

**CENTRAL OHIO GROTTO  
SQUEAKS  
JUNE 1987**

**Meeting Notices**

JUNE 13, 1987 -- The June meeting will be hosted by Chuck Daehnke at his farm on Saturday June 13th. Plan to arrive in the afternoon for canoeing down Mill Creek and the Scioto River. Please bring your canoes. The business meeting will start at 8:00 pm. See the map for directions.

July 10, 1987 -- The July meeting will be hosted by Bill and Karen Walden at their home. Please mark your calender and plan to attend.

Bill and Karen Walden  
1672 South Galena Road  
Galena, Ohio 43021  
614-965-2942

**Karst Encounters III**

The Louisville Grotto will host Karst Encounters III this year the second weekend after Labor Day weekend, September 18, 19, & 20. This is now the official Ohio Valley Region event and will have a Board meeting and Boone Karst Conservation Task Force coordinator's meeting during the weekend.

This will undoubtedly be the best yet, with many more cave locations and more social activities planned. The weather should still be warm and canoeing enjoyable.

Mark your calendars now for the fall Ohio Valley Region event. See your Boone Karst CTF Coordinator for details. Pre-registration forms will be mailed mid-June with details.

**Kim Spielman**

The Daniel Boone National Forest is losing a very talented biologist - Kim Spielman - July 1st. Those of us who know Kim, feel that sense of loss, but congradulate her in her promotion to a supervisory position in a Ranger District in Hot Springs Arkansas.

On Saturday, June 20 a caving "going away" event will be held in Kim's honor. It will start with cave trips leaving the cabin at 9:00 AM and conclude with a barbeque (BYO fixins, grille furnished) social evening, about 7 PM. Everyone is invited - cavers, Forest Service and family.

Come and help us say Good Bye to Kim.

**Mike Gray**

This past week Mike Gray was seriously injured in a car accident near Frankfort, Kentucky. Apparently Mike fell asleep at the wheel and smashed his car into a boulder. He has six broken ribs, broken ankle, and a severely smashed right foot.

As of Saturday, June 6th, Mike was out of intensive care at Frankfort's King's Daughter Hospital. By the time you receive this Squeaks Mike may have been moved to a hospital in Dayton, Ohio.

I'll keep in touch with Andy Franklin, who called me with this bad news. Please feel free to call either Andy or me, Bill Walden, for updates on

Mike's condition.

We all wish Mike a speedy recovery.

## NEWS

Tom Gilleland has been pushing Dread Pool in Minton Hollow. It goes and goes big. The water is reported to be clear enough to take pictures. Hopefully Ron will have a report for us at this month's meeting.

## Speleofest 1987

by Paul Unger

On Monday, Memorial Day, we of the COG who attended felt sadness, like the last day of an NSS convention. We had to go home. This year's Speleofest was fantastic, with lots of great caves, plenty of socializing, and informative events.

Friday night, we were nearly kicked out of the campground for firing the Crack of Dawn. During daylight on the following days, Mike Gray and Don Conover succeeded in getting 5 shots per charge, thanks to a carbide grinder (electric Kroger coffee grinder Mike purchased for \$10 at a surplus store in Columbus on his way down) and an ear irrigation syringe (Mike talked an ear doctor out of!)

Saturday, the Forest Service participated in our first coordinator's meeting after becoming a Conservation Task Force. Afterward we all went caving and finished the evening with a Blue Grass band, slide presentation and more socializing.

Sunday, Kim Spielman led an identification trip to Pine Hill Entrance, followed by a trip into the cave where we met at least fifty other cavers. We returned for showers (Hot! Clear! Good Water Pressure! Clean Rest Rooms!) Aa banquet, a humorous slide program, and more socializing.

Those of you who didn't go screwed up - your loss! This was a good time and we can only hope that the next Speleofest will be organized as good and have such a good site and facility. You who didn't go, however, didn't experience the sorrow of leaving, as we did.

## Welcome New Cavers

Bud and Carol Rupe  
1113 Ansel Drive  
Kettering, Ohio 45419  
513-299-3378

Bud and a friend, Randy, were invited by Ron Erisman to go caving and stay at Paul Unger's cabin. Bud quickly became very enthusiastic caver.

## TRIP REPORTS

### The Cavern

or

How I lost My Naivete About Spelunking

by Bill Hunnicutt

"Normal" people enjoy fresh air, sunshine, and the wide open spaces. At least I thought so.

That was until I was cordially invited to explore the realm of Minton

Hollow Cave by my new neighbors, Bill, Karen, and Katie Walden. I am still unsure about the actual enticement they used - could it have been their glowing description of "Paul's Cabin," or the repeated statements about mud, water and total darkness, or perhaps the comments about the variety of people one finds in the Central Ohio Grotto of the NSS? I only know that I was, and am impressed with the Waldens, and those of their Spelunking friends I have been privileged to meet.

In any case - we (the Waldens and I) arrived at "Paul's Cabin" (perhaps Paul is trying to preserve a bit of Early American plumbing) at about 1:30 in the morning. It was still in the 80's with high humidity, and I wasn't able to get to sleep until about 4. But at 6:30, we were all up and raring to go. We joined some others interested in exploring the dark recesses of Minton Hollow, had breakfast, and after a chat with the Crocketts (I was told that they are descendants of Davey), prepared to enter the cave.

I wasn't ready for the long walk in 90 degree heat with all of the paraphernalia I had acquired for my Assault on Minton. We finally arrived at the cool entrance. After a final check of equipment, and gathering up straggling Cavers, we entered. I was one of those trips, you know, where you want to see everything at once.

Well, I really enjoyed my tour. From the crawlway, to the wide open passages, with the helectites, stalactites, stalagmites, flowstone, bacon rind, and more rocks and boulders than I care to think about. I was especially amazed at the abundance of life underground. I saw cave fish, a salamander, cave crayfish, surface crayfish, pipistrelle bats (some just beginning to come out of hibernation, and still wet with condensation from their lowered body temperature) crickets, and beetles. Bill Walden even was privileged to be bitten by a mosquito at Dread Pool, thus putting to rest all of the abstract theories about mosquitoes not being very far back in a cave, and if so they would be dormant.

After the fourth hour, while we were exploring way beyond Dread Pool, I began to feel fatigued. I kept up the pace for the next hour, but then had to tell our fearless, and seemingly inexhaustible leader, that it was time for me to return to the surface. After some remarks about what lies ahead, we made our way back to the SUN.

The next day, we made another assault on the cave from the Garbage Pit entrance (appropriately named). This gave me yet another viewpoint to caving, owing to the different nature of this area of the cave system. I was privately pleased that my worn out 43 year old body was able to keep up with most of the folks, and I was especially glad that a 26 year old young hero decided not to enter the second day.

My hat is off to Cavers! I have come through safely, and ... I SHALL RETURN !!!

## **Grotto Information**

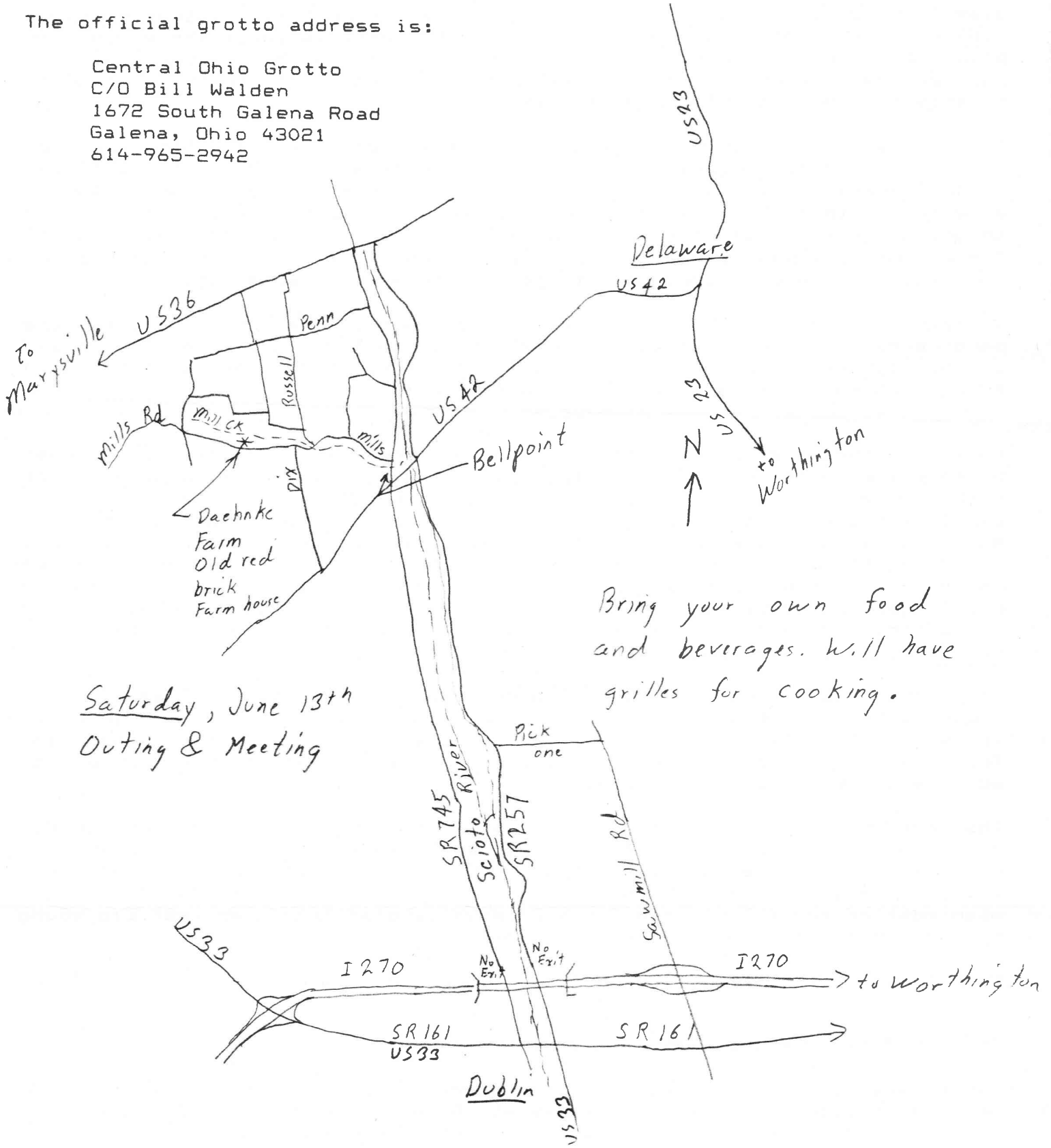
The Central Ohio Grotto meets the second Friday of each month or the Saturday following the second Friday at 8:00 PM. Meeting notices are given in the Squeaks. Please call any officer for meeting information or caving trips.

COG officers are:

Clovis Dawson	Chairman	614-262-2073
Nancy Mahoney	Secretary	614-866-6767
Karen Walden	Treasurer	614-965-2942

The official grotto address is:

Central Ohio Grotto  
C/O Bill Walden  
1672 South Galena Road  
Galena, Ohio 43021  
614-965-2942



Bring your own food  
and beverages. Will have  
grilles for cooking.

Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>  
Outing & Meeting

Columbus