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February

2004



Above – The Great Redmond Creek Sink from the Koger’s Front Porch

Below – Water Flowing From the Entrance Of Redmond Creek Cave



THE CENTRAL OHIO GROTTO (COG)

The Central Ohio Grotto (COG) of the National Speleological Society meets at 7:00 p.m. at the Worthington Presbyterian Church the fourth Tuesday 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 Mailing Address: C/O Bill Walden, 1672 South Galena Road, Galena, OH 43021 740-965-2942

Email: wwalden@columbus.rr.com

COG WEB page: www.tuningoracle.com/cog

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

Grotto Officers	Name	Telephone
Chairman	Lacie Braley	614-895-1732
Vice Chair	Dale Andreatta	614-890-3269
Secretary	Bruce Warthman	614-459-8345
Treasurer	Karen Walden	740-965-2942
Exec. Committee	Darrell Adkins	740-392-6382
Exec. Committee	Bill Walden	740-965-2942
Exec. Committee	Cat Whitney	614-851-6933
Exec. Committee	Joe Gibson	614-855-7948

Squeaks Editor- Bill Walden - wwalden@columbus.rr.com

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Youth Committee Chair-Roland Snow-
snowpeople@ameritech.net

List Server – cog@ontosystems.com

The C.O.G. Squeaks

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

The C.O.G. Squeaks is mailed to dues paying members and to grottos with which the COG exchanges newsletters. The C.O.G. Squeaks is also available by E-mail as an Adobe Acrobat file (PDF) or Word Document. Please notify Bill Walden or Andy Franklin if you would like a file of the Squeaks to reprint. The Squeaks is available as a PDF at:

<http://www.tuningoracle.com/cog>:

NSS organizations have permission to reprint material from the C.O.G. Squeaks so long as the author and Squeaks are given credit, unless otherwise stated.

KARST CALENDAR

- Feb. 24, 2004 COG Meeting
- Feb 28, 2004 Ohio Valley Region Meeting (Tentative). Check with John Cole for details. koshka@iglou.com
- Mar . 23, 2004 COG Meeting
- Apr 27, 2004 COG Meeting
- May 28-31, 2004 Speleofest at Camp Carlson, Fort Knox-Meade County, Kentucky. Check the Louisville Grotto Website for details and on page 4.
www.caves.org/grotto/louisvillegrotto/
- July 12-16, 2004 NSS Convention in Marquette, Michigan. For registration go to www.nss2004.com.
- Aug 20-22, 2004 Wormfest in Indiana. Watch for details or check the DUG Website: <http://www.dugcaves.com/>

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What happens to really (*REALLY*) old caves?

By Katie Walden

For my master's thesis, I am studying a Precambrian paleosol (soil that has turned into a rock). This paleosol is about 2.5 billion years old. It formed on a paleokarst terrain. In this terrain, there were some caves. Some of them have collapsed, which may be expected for caves that old. Others have been filled with the mineral fluorite.

**The COG Meeting night is the 4th
Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm.**

The Winter Floods of 2004 Continue

Text By Kevin Toepke — Photos by Bill Walden

It was all Jen's fault. She was the one that picked the weekend. And she claims that the rain gods hate her. So, therefore, it is her fault that southern Kentucky got 5 inches of rain that Thursday.

Some background is required here. I first met Jen at the 2003 NSS Convention where she gave a presentation on her research on crayfish. Near the end of her talk, she asked if anyone knew of caves that had crayfish. After her talk, I approached her saying that I knew of a cave with lots of crayfish. Later that year she joined me in Jugornot Cave for some biological sampling and some surveying.

In future discussions, she mentioned that she was hunting down the species line – which appeared to follow the KY and TN border, with one species north of the border and one south. I mentioned that I knew of a cave just a couple miles north of the TN border that had crayfish.

Jen chose the first weekend in February as her weekend of choice to visit Redmond. I felt that would be early enough in the winter that the threat of rain was small enough. Boy, was I wrong.

The week before, Bill Walden and I were discussing the possibility of getting into Redmond. Bill was right – there was way too much water to get in the cave.

Saturday morning, after breakfast in Bronson we headed to the cave. Along the way, Bill and I were constantly commenting on how much water there was on the surface – often enough to annoy Jen a little bit. That just caused us to say it a few more times.

As we are approaching Kay's place, we notice that the sinkhole is flooded higher than we've ever seen it. In fact, the gate to the sinkhole was almost completely under water. Once we get to the main gate, we notice that we can't take the road/stream bed to the cave as its flooded under many feet of water. So, Bill gets the key and we take the high road to the cabin where we wind up parking.



Note nearly submerged gate

After changing into our caving clothes we were off to the cave.

It was a first time for all of us. We all saw water coming out of the main entrance of Redmond. So much for heading to the East Canyons to capture crayfish there. So we immediately continued to Stream Cave – trying to avoid getting our feet wet along the way.



Water coming from the entrance of Redmond Creek Cave

We got to Stream Cave okay with only Jen getting her feet totally wet. Just inside the entrance to Stream Cave we took some time to take off layers of clothing, take pictures and warm up a little.



Jen in Stream Cave entrance

As we were frequently stopping to check all of the pools for crayfish, it took a good amount of time to get to where the side stream came in. But, before we got there, we had to walk in a nearly knee deep rushing river for about a hundred feet.



Kevin and Jen climbing out of the rushing water in Stream Cave



"Here Crayfish, come little crayfish!"

Jen Buhay looking for crayfish near the Oasis in Sloans

Just inside the side passage, Jen found her first crayfish. She caught a total of 4 cave crayfish and at least 2 surface crayfish in Stream Cave. I caught my first cave crayfish ever – and proceeded to convince him that he didn't need one of his claws. It took me 3 tries to catch him, but I did it.

The trip out and the walk back were chilly. Jen managed to get both of her feet warm, and I got one warm, both of Bill's feet were still cold when we got back to the Cabin. As we were walking towards the dam, we see Kay walking towards his herd. Quick introductions and a short conversation followed before Kay invited us into his cabin so Bill could show off the pictures.

It was there that we learned that the water had receded many feet since Friday and that a sinkhole had opened up at the edge of his pond. (Bill says it's big enough for him to enter and wants to go back to check it out before Kay plugs it up for his pond.)

That about did it for Saturday.

Sunday morning we had breakfast at the motel and then headed out to Sloan's Valley to get some samples there. It took a while, but we did get Jen 3 samples before taking some time to take pictures at The Oasis. On the way out, we tried to get pictures near the entrance, but equipment malfunctions and fog prevented us from getting good pictures.

After a second meal at Ruby Tuesdays, Bill and I were off!

The next planned crayfish expedition is in August. Hopefully Redmond will be dry enough to get into. Anyone know of any caves in the area closer to the border (either side) that has crayfish?

[Yes, Blowing Cave in Wayne County. It crosses the border! – Ed]



The Oasis in Sloans



Jen holding a baby crayfish

Meeting Night Vote Set For March

By Lacie Braley COG Chair

It was decided at the January 2004 COG meeting to vote once again on the COG meeting night. Last January we began meeting on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7pm with plans to review the decision after a year or so. The time has come.

At the March COG meeting, we will vote on whether to keep meeting on Tuesdays or to return to Friday night meetings. There will be a ballot available in the March Squeaks for mail-in votes also.

Some Pros and Cons to Consider

By Bill Walden

Pro – Keep the meeting on the 4th Tuesday

Many of us go caving on the weekend and our caving area is to far south to drive following a meeting.

The 7 P.M. meeting time is early enough to go for pizza following the meeting.

Con – Move the Meeting back to the 2nd Friday

Members who live out of town find it hard to arrive in time for Tuesday meetings and will get home late.

Those who travel for their job will miss Tuesday meetings.

Speleofest 2004

Memorial Day Weekend

May 28th, 29th, 30th and 31st

Camp Carlson, Fort Knox-Meade County, Kentucky

Kentucky is known for many things, and caves are high on the list. At the 33rd annual Speleofest 2004, you'll have the opportunity to experience some of the world's most remarkable caves. Unique cave trips, chosen by those with local caving knowledge and experience, will challenge and inform you while you're having fun!!

For many decades, The Louisville Grotto has been exploring the caves featured at this year's Speleofest 2004. It isn't any surprise that Camp Carlson is an all-time favorite location for SPELEOFEST!! In addition to being located near some of the best caving in the world, the facilities offer everything you could want in a campground – tent camping, showers, picnic area, playgrounds, 25-acre lake, and even RV sites. (RV sites are only available through Camp Carlson, for reservations call (502) 624-4836. You must make RV arrangements with them directly, not through the Speleofest Committee. Space is limited, so call early).

At Speleofest 2004, you'll explore the past, look to the future, and get a taste of adventure found only in Kentucky's karst land. Come and let us share our cave secrets with you, you'll soon realize what makes this karst region so spectacular. It's sure to be a weekend of scenic splendor and exciting exploration you don't want to miss. Send in your pre-registration form now!!

Schedule of Events are To Be Decided. Check our website often for updates as we get closer to the 33rd annual Speleofest. This year's Speleofest Co-Chair's are Larry Martin and Shelly Wolf. Please contact them with any questions you may have:

Larry Martin (Kentucky) 502-533-1436
caverlarry@h...

Shelly Wolf (Indiana) 317-634-0454 cavewolf@h...

****PLEASENOTE****

As per Camp Carlson's rules and regulations-NO PETS WILL BE ALLOWED-NO EXCEPTIONS. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

Registration opens on Friday, May 28th. Anyone arriving on Thursday for Speleofest will pay an additional \$10.00 charge per person. (Only exceptions are Staff and Vendors)

To pre-register, visit our website for a printable registration form, or to pre-register using paypal:

<http://www.caves.org/grotto/louisvillegrotto/>

2004 NSS CONVENTION



The 2004 NSS Convention will be held July 12-16, 2004, in Marquette, Michigan. Marquette is a modern college town on the picturesque shores of Lake Superior in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The sessions will be held on the campus of Northern Michigan University, and camping will be at the spacious Marquette County Fairgrounds.

Please fill out a separate registration form for each person attending Convention.

Accompaniers

In an effort to simplify registration, and to ensure that each person attending Convention has his or her individual needs met, the accompanier category has been eliminated. Please fill out a registration form for each person attending Convention. To maintain a pricing structure consistent with traditional accompaniers, we have made the guidebook optional with each registration. If you do not choose the guidebook (and why wouldn't you?) as part of registration, please select the "No Guidebook" option, and subtract the dollar amount accordingly.

Geology Field Trip - Hard Rock Sashay

The Geology Field Trip will leave the Marquette County Fairgrounds at 08:00 a.m. Sunday, July 11, 2004 on a modern air-conditioned coach. The first stop is at The Michigan Mining Industry Museum. The group will be welcomed by the Museum's Director, and a brief overview of the physical and economic geography of the area will be presented. Time will be allowed for visitation of the exhibits. We will then travel to Jasper Knob where a climb will take us to the summit of what is purported to be the "world largest gemstone," but is actually a large hill composed of a classic banded iron formation. After lunch the next stop is the Cliffs Shaft head frames where the group will tour the above ground facilities of the Cleveland Cliffs mining facilities. A large mineral collection is also displayed. The remaining stops will allow us to see sites that will take us from the Archaen Era through the Proterozoic, and into the Cambrian. We will return to the Fairgrounds in time for dinner.

Workshops

Vertical Workshop

The vertical workshop is designed to provide students with a basic overview of climbing equipment, techniques, and safety considerations for American style Single Rope Techniques. Students experience hands on sessions on knot tying, belaying, rappelling (with a rack and a bobbin,) and several ascending systems (Gibbs, Mitchell, Frog, and Prusik knot systems.) This intense workshop will give the novice climber good exposure to different systems but is not intended as a complete training course. Students will have the opportunity to use different systems in a controlled environment under instructor supervision. All participants in the Vertical Workshop need to bring a helmet, seat harness and gloves. To obtain more information, contact Terry Clark at terjen@evansville.net.

Project Underground

Project Underground is a karst education program created to help young people understand the importance of our karst resources. A variety of hands on and fun lessons lead the student to a greater appreciation of the world hidden beneath our feet. This workshop will familiarize educators with the Project Underground curriculum and teaching materials, and provide experience in using the program. More information can be obtained from Carol Zokaites at zokaites@usit.net.

Pet Registration

Pets are welcome at Convention 2004. However, if your pet is found to be in violation of the rules (running loose, making excessive noise, sniffing people it shouldn't) it will be "impounded" by our friendly Convention dog catcher, and a fine will be levied to get it back. If you are a responsible pet owner, you needn't fret beyond this paragraph. More details are available at www.nss2004.com, or in the additional information you will receive if you register a pet.

RV Camping

There is a limited number of RV spaces available. The RV spaces are small (think county fair camping,) but they do have electricity and water. Wastewater dump facilities are not available at the fairgrounds, but may be available for a fee at other local campgrounds. A waiting list for RV spaces will be maintained. Convention guests are welcome to park their RV's in other parts of the campground, but no utilities will be available, and noisy electric generators will be sabotaged.

For all the latest news on the 2004 NSS Convention, please visit www.nss2004.com.

Make checks payable to 2004 NSS Convention.

Please mail registrations to:

Kathy Welling
8679 S State Road 243
Cloverdale, IN 46120

(765) 653-6352 (home)
kathyd@ccrtc.com

NSS Convention, July 12 - 16, 2004

One Registrant per form, Please!!

Please feel free to make as many copies of this form as necessary - one for each person!!

REGISTRANT INFORMATION		
NAME		
ADDRESS		
CITY	STATE OR COUNTRY	ZIP CODE + 4
HOME PHONE	NSS #	DATE OF BIRTH
NAME TO APPEAR ON NAME TAG		
PRIMARY GROUPO OR OTHER AFFILIATION		
E-MAIL ADDRESS		
PET NAME (if any) _____ BREED _____		
EMERGENCY CONTACT		
Name of someone NOT at convention whom we can contact		
NAME		PHONE (Incl. Area code)

METHOD OF PAYMENT																					
(Circle one)																					
VISA	MASTERCARD DISCOVER Check/Money Order																				
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SPECIAL NEEDS	
VEGETARIAN MEALS : HOWDY PARTY FIELD TRIP BANQUET	
OTHER: _____	

	COST	NO.	TOTAL
NSS Member Registration (includes Guidebook)	\$110		
Non-Member Registration (includes Guidebook) *	\$143		
Child, 7 - 16 years (no guidebook)	\$85		
Child, 0-6 years (no guidebook)	FREE		
RV Camping - electric/water hookups (limit of 20 spaces)	\$40		
JSS Registration (weeklong activities for kids)	INCLUDED		
Pet Registration	\$3		
Geology Fieldtrip	\$35		
Project Underground	\$25		
Vertical Workshop	\$25		
T-shirts: SHORT SLEEVE S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____	\$10		
T-shirts: SHORT SLEEVE XXL _____	\$12		
T-shirts: LONG SLEEVE S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____	\$12		
T-shirts: LONG SLEEVE XXL _____	\$14		
Additional Guidebooks (TO BE PICKED UP AT CONVENTION - WILL NOT BE MAILED)	\$10		
Patch	\$5		
Pin	\$5		
IF NO GUIDEBOOK DEDUCT \$10	(\$10)		()
PRE-REGISTRATION LATE FEE (IF POSTMARKED AFTER 5/01/2004)	\$25		
Discount for New NSS Members (coupon must be included)	(\$33)		()
TOTAL ENCLOSED (U.S. FUNDS)			

NOTE: **TENT** CAMPING IS FREE!! (NO HOOKUPS)

If you would like multiple registrations to be charged to a single credit card, please note below.

* Includes membership. If there is a legal reason you cannot be an NSS member please explain below.

REGISTRANT NOTES, COMMENTS, ETC.

OFFICE USE ONLY		
REGISTRATION #	CHECK NUMBER	REGISTRATION DATE/TIME

QUESTIONS??
SEE US AT: WWW.NSS2004.COM
OR CONTACT: KATHYD@CCRTC.COM or 765-653-6352