining two shall continue for a one year term.

## Memorandum Of Understanding

**Agreement**  
Between  
The Rockcastle Karst Conservancy, Inc  
And  
The Greater Cincinnati Grotto

This **Memorandum of Understanding** (MOU) is hereby made and entered into by and between The Rockcastle Karst Conservancy (RKC) and The Greater Cincinnati Grotto (GCG), hereafter referred to as The Grotto.

**A. Purpose**

The purpose of this MOU is to put in place a framework for cooperation between RKC and the Grotto which will allow current activities, projects, and programs (hereafter referred to as Activities) to continue and to develop or expand mutually beneficial activities at the Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve (GSP). These activities currently comprise major portions of the efforts at GSP in its mission of Ecological and Environmental based conservation. RKC, in accordance with its charter, will continue these activities. Additionally RKC will serve to support the needs of the Grotto, and the public in activities related to The GSP property. Activities conducted at GSP have, in the past, been regulated via a lease agreement between the GCG and the past property owners, The Felburn Foundation. With the transfer of the ownership to RKC this MOU will serve as a contract to insure the Grotto has continued access to the Cave, property and programs from RKC and in return RKC will have continued support from the Grotto. This is intended to be a fluid document with refinements and modifications as deemed necessary. It will also insure that strategic planning for the property conservation will be accomplished with input from all concerned stakeholders.

**B. Statement Of Mutual Benefit And Interests:**

RKC and the Grotto have a major mutual interest in the conservation of Caves and their associated properties, to insure future populations may enjoy the same activities and intangible benefits that we now hold.

RKC will benefit in that personnel expertise, volunteer labor, and financial support from the Grotto is necessary to continue the high degree of stewardship the Cave and its associated Property have seen in the past.

The Grotto will benefit through this cooperative effort in as much as the Cave and Preserve will continue to be available for Activities and access as contained in the former lease agreement between the Felburn Foundation and GCG and revised management plan and will insure the continuation of current and future Activities.

Continuing existing and developing new mutually beneficial programs insure a level of conservation will be achieved that will be of value to the general public in addition to the specialized activities of Speleological concerns. Maintaining the Preserve in a high state

## Memorandum Of Understanding

of stewardship for future generations to enjoy saves a valuable and unique resource. Well planned management and joint conservation activities provide an outstanding public service benefiting everyone.

**C. RKC Shall:**

- a. As the Preserve owner, have ultimate responsibility for the safe, efficient operations in accordance with all Laws, Rules and Regulations and Deed commitments, including the acquisition of insurance.
- b. Maintain control and provide direction for financial matters.
- c. Provide guidance to users and stakeholders, via the GSP Management Committee and Management Plan which will insure activities conducted at the GSP are in full compliance with all Local, County, State, and Federal Laws and Regulations and the guiding principals of ecological and environmental property management.
- d. The Management Plan will include such items as:
  - i. Cave and Preserve Access and Usage Regulations
  - ii. Fees, Funds and Financial activities
  - iii. Group Access
  - iv. Caretaker and Caretaker Activities
  - v. Security
  - vi. Facilities and Facility usage
  - vii. Special Events
  - viii. Campground Rules and Regulations
  - ix. Cave Access
- e. Include and utilize technical expertise developed by nationally recognized organizations in developing rules and regulations that will insure activities are conducted in a safe and reasonable manner in the cave and associated properties.
- f. Support Recognized Scientific and Educational activities when possible in areas related to the Cave and Preserve Properties.
- g. Provide to the general public, the appropriate rules and regulations pertaining to the cave and associated property activities when such activities are open to the public.
- h. Coordinate and approve all maintenance and construction activities providing the guidance and proper specifications, and restrictions necessary as delineated in the Management Plan.
  - i. Provide, as available, supplies, tools, and equipment as necessary for maintenance and construction needs as delineated in the management plan.
  - j. Approve all publication or printed materials intended for public distribution regarding the Cave Property or any activity for which the principal point of the publication is the cave (or associated property) or RKC.
- k. Provide locally or make available any pertinent educational programs necessary to members for required certifications for property use.

## Memorandum Of Understanding

- l. Coordinate and approve any special uses or administrative activities within designated cave or preserve prior to the date of the activity that are outside normal activities covered by the Management Plan.
- m. Review and approve any changes to this document or any document published on behalf of, prepared by, or modified on behalf of RKC as necessary.

**D. The Grotto Shall:**

- a. Abide by all GSP rules and regulations, adhere to cave and nature conservation ethics and encourage safe and courteous demeanor by all members while on GSP property.
- b. Work with RKC to identify appropriate partnership opportunities and jointly pursue such projects.
- c. Provide assistance to RKC and visiting Special Project personnel involved with scientific projects, Educational Activities, Speleological or any other related activity of a professional nature.
- d. Encourage members to work with RKC to identify, discuss, and participate in opportunities for cooperative work or mutually beneficial projects or activities, when appropriate.
- e. Make information of interest to RKC concerning the GSP or activities available to appropriate personnel.
- f. Obtain RKC approval prior to implementation of any significant construction, maintenance, educational projects or publication or distribution of any printed material regarding the GSP.
- g. Provide technical expertise to address issues of concern to RKC.
- h. Serve as ambassadors for cave and nature conservation activities and encourage cooperation with all property visitors and users.
- i. Will not attempt to enforce any local state or federal laws while on Preserve property. All enforcement and follow-up action will be made by local, state or federal law enforcement officials.
- j. Nominate individuals to serve on the GSP management committee as delineated in the management plan.

**E. Statement of Special Recognition to Greater Cincinnati Grotto****Whereas:**

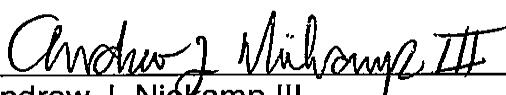
1. GCG has provided seventeen years of exemplary care and management of the property through personal time and expense of Grotto volunteers.
2. GCG has initiated, developed, and promoted such educational, conservation, preservation and scientific programs as specified in this contract and in the existing GSP management plan, as well as in the former lease between GCG and the Felburn Foundation.

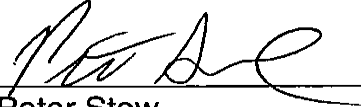
## Memorandum Of Understanding

3. GCG has handled and processed all income and expenses from funds collected and donated for camping and general contributions by visitors during those 17 years
4. GCG has financial investments in tools, tractor, mowing equipment, maintenance items, and other durable and non-durable tangible assets that have become necessary for the upkeep of the property
5. GCG has received valuable and critical support from DUG and BGG Grottos
6. GCG has seamlessly continued this level of care and management since RKC ownership August 2006

**Therefore:****F. It Is Mutually Understood And Agreed By And Between The Parties That:**

1. Guarantee of use and access: RKC hereby grants the continued use and access to GSP till the year 2016
2. Renewal: At the end of this initial term, this contract will be automatically renewed for 5 year periods unless either party submits a written objection within 30 days of termination.
3. Termination: Any gross misconduct or breach of the GSP management plan or the MOU, shall be grounds by for termination of this agreement
4. Modifications: Modifications within the scope of the instrument shall be made as needed by mutual consent of the parties.
5. Participation In Similar Activities This instrument in no way restricts the RKC or The Grotto from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals.
6. Principal Contacts The principal contacts for this instrument are:

  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Date 11/30/2007  
 Andrew J. Niekamp III  
 Chairman, Rockcastle Karst Conservancy  
 For the RKC Board of Directors

  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Date 12/6/2007  
 Peter Stow  
 Chairman, Greater Cincinnati Grotto  
 For the Board of Directors

*Thoughts from a Founding Member (Continued from page 4)*

Rockcastle Karst Conservancy is *beyond* Great Saltpeter Preserve.

Now consider this.

In recent months, Jim Perkins, one of the most recently appointed RKC directors, has been campaigning for a fundamental change in those by-laws. A change that drives a knife right into the core of what helped RKC to be accepted and nurtured; and comes now when RKC is at the threshold of truly growing. He put a motion before the board that states:

Resolved: All members in good standing of the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy shall have equal access, regardless of grotto affiliation, to all properties owed, leased or administered by the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy.

Another director, Mike Rzesutock, seconded this motion. Neither of these individuals was involved with the painstaking development of the present bylaws.

It is very important for readers to understand something. RKC's mission is to acquire karst properties to help protect them from development and the resulting pollution that goes with it. Why? Because as cavers and as conscious, nature loving, tree hugging, environmentally aware people that we try to be, we want such land to be there for the plants, the animals, as well as for other like minded people in the future. So in the broad overall perspective, one could say that RKC was created so that beautiful places in nature, including the caves underneath, will be cared for. RKC's job is to raise funds to search for, pay for, and shield the next property destined for "the progress of man".

It is NOT the function of the RKC board to categorically restrict access, nor categorically allow access to all its properties. This is simply not the way Rockcastle Karst Conservancy is structured. Once a land acquisition is achieved, a property steward is put in place (whether it is an individual or a group as appropriate for the size and complexity of the property). Access issues are then addressed and determined by that steward. In 2006 an Act of the Board was unanimously adopted:

The RKC Preserve Manager Duties. It spells out the general guidelines of how properties should be managed. Access issues falls under the Preserve manager duties, or steward, if you will. This document may be viewed on RKC's web site.

Great Saltpeter Preserve is the only property presently owned by RKC and they must not micromanage it. Nor should they do so with other properties that may be acquired in the future. This is essentially what the proposed motion does. Not only is such a motion completely incongruous with RKC mission, but it is proposed at a time when it threatens RKC's ability to finally acquire new properties. Recently an offer to purchase Misty Cave was accepted by the landowner. Misty may very likely have an access policy which is open to all RKC members...but first RKC must acquire it. A large sum of money was being discussed as a low interest loan coming from the Greater Cincinnati Grotto to facilitate the purchase. However the proposed motion virtually kills this loan because a majority of GCG board members object to it. This will greatly reduce RKC's ability to afford this new property and handle the financial obligations.

A second property, having the Cornhole cave entrance in Rockcastle County and belonging to another of our founding members, and a long time NSS caver, has recently been offered to RKC under a lease agreement for possible future acquisition. Minimal funds would be required to secure this contract, but again, this offer is at the verge of being withdrawn for the same reason. While these two directors verbally endorse the mission of RKC, their actions through this motion, bring contrary results. Think about that. This is shortsighted and one can conclude that there is a private agenda behind this.

The argument was put forth by these two directors that some RKC members feel they are second class 'citizens' because they do not have unrestricted access to GSP. That claim alone suggests this motion is clearly aimed at GSP. If you believe this accurately describes how you feel, ask yourself: Did you join RKC to further its stated mission or do you just want to visit GSP whenever you choose? These are two separate questions. If visiting GSP is your sole reason for belonging to RKC then RKC may not be for you.

However, let me continue by saying the GSP committee is not unmindful of its increasing popularity. I hate to sound like a broken record to so many, but GSP is not a public park, it is not a country club and it is not commercial campground. Yet the committee fully understands that times change and the long term enjoyment and protection of the property will eventually require some adjustments in access issues. But it has to be done in conjunction with increased staff/volunteers, improved security, better facilities, future stability with a caretaker, all while maintaining the historical/natural Preserve atmosphere that they are pledged to uphold. Hence the reason for the strategic planning presently underway which has consumed many more hours of concerted volunteer time and effort behind the scenes. This proposed motion has the added effect of sabotaging this strategic planning and shows utter disregard for those dedicated efforts. Any motions or requests to amend, change, or revise the access rules as described in the GSP management plan should be addressed to the GSP committee....NOT RKC. And remember, all GSP meetings are open, anyone is welcome to attend and meeting minutes are available to view.

Finally it was further argued in defense of this motion, that bringing this mandate into our bylaws is critical for long term growth of RKC. I understood this to imply that unless RKC provides this full access we cannot expect public support or increase in RKC membership, or even membership renewals. I disagree.

The fact is GSP grants access to many non-grotto affiliated people. It sponsors and welcomes scout troops, church groups, school groups, personal guests, and often grants access based on knowing the person or at least the reputation that precedes them. And despite the attempts to keep tabs on who comes and goes from GSP, it is still visited frequently by people who just show up. That is just the kind of things that happen and is part of why they have a caretaker on site. Again, if somebody you do not know at all, has no references and has no one to vouch for them...would you let them live in your home unsupervised for the weekend? GSP is not just a hole in the ground in the middle of the woods. It is a special place, with an on-site caretaker, and requires some degree of monitoring.

Some future properties may require considerably less monitoring.

Access policies for each property need to be developed individually, considering that property's unique features and its connection to the local community. Since this is unpredictable, RKC should continue to leave those decisions to the steward. I believe this is a sound and sensible approach, similar to other conservancies and will continue to be supported by the membership overall. I would like nothing more than to see RKC membership grow and be supported more than ever, in spite of the dire predictions of these two directors.

Sincerely,

Werner G. Jud  
January 2009

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## MINUTES OF THE 18 DECEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

### In Attendance:

Howard Kalnitz  
Werner Jud  
Neena Jud  
Bill Addington  
Tammy Otten  
Robert Yuellig  
Mike Rzesutock  
Jim Perkins  
Pat Hutson  
Joetta Hutson  
David Lee  
Bill Simpson  
Matt Keller  
Mary Gratsch  
Pete Stow  
Roger June  
Dan Zubal

Meeting called to order by Werner Jud, Chairman,  
at 7:05pm.

### Announcements:

Werner announced this is the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of RKC.

Minutes of Last Meeting:

Vote to accept as published on website.

Motion – H.J. Kalnitz

Second - Pat Hutson

Vote – unanimous

Treasurers Report:

Cash on Hand - \$23,084.95

Acquisition Fund - \$4864.0083

Recent income:

Gross Profits - \$4220.03

Net Income - \$3120.68

CD at Community Trust rolled over on 5 month

CD

Vote to accept:

Motion – W. Jud

Second - Pat Hutson

Vote – unanimous

Committee Reports:GSP Report – Werner Jud

- Bob Dobbs is attending family issues, so report was given by Werner Jud.

- The last GSP meeting was well attended.

- Work is being done on the project list for next year.

- Composting toilets construction is still possible in spring.

Fundraising Committee - OPEN

Still open

- Joetta still willing to help on special events.

Report of Donation:

- Werner Jud reports that \$3051.54 was donated to GSP through RKC by the Reading Community Schools

- This was done in memorial for Jim Shafer, a teacher at this school, who caved and hiked the area and shared caving with many of his students.

- There were no strings attached to the donation except that a newly discovered cave is named after him.

- Werner suggested enrolling Reading schools as a benefactor of RKC and handed a check to Mike for \$1000 dollars to sign them up as a benefactor member. Werner also handed over a copy of Reading Schools' letter to the secretary.

- There was some discussion as the check was made out to RKC, yet the letter stated the donation for GSP. The treasurers of those two organizations will make sure that this will be squared away

- The Board would like to take this opportunity, not only to recognize Jim Shafer and the work he did in introducing people to the outdoors and sharing his love of the wild, but also Ryan Muddiman for his work to secure this generous donation and the Reading School district for making it. You can be sure it will be put to good use!

Membership Committee – Alan Leach

- Alan was not present but sends this report:

- 129 members in RKC and 10 organizational members.

Land Acquisition Committee – Bill Addington

Misty Cave – Mike Rzesutok

- Board agreed to purchase price of \$18000.00

- Additional funds will be needed and look something like:

- \$2000 for a survey

- \$200-\$300 for a title search

- \$250 for a lawyer

- Will have a purchase contract drawn up by a lawyer

- Some discussion was had on the title and title search, and it was determined to stay with current plan of a professional title search

- We need to make sure the entrance of the cave is on the deed and is so noted, as well as mineral rights

- We will provide \$50 down as a nominal binder on the contract

- We will get the contract back and start working the financing and look to get a loan

- Mike spoke with a bank in Mt. Vernon and they may be willing to loan us 60% of appraised value. They would do the appraisal as part of the loan process, however we estimate it to be somewhere in the \$9000 range.

- The completed contract will come back to the board for a final vote

Cornhole Cave – Bob Yuellig

- Lease was completed and is ready for review

- We need to update to have a board members name and our legal address in Cattlettsburg.

- Need to determine the amount of money per year

- Need to determine amount of time before renewal
- These can be done in discussion Between Mary and case owner (Bob Yuellig)
- Mary may place a trailer on part of the land at some time
- Mary has asked to establish a maintenance fund and pay for insurance
- Mary would pay property taxes
- Mary would like to be part of the committee that determines the access plan and then manages the property
- Mary would like to see a gate on the property
- Pete Miller still needs to review and sign off then the board can sign off
- Long term plans are to deed the land to RKC as part of will if anything untoward should happen to Pete and Mary
- The board takes this opportunity to extend thanks to Mary Gratsch for the generous offer of Cornhole Cave which is a valuable entrance to Goochland Cave and a significant addition to our properties. Word alone cannot express our thanks and we hope our stewardship of this property is long and protective!

#### Hammond Cave Property– Bill Addington

- Discussion was had about the possible sale of Hammonds land where Teamers and Humongous Canyon Cave are located
- As Hammond provide access to his caves and is known as a good caretaker, we see no reason to intrude in the sale
- However we should monitor to see if there are options

#### Wind Cave – Howard Kalnitz

- H. J. Kalnitz was contacted to resurvey Wind Cave for the owners and the state wildlife group.
- If possible he will determine if there is a possibility to help manage this property

#### Election Committee:

- Positions coming open (HJK, MR, JP) WJ and PH remaining on board
- Length of terms will determined by total amount of votes
- 5 new candidates:
  - Gary Bush
  - Dan Zubal

- Mary Gratsch
- Richard Duncan
- Roger Brucker
- 3 incumbents running as well
- Biographies due by Jan 1
- Ballot to be in mail by end of January
- Due Back Feb 28<sup>th</sup>
- New Board members to be announced at beginning of March Meeting
- Need to determine Election Committee Counting Chair (HJK is running and cannot be part of counting)
- Election Committee to call meeting in beginning of January
- Werner explained his idea of electing board officer positions
- Pete Stow suggested that we get Alan to send out a note to confirm address for Ballots
- Only Members of record 90 days before elections can vote (that makes it no later then end of December)

#### Business:

- Land Acquisition Fund Proposal was read:

- This was tabled at last meeting for more discussion
- More discussion was had, about loaning versus using. Decided that using funds was appropriate
- An amendment was made striking the words property committee, so funds can be used anywhere in RKC
- Vote to Accept:
- Motioned: H.J. Kalnitz
- Seconded: W. Jud
- Vote: Unanimous

#### Jim Perkins proposed the Following Motion:

- (Seconded by Mike Rzusetok)
- “Resolved: All members in good standing of the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy shall have equal access, regardless of grotto affiliation, to all properties owned, leased or administered by the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy.
- This was noted as a bylaw Change and as stated in the bylaws, needs a 45 day discussion period
- This motion was tabled until the next meeting of the RKC
- Much discussion was had.

- An ad-hoc committee was formed to explore the question of open access. This committee is made up of:

Mike Rzusetock  
 Mike Keller  
 Tammy Otten  
 Jim Perkins  
 Mary Gratsch

Meeting adjourned at 9 pm.

Next meeting:

- March annual meeting - Location and date to be published.

Howard Kalnitz  
 Secretary

## 2009 GREAT SALTPETRE PRESERVE OPEN HOUSE

Watch for more details in the Spring edition of the  
*RKC News*

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. Free cave tours are offered. The tours last 30 to 45 minutes. The cave has electric lights. The cave floor is generally flat. Dress for the cave environment - comfortable shoes and a sweat shirt. The cave is 57 degrees. Bring a flashlight if you wish.

#### Other Activities:

- Free soup beans and corn bread.
- Live music on Saturday. *Bring an instrument and join in!*
- Food concession stand operated by the Livingston Fire Department.
- Souvenir concession stand.
- Miles of hiking trails.



# 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 Cleoney Ave  
Norwood, OH 45212



## RKC T-Shirts!

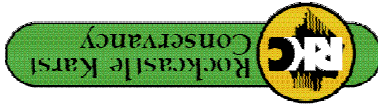
**Price: \$15.00, RKC member price \$10.00**  
**100% Pre-shrunk Heavy Weight Cotton, Navy Blue / Gold**  
**Designed by Robert Coomer**  
**Sizes: M, L, XL, XXL (sorry no S). Quantities are limited.**

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.**



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

# FIRST CLASS

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