

# COG SQUEAKS

*June 2001*



The Stream inside Stream Cave at Redmond Creek, Wayne County, Kentucky. Photo by Bill Walden



# GROTTO INFORMATION PAGE

## THE CENTRAL OHIO GROTTO

The Central Ohio Grotto (COG) of the national Speleological Society meets at 8:00 p.m. at the Worthington Presbyterian Church the second Friday of most months. The church is on the northwest corner of the square in Worthington. Parking is available behind the church. Enter the parking lot from the first side street off State Route 161. Please contact a grotto officer to confirm meeting time and place. The December meeting is not held at the church.

Grotto Officers	Name	NSS #	Telephone
Chairman	Darrell Adkins	29048	740-392-6382
Vice Chair	Kevin Toepke	46032	614-539-5457
Secretary	Katie Walden	25894	740-965-2942
Treasurer	Karen Walden	15678	740-965-2942

### Executive Committee Members:

Don Conover	20386	937-372-7581
Steve Aspery	38931	614-841-1846
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Please join by sending e-mail with the subject **subscribe**.

**Grotto Membership Dues \$15 per individual or \$20 per family.**

### The C.O.G. Squeaks

The C.O.G. Squeaks is the official newsletter of the Central Ohio Grotto. Articles on cave exploration and study, cave trips reports, cave fiction, cave poetry, cave-related cartoons, cave-related art or photographs are encouraged. Please note that I have a 35mm film scanner and a flat bed scanner. I can handle negatives up to 4 X 5 inches. So, please send me your photos, negatives, or slides for inclusion in the Squeaks. Send material to Bill Walden via mail, e-mail, disk, fax, or even dictation.

NSS organizations may reprint material from the C.O.G. Squeaks so long as the author and Squeaks are given credit unless stated otherwise. Send E-mail to Bill Walden if you want a Word file of the Squeaks to reprint.

The C.O.G. Squeaks is mailed to dues paying members and to grottos with whom the COG exchanges newsletters. The C.O.G. Squeaks is also available by E-mail as an Adobe Acrobat file (PDF). Please notify Bill Walden or Andy Franklin if you want the PDF version (It's in full color).

### C.O.G. Cabin

The Grotto has a small shelter cabin on the property of Greg and Angela Erisman in Pulaski County, Kentucky for the use of C.O.G. members and friends. The cabin has five bunks and a picnic table. Outside of the cabin and a very short distance from the cabin is a practice-climbing tower for rope climbing. There is plenty of room for tents on the property.

## COG KARST CALENDAR

June 8, 2001	Grotto Meeting. <b>Program The Caves of Redmond Creek.</b>
June 15, 2001	Grotto Caving weekend.
June 22 and 23	Redmond Creek Caving.
June 22-24, 2001	50 <sup>th</sup> Annual SERA Summer Cave Carnival
<b>July 14</b>	<b>COG Saturday Meeting</b> , climbing practice, and potluck at the home of Dale Andreatta
July 23 – 27, 2001	<b>2001: A Cave Odyssey. The NSS Convention at Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve, Mt. Vernon, Kentucky. Visit <a href="http://www.nss2001.com">www.nss2001.com</a> where on line registration is available.</b>
August 10 – 12	48 <sup>th</sup> Annual Indiana Cave Capers at Camp Rivervale, Mitchell, Indiana. Contact Kathy Welling at 765-653-6352 <a href="mailto:kathyd@ccrtc.com">kathyd@ccrtc.com</a>
<b>Aug. 18, 2001</b>	OVR Cleanup project. Machan's Rock Tuscarawas County, Ohio <b>DATE CHANGED</b>
Aug. 30-Sep 3, 01	Old Timers Reunion
Sep. 14	COG Meeting
Sep. 15-16, 01	Karst Encounters, Lone Star Cave Preserve, KY
Sep. 29, 2001	Tour of the Lost River Karst System. Orleans, IN 7:45 a.m. SE corner Town Sq. Robert Armstrong, Chairman LRCA
October 4 – 7	24 <sup>th</sup> Annual TAG Fall Cave-In hosted by The Dogwood City Grotto. For info: <a href="http://www.dcg-nss.org">www.dcg-nss.org</a> .
June 24-28, 2002	NSS Convention, Camden, Maine
August 4-8, 2003	NSS Convention, Poterville, Cal.

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# The True Story of Lower Owl Cave

By Kevin Toepke and Cat Whitney

Cat and I couldn't wait to get back to Owl Cave to follow up on the discoveries we had made in March and to find that darned survey notebook that I dropped in there on the last trip. Bill and Katie Walden were just as excited about our discoveries and had come along to help survey and push some of the many promising leads. No... wait, now I remember. The April trip report was just fiction. We never went into Lower Owl Cave in March, and we sure didn't make any incredible discoveries.

Anyway, Cat and I joined Bill and Katie Walden on May 18 to photo-document and survey Redmond Creek Cave. Bill had planned to take pictures of the many entrances to the system and Cat and I had decided to take some pictures in Calyx Avenue. Things don't always go as you plan. The intense thundershowers we had driven through on the way down were not a good sign. Add to that, National Weather Service forecast for Saturday called for occasional showers, thundershowers, with the possibility for flash flooding in certain areas of Eastern Kentucky. Knowing that Redmond could flood, we as a team, made the decision not to enter the cave.

After a late start Saturday morning, Bill, Katie and Doc set out to take pictures of the entrances to Redmond as well as some pictures just inside the cave. As Cat and I headed south to survey Lower Owl Cave we heard thunder rumbling off in the distance. About half way up the trail we encountered one of Mr. Koger's cows. She stood half in and half out of the bushes, apparently guarding something. A glance behind her solved the mystery. She had given birth to a calf just moments before. We snapped a couple of picks and decided to move on, leaving the mother and baby in peace. (Side note: We later saw Mother, baby and friends happily wandering through the pasture later that afternoon.)

## Lower Owl Entrance



Photo By Cat Whitney

After scouting around the cave entrance and the streambed, we took several photographs of the entrance to Lower Owl Cave.

From the debris and water lines just inside the cave it was obvious that Lower Owl Cave could take on a lot of water if it rained. We decided to poke around inside for just a half an hour or so to determine if the cave was worthy of a full survey effort.

## Salamander in Lower Owl Cave



Photo By Cat Whitney

An hour and forty-five minutes later we exited the cave, both agreeing that it was definitely worth a survey.

No surveying took place on this trip, although I did take several compass readings in order to determine the basic layout of the cave. Cat led the way into the cave. Just inside the entrance, she noticed several salamanders, millipedes and spiders and decided to stop to take a few pictures. The entrance goes into the hillside heading west at about 240 degrees. After about 30 feet the passage doubles back on itself and wanders back out toward the hillside. 25 feet further along the passage; you need to negotiate a



10-foot climb down. About half way down this climb, you start a crawl due South. Cat reported back that this passage is small and ends fairly quickly. At the bottom of the climb-down, the passage doubles back on itself and heads back into the hillside again.

After climbing over some breakdown, you find yourself in a low, wide hands-and-knees 30-foot long crawl that Cat named Red Crawl because of the reddish-pink colored crinoid stems that are embedded in the floor. There is a low, wide room at the end of Red Crawl that measures approximately 30' x 50', varying in height between two and four feet high. This is where the cave starts to get really interesting. The floor drops off quickly and the ceiling opens up. This passage reaches 40-50' tall in some places! Heading North from the end of the room, you climb down over more breakdown, which chokes the passage shut after a few yards. At the bottom of the breakdown, I'd guess that you would be about 35 feet below the entrance. At this point there is a 10' drop into what looks like a good size streambed. We didn't follow this lead, as it will require rigging to drop.

While Cat studied the fossils in Red Crawl, I wandered down some of the side passages. As I moved toward the South end of the room, I discovered a maze rooms and domes. At the bottom of one of them, there is a rocky slope that appears to empty into the stream passage we had passed earlier.

This seemed intriguing and I wanted to find out if my hunch was true. However, I decided not to take the risk, given the high probability of rain and possible flooding. Proceeding west in this passage, I came upon yet another dome, with a tight passage that continued on in the westerly direction. I could only slide a few feet into this passage. I found that I couldn't make it any further, but I thought Cat could -- so I sent her in to the hole. She didn't get very far either. While Cat continued to push this lead, I poked my nose into another passage that seemed to head out in the same direction. I made it in to the slot a couple of body lengths, before I heard Cat's voice telling me to come back. Upon exiting, I found her pointing to a pool of water that just ten minutes before had been still, but was now rippling and beginning to spill over into the other pools below it. We decided that this might be a good time to make our exit. It was raining pretty hard when we came out the entrance of Lower Owl Cave. I walked up to Upper

Owl Cave to take some entrance photos for Bill, before we headed back to the car.

Once we reached the vehicles, we took a minute to grab a bite to eat before going up to Stream Cave, where we had agreed to meet Bill and Katie. As it turns out, we must have left the vehicles just minutes before the other group returned. We had taken different routes, and must have passed each other without knowing it. In order to cool off and, of course, to find Bill and Katie, Cat and I entered Stream Cave. We spent about 45 minutes in the cave before we decided that we should probably head back. We had called for them a couple of times inside the cave, but heard no replies. Cat took some photos in the Phallic Farm and in the passage leading back to the last Canyon Crossing. At the last jump, Cat hesitated and decided she needed to take a rest first. As she sat down she noticed some really funky mold to her left. She said it looked like a Chia Pet that had swallowed bleach. I had to see this. She was right, it did -- this led to more photos.

Bill had indicated to the landowner that we would probably wrap up our trips by 8 p.m. If we didn't get a move on it, we wouldn't reach the cars until that time. As we hustled back to the meet point, we noticed several other very interesting critters along the way, stopping occasionally to get a photo or two. The rain didn't seem to deter their activities any either.

Upon our return, we found Katie and Doc milling about. Bill had gone back up the trail to look for us. I took off after Bill to bring him back while Katie, Doc and Cat waited. The drive back to the field house seemed long that night. We were hungry and tired and thirsty and filthy. After cleaning up a bit we had a good dinner of baked chicken and pasta, accompanied by several varieties of liquid refreshments. After dinner we played a long game of Uno before heading off to bed.

The truth about Owl Caves -- they are definitely worthy of surveying. We think they might tie into Redmond Creek Cave. Hey Bill, wouldn't that be great?

## Redmond Creek Update

By Bill Walden

The landowner, Mr. Koger, has experienced several thefts from his property since the beginning of the year. Because of this the property is now gated and locked. Mr. Koger wants us to call ahead to let him know when we are working on the caves.

Please coordinate all Redmond trips through me.

Mr. Koger has built a new dam in the entrance of Stream Cave, removed the entrance breakdown, and run a pipeline a full 2 miles across his farm. The open end of the pipeline is slowly filling his new pond in front of his cabin. Redmond Creek has not seen any rain since February according to Mr. Koger.

Kevin Toepke and Cat Whitney visited Lower Owl Cave

Saturday. It appears that Kevin's April Fool's story may come partially true. They discovered about 1000 feet of cave. Where they turned around the ceiling was about 40 feet high and the passage was going strong. The passage is heading northwest. Because of the threat of thunderstorms, they didn't survey nor linger too long. The cave is a floodier! Upper Owl Cave is in the Bangor lime. The two are typical of Redmond Creek. A stream flows from Upper Owl Cave and into Lower Owl Cave. Saturday, Upper Owl Cave had a very strong breeze rushing out the entrance. These two caves need to be surveyed. While Upper Owl Cave can probably be surveyed at any time, Lower Owl Cave should be surveyed only when there is zero chance of rain.



### Stream Cave Entrance



Photo by Bill Walden

While Cat and Kevin were scooping, Katie, Doc Erisman, and I were photographing the various entrances and entrance areas of Redmond Creek. Because thunderstorms with possible heavy rain were forecast, we didn't dare venture far into Redmond Creek Cave proper. Katie satisfied herself by taking some photos of the fossils just below Sand Hill. Entrances photographed include: Redmond Creek Cave - primary and secondary entrances, Trash Cave - which I think I'll rename Hillside Cave, Southend Cave, Joint Cave, Stream Cave, East Side Cave, and Trash Pit. Entrances to be photographed include: Upper and Lower Owl Caves, the cave entrances of Lucky Camp Hollow, several entrances on the east side of Redmond Sink, the overflow resurgence (sorry Ralph, final swallow hole), and the paleoinsurgence (Saltpetre Cave).

Randy Paylor tells me that Redmond Creek is the biggest sinkhole in all of Kentucky! Be sure to attend Randy's presentation, Karst Map, at the Convention Monday morning in the Auditorium following the KSS session in the Auditorium. Why not just plan to spend Monday in the auditorium. The schedule for the auditorium on Monday is: 8:00 Opening Ceremony, 8:30 KSS, 10:00 Karst Map, 2:00 US Exploration.

Katie and I will be doing a session on Redmond Creek. That's why the picture taking Saturday.

Oh yeah, Doc dug into a new cave adjacent to Stream Cave. How about that! It is probably related to joint development as part of Joint and Stream Caves. Doc left a trail of headlamp parts and equipment behind as he exited. I had to crawl in to retrieve his stuff. The next week at Jugornot, Pat Erisman said that Doc is missing his carbide lamp. Now it is worth returning to this little cave and checking it out further.



### The Pipeline

Photo by Bill Walden

With the sounds of thunderstorms all around us, the raindrops hitting my dust covered Blazer indicated a rain density of 5 large drops per square foot! What a mess! Big round mud spots. That was it!

Let's survey, got lots to do. Thanks to Kevin and Cat, now even more!



## The 2001 NSS Convention

The 2001 NSS Convention is in our backyard this summer – right next to the county where the COG cavers do most of their caving. There are many events but Monday will be Cumberland Plateau & Kentucky day in the auditorium. Monday kicks off with the opening ceremony in the auditorium followed by an open meeting of the Kentucky Speleological Society, and KarstMap (this should be fascinating) in the morning and US Exploration headed by Lee Florea in the afternoon. Presentations in the US Exploration session include: Blackhouse Mountain by Louis Simpson, Redmond Creek by Bill and Katie Walden, the Farmer Cave System by Steve Aspery and Darrell Adkins, and Jugornot Cave by Lee Florea. What a line up! The COG has worked on all these caves!

The Great Saltpetre Preserve Committee has been working overtime to prepare a really nice camping area.



**Preparing the Road to the Driveway to the back Campground**

Photos above and right by Lacie Braley

The convention campground is at the Great Saltpetre Preserve. There is plenty of camping area along the creek. Many of you are familiar with the old campground. Well, building a drive downstream from the shelter house has allowed the campground to be extended tremendously. Lacie's photos show the preparation of building the raised drive. Large concrete barriers are positioned along the creek. Gravel and rock fill the area between the barriers and the hillside to form a dry road.

Great Saltpetre Preserve has about 360 acres. Crooked Creek winds through the preserve and the preserve has several caves



including the Great Saltpetre Cave (GSP) on the property. Hiking trails are being groomed for the convention. Great Saltpetre Cave will have events in the cave everyday. This is the first NSS Convention to be partly held in a cave!

Volunteers are needed to help with this convention. Please visit the convention WEB site at [www.nss2001.com](http://www.nss2001.com) to view the volunteer list. Your help is needed. Please come and help make this one of the best NSS Conventions ever!

This is a **CHEAP** week long vacation. Those of us on the convention staff are working hard. Do Come. You will have fun. You will learn new things. You will have the best opportunity to buy from cave equipment vendors.

**Y'all come to the 2001 NSS Convention at Great Saltpetre Cave and have a great time!**



# Jugornot Update

## And other stuff

By Bill Walden

May 26<sup>th</sup> I awoke at 4:15 a.m. to drive down to Pulaski County, Kentucky to meet Lee Florea at the Eastway Market and Gas Station for breakfast. They have a fairly good breakfast special for \$3.50 that includes two eggs, meat (I had sausage), home fries, toast and coffee. Not a bad deal with plenty of grease to energize one for a day of caving.

I arrived early and had just about finished eating by the time Lee arrived. I had expected several other cavers to be with Lee but he was alone and no one else showed up. The two of us decided to continue the survey which Jim Currens, Lacie Braley and I had working on in early May. We drove over to the cave. Lee went to the owner's house to let him know that we would be in the cave for the day. The owner was not home.

As we were getting ready a pickup truck arrived. It was Greg, Pat and Doc Erisman. We learned that Doc had lost his carbide lamp the previous weekend at Redmond. I have a good idea where it might be. It should be safe. We decided that the Erismans should check up stream partly because it needs to be done and partly because Doc would not be able to negotiate the canyons.

We rigged the entrance with the most valuable of vertical aids – an extension ladder. That is really easier and faster than fooling around rigging rope and repelling into the cave. Well, we still used a rope for a safety line and body rappelled to the ledge – quick and easy and for the conditions, safe. I set the ladder and climbed down. I reached for my lamp cord to plug it into my battery. No battery! So, back up the ladder and a short hike back to my vehicle.

Rather than climb at station Z33 we continued down the stream passage until “it looked right” for climbing to the upper level to continue the survey. I picked a pretty good point and quickly recognized where we were. We followed the path made earlier through the fragile, formation lined passage to the last survey station.

We surveyed to the dome discovered on the previous trip and on past the breakdown through a tight area and into new virgin passage. For the most part it is “walking” canyon. Lee and I came on to several high domes, two of which my bright headlight could not penetrate the gloom to the top! At one point I noted a lead going down and decided to check it out. “Lee, you’ve got to see this!” I exclaimed. A resounding echo followed. I found myself at the base of a decorated dome pit with a canyon leading off. I followed the canyon and soon realized this was the passage

that Lacie, Cat and I had surveyed back in February. The dome is Luxury Dome.

Lee joined me and confirmed what I had realized.

We continued our survey. We got a place that made me appreciate Lacie's earlier fears of crossing a void. The ledges here are fragile and break away as one tried to use them for hand and foot holds. The sharp rock left more than a few scratches on my legs and ankles. I balked at crossing this void with the fragile ledges. Lee talked me across and I safely reached the other side.

The survey continued in easy passage. The floor here is soil that is nearly saturated with moisture, it is soft, and sticky, and showed no previous footprints. After several more shots we turned around. It was time to leave.

We returned to the connection to Luxury Dome. I choose a lower route to avoid the fragile crossing while Lee braved the ledges. We tried our survey into the previous survey at Luxury dome in about 5 short shots. We rested, ate, drank some water and Lee changed carbide. The trip out was totally uneventful except for a long eared bat that Lee spotted. We admired the lovely critter till it flew off. It would be a good evening for feeding.

We drove to Somerset through Pumpkin Hollow and I recognized the features that I was familiar with 15 years ago when the C.O.G. searched for a way under that hollow. We never did find a way under it.

We enjoyed diner at an Oriental restaurant near the old Wal-Mart store. From there we drove to Squalid Manor to spend the night. Cat and Kevin were already there. We enjoyed some sparkling barley wine and I soon crashed. Lee was gone by morning. He had left Squalid for the comfort of his parents' house. He returned about 8 a.m. We had a breakfast of bagels and fruit then departed for Rockcastle County. Lee led us across 1249 past a couple caves. We stopped at one spring cave and admired the many, many fossils inside. I had never been across via that route and it was definitely more interesting than 461.

The next stop was Sinks of the Roundstone Cave. I had never been there. I was impressed but it has already been surveyed. Big, big passage ways and a very fun cave! Following the “tour” we poked around then went on to Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve for lunch. I enjoyed a peanut butter and banana sandwich with a beer for lunch. Next we toured the Great Saltpetre Cave itself. Cat had never been in the cave so she really enjoyed it.



The NSS 2001 Convention Planning meeting was at 6 p.m. and that was over by 9. Everyone vanished. Lacie Braley discovered that Lee had forgotten his notebook computer and good flashlight. I put them in my car for safekeeping. After a little socializing, I sacked out in the back of the Blazer.

After showering and packing up I left GSP and went to Jeans for breakfast. I ate with several other cavers. We parted and I took off for Lexington to return Lee's computer. I thought briefly of shipping it to him but realized he would need it for work. I couldn't remember his address but was confident that I could retrace the path to his house. On arriving at the campus area I was horrified to find Rose Street closed. From Rose I knew the way. Having to take a detour totally confused me. I picked up a map. I remembered that Lee's street had the word "west" in it and that it was very close to campus. I found his house easily and returned the computer and flashlight.

On getting home I realized Lee wasn't the only absent minded caver, for I had left my green water tank at GSP!

## Jugornot – Lee's Version

By Lee Florea

Bill Walden and I surveyed in Jugornot last weekend (5/26/01). We continued from the end of the EB survey (prior work of Bill Walden, Jim Currens, and Lacie Braley) at station 20 and placed another 27 stations. The passage altered to reflect our emergence from underneath the cap rock into Pumpkin Hollow. After finishing a few stations and completing the section called "The Fragile" (Nine Inch Nails fans will appreciate the reference), we encountered the first dome of the day. This dome (the Offset Dome) trends along the lineament direction, and is offset approximately 15 feet above the floor. The dome rises an unknown distance above this point.

From here the passage continues over and around breakdown to a constriction. I forged ahead toward the sound of falling water and emerged into void! This void ended up being another dome. This one is a big folk! The floor is elliptical with longer dimension being approximately 35 feet. The height is unclear. With Bill's light we could make out the top, but it was a vague boundary between open space and rock. I will surmise that we are speaking of near 100 feet, perhaps taller. I have named the dome

McMonigle Dome to honor the man who took me into this cave the first time and told me that it connects to Pumpkin Hollow. He predicted that there was much cave yet to be found here. His prediction, like many others he made, is now coming true.

The passage continued beyond this point as a mud-slicked canyon. Dropping to the floor at this point tied the EB survey into the YA survey at Luxury Dome. Bill and I pushed on into yet another dome. This one is also tall, but cylindrical. The EB survey enters and leaves from a ledge (thus the name Overlook Dome). We placed another 4 stations beyond this point and stopped in going, virgin passage.

Upon exiting the cave (made much easier via the Luxury Dome connection) and speaking with the landowner, we discovered that he intends to run cattle later in the sinkhole field where the entrance is located and build a pond in the east fork of the valley upstream of the entrance. I offered our services to help him construct fencing around the entrance area to help reduce bovine casualties. I also told him that we would focus our efforts in the upstream canyons so that we could help him properly locate his pond so that it does not leak or collapse into underlying passage. From the description, I think it will be above the contact with the Pennington, so the cave should be safe.

Current stats for Jugornot: Added - 675 feet, Length - 10,416 feet, Depth - 241 feet

## July Meeting

Dale Andreatta is hosting a climbing practice, potluck and meeting at his new house July 14<sup>th</sup>.

Schedule: Climbing Practice 3:00 p.m.  
Potluck dinner 5:30 or 6:00 p.m.  
Informal COG meeting at 7:00 p.m.

### Directions:

From I-270 and Cleveland Avenue, take Cleveland Avenue south for ½ mile, turn right at the light on to Laurelwood go about 100 yards then left on to Hapsted and go about 300 yards turn right on to Woodmoor. Dale is at 6041 Woodmoor, last house on left.

## May Minutes

By Katie Walden

Karen Walden read the minutes from the April meeting.

Treasurer's report: \$778.83

Squeaks report: May squeaks will be late. Bill Walden will do June Squeaks but maybe not July.

Kentucky Speleological Society: Applications are still not available because of dues discussions.

New business: NSS convention

Bill Walden will be presenting Redmond Creek cave at US Exploration session.

Lee will be presenting Jugornot.

Bill asks someone to present Farmer's system.

### Trip Reports:

Dale, Pete, Kevin, Cat, and Eric helped with the Mammoth cave restoration. They pulled out 54' of bridge – about five tons of wood, and stayed at the Maple Springs Research center. Dale said that a cameraman from CNN was there and shot 8 hours of footage showing how much work volunteers do.

Bill, Katie, and Lee went to Haynes Cemetery Cave near Jugornot and surveyed it. It lines up with Coral Cave and Jugornot. The landowner had told Lee about a lower lead which used to go to the river but has since collapsed.