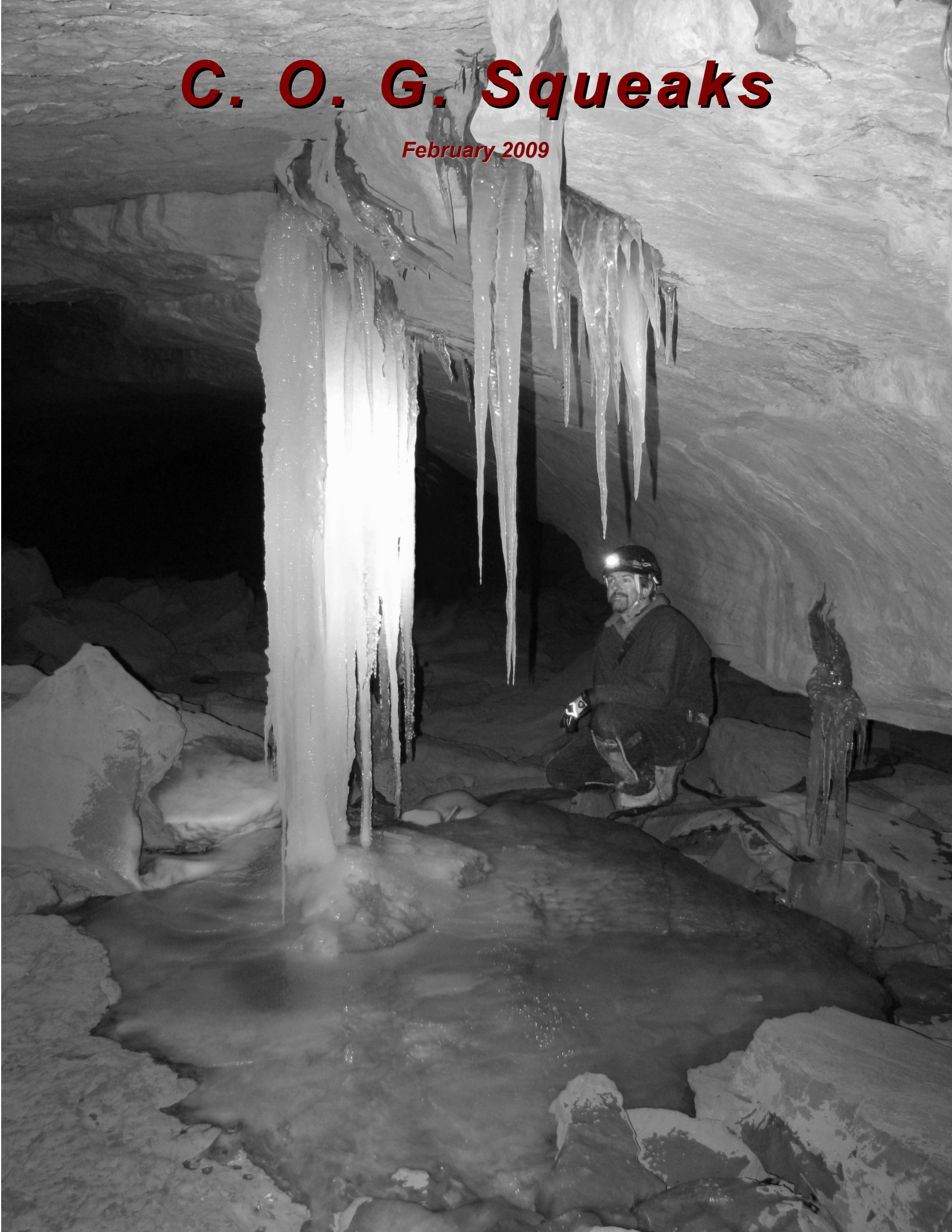


C. O. G. Squeaks

February 2009



THE CENTRAL OHIO GROTTO (COG)

The Central Ohio Grotto (COG) of the National Speleological Society meets at 7:00 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of most months at the Presbyterian Church on the Square in Worthington, Ohio. Please contact a grotto officer to confirm meeting time and place or better subscribe to the COG list server at cog@ontosystems.com by sending an email to cog@ontosystems.com with the subject "subscribe". The meeting site will be announced there and on the Grotto WEB site.

Grotto Mailing Address: C/O Joe Gibson, 6883 Cedarbrook Pl., New Albany, OH 43054-9738 614-855-7948
Email: joegibson6591@sbcglobal.net

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

Grotto Officers Name Telephone

Chairman	Joe Gibson	614-855-7948
Vice Chair	Pat Gibson	740-467-0717
Treasurer	Joe Gibson	614-855-7948
Secretary	Bruce Warthman	614-459-8345
Exec. Committee	Dale Andreatta	614-890-3269
Squeaks Editor	Bill Walden	wdwalden@windstream.net
Webmaster 1	Kevin Toepke	ktoepeke@tuningoracle.com
Webmaster 2	Pat Gibson	patrickrgibson@yahoo.com

Officers for 2009:

Chairman-Joe Gibson
Vice Chair-Pat Gibson
Treasurer-Joe Gibson
Secretary-Bruce Warthman
Exec comm.-Dale Andreatta
2 exec. comm. positions are open.

The C.O.G. Squeaks

No March Squeaks – Look for an expanded April issue, which will include the First of April Section. Please send material for the April Squeaks.

The C.O.G. Squeaks is mailed to dues paying members and to grottoes 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. The Squeaks is produced using Open Office. Please notify Bill Walden, if you would like a file of the Squeaks to reprint. The Squeaks is available as a PDF at:

Website <http://www.centralohiogrotto.com>

List Server cog@ontosystems.com

Please send trip reports, caving articles, cave fiction, cave poetry, and cave photos to Bill Walden for publication.

Bill Walden
882 Old Sawmill Road
Monticello, KY 42633

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 Grotto meeting 7 PM Please plan to attend

Mar. 24 Grotto meeting 7 PM Please plan to attend

Mar 21 & 22 Carter Caves Restoration Camp. Go to: <http://home.zoomnet.net/~jonlewis/ccrg/index.html> for information.

May 22 – 24 Speleofest. Go to the Louisville Grotto home page for information: <http://louisville.caves.org/Speleofest.html>.

July 19 – 26, 2009 The 2009 NSS Convention and the 15th International Congress of Speleology in Kerrville, Texas. Visit the website: www.ics2009.us.

July 26 – 30, 2010 NSS Convention in Essex Junction, Vermont.

From the Chair

Greetings cavers!

I hope everybody is surviving this winter weather. I know things were a mess in KY with all the ice. Your chairman actually went caving last month! My short trip report is in this Squeaks. Last month's meeting was canceled because of the weather. I apologize to anybody that may have showed up and nobody was there!

Our next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 24th at 7pm. Hope to see you there. There has been a lot of emails going around about WNS. Be sure to clean and disinfect your caving gear to try to stop possibly spreading this fungus that is killing so many bats. I don't think it is in KY yet, but is in WV and PA caves and mines, so be careful.

Still no word on the sinkhole clean up for Ohio later this year.

Cave safely everyone and I'll see you underground!

Joe Gibson (COG chair, treasurer, librarian and keeper of the caving gear)

From Your Editor

Help prevent the spread of White Nose Syndrome.

Keep your cave gear **clean!** I wash clothing, gloves, pack, and non-climbing webbing in the washing machine and do a double rinse cycle. I add a cationic-based fabric softener on the second rinse cycle. I spray my boots, helmet, and instrument cases with a Clorox solution. I clean instruments as best I can. Keep instruments cased when not in use. Clean your vertical gear with non-corrosive cleaners. Some cavers use their dishwashers with no soap added. Don't enter a cave with dirty cave gear! Period!

Contents:

Cover photo by Ivan Artiouchine. Ice in Great Rock Sink entrance of Sloans.

Grotto information	Page 2
Karst Calendar	Page 2
From the Chair	Page 2
From Your Editor	Page 2
A Photo Tour of Rabid Fish Cave	Page 3
One less Traffic Light	Page 4
Back Cover White Nose Syndrome Map	

A Photo Tour of Rabid Fish Cave

Pulaski County, Kentucky
Photos by John Agnew February 16, 2009



Rabid Fish Cave Entrance overlooking Buck Creek



Cave Crayfish



Wet Pipistrelle



Rimstone in Rabid Fish Cave

Rabid Fish Cave

Comments by Bill Walden

The Dayton Area Speleological Society (DASS) surveyed Rabid Fish Cave in 1973. The surveyed length is 2700 feet. The cave got its name when some fishermen called out to the cavers, “Watch out for the rabid bats!” The cavers retorted, “You watch out for the rabid fish!”

I first visited this cave last year when Matt Niemiller was looking for cave fish. We didn’t find any cave fish in rabid fish cave but we did

find lots of cave fish in nearby Drowned Rat Cave – also known as the Hail Cave Resurgence. The Drowned Rat entrance is at 690 feet so it can only be entered when Lake Cumberland is below that level.

Monday I visited Rabid Bat Cave with Larry Simpson, John Agnew, and Bob Warner. We toured the cave until the passage became a low belly crawl. The cave is headed toward Drowned Rat Cave and likely connects but it is too low for a human to pass through.

One less Traffic Light when Traveling to Wayne County From Ohio

The partial cloverleaf interchange at the junction of U.S. 27, Ky. 90 and Ky. 1247 in northern Burnside opened shortly after noon Thursday, February 12, 2009.

Stephanie Daffron, public information officer for the Kentucky Department of Highways' District 8, said the traffic control lights at the interchange were removed and the ramps were opened slowly, one at a time. No traffic signals are planned in the vicinity of the interchange, highway department engineers said.

The partial cloverleaf interchange is designed to connect U.S. 27, the new KY 1247 from the interchange through Cedar Grove to KyY 914 (southeastern bypass), and KY 90 west to the new bridge over Lake Cumberland and on to Monticello.¹

For those of you traveling from Ohio to Wayne County consider turning left off KY 914 on to KY 1247. This route parallels the new 1247, which is under construction, and it will take you over the new interchange at US 27 straight on to KY 90 toward Monticello. The only risk is getting stopped by a train at the railroad crossing on the current KY 1247. At this point trains are usually moving pretty fast and the wait isn't much worse than waiting for a traffic light. Considering that one has to go through several lights on US 27, it still saves time!

Curiously 1247 is one of the old paths of US 27.

¹ Excerpts from the February 16, 2009 Commonwealth Journal article by Bill Martis.

Karst Field Studies Program, Western Kentucky University Bowling Green KY

2009 Karst Field Studies Program

Exploration of Mammoth Cave - June 6-12, 2009

Cave Ecology - June 6-12, 2009

Karst Hydrology - June 9-12, 2009

Karst Geology - June 14-19, 2009

Speleology - June 14-20, 2009

Karst GIS - June 15-19, 2009

Cave Archeology – July 5-10, 2009

Cave Geomicrobiology - July 11-15, 2009

<http://caveandkarst.wku.edu>

If you are interested or have any questions please contact me at lisa.haynes@wku.edu or karst.field.studies@wku.edu

Program Description

Hoffman Environmental Research Institute through its Center for Cave and Karst Studies and in cooperation with Mammoth Cave International Center for Science and Learning, and Western Kentucky University, offers a series of weeklong field classes focusing on cave and karst science, and caving. Though some of the classes do require previous subject knowledge, others are designed for individuals who are purely interested in caves and caving.

The classes cover topics such as karst geology and geomorphology (landscapes), speleology, history of exploration in the Mammoth Cave System, karst hydrology in urban areas, cave survey/cartography and GIS, cave photography, and cave and karst resources management.

A series of weekend workshops that will be offered throughout the year are being developed with the Mammoth Cave International Center for Science and Learning. Workshop offerings and schedules will be posted as they become available.

Classes can be taken for academic credit (undergraduate and graduate), for continuing education credits (CEU), or as non-credit workshops.

Who should attend?

The summer cave and karst classes are for those with an academic, professional, or personal interest in all aspects of caves and karst systems. An adventurous spirit and good physical conditioning will maximize enjoyment and benefits of the classes.

Past participants have included undergraduate and graduate students, teachers, college professors, cave guides and interpretive staff, cave and karst managers, geologists, hydrologists, and cavers. Individuals desiring an exciting and educational vacation experience can also benefit from the classes.

Participants must be high school graduates and in good physical condition. All participants are required to have medical insurance.

Caving with the Scouts

By Joe Gibson

I helped with Pat Gibson's Boy Scout troop from Beaver Creek at Sloans on Jan. 16, 17 and 18. Since they were camping in unheated cabins, I decided to "rough it" and stay in a motel in Somerset.

On Saturday morning 3 of us helped Bill Walden with the survey in Great Rock Sink entrance area of Sloans. It was about 28 degrees in the passageway that Bill, Pat Gibson, Rodney and Bruce Warthman surveyed in. I was lucky to get on the survey team that was in the upper passage area where it was warmer! We were only able to help for a couple of hours. We were supposed to meet a group of Scouts at Garbage pit entrance for a trip, but they decided to go to Sinks of the Roundstone instead.

After we had lunch I showed Pat and Rodney the Railroad entrance to Sloans. Pat showed me Scowling Tom's entrance. On the way back to where the Scouts were staying, I showed Pat & Rodney Short Creek cave. There was a lot of water going through the cave so we couldn't go too far.

On Sunday we met at Crockett's for the Scout trip. There were 10 people total on the trip I helped with. We went in the Railroad entrance to Sloans. When we got to the breakdown room, we couldn't find the way to connect to the main Sloans cave. I think I found it, but it was pretty tight. Is there a way through? I had never been in that far in RR entrance before. We spent about 4 hours on the trip. The only incident we had occurred as we were eating lunch in the breakdown room. After I ate lunch, I took my pack and swung it over my head to use as a pillow for resting. It went over the edge of the big rock on which I was sitting. It fell down about 30 feet to a lower level.

We were just down there a short time before looking for going passage. One of the Scouts went down to get my pack, thanks! We got back to our cars and changed. I drove home from there. Thanks to the Scout troop for letting tag along. It brings back memories from when I led many Scout caving trips.

Great Rock Sink resurvey Report

By Bill Walden

Saturday, February 14th Kevin Toepke and I completed surveying the entrance loop (main entrance to the east entrance) and one of the entrance maze passages. It takes a long time to sketch these large passages or rooms – as much as 30 minutes between stations. The mining area and the Bat Chamber remain to be surveyed as well as a short passage near the main entrance, which is not on the 1976 survey.

Roger Brucker wants us to survey the mining area and the Bat Chamber with an accuracy of $\pm 0.1^\circ$ on vertical. Our Suunto instruments are more than 10 times worse than that!!! So, I plan to use the water tube technique. This technique uses a clear, flexible plastic tube filled with water. The tube is stretched between two survey stations and the level of the water is measured from each station. The difference in water level from the station gives the rise or drop between the two stations. It is a very simple yet highly accurate method. This is the same technique used by professional surveyors to calibrate instruments.

COG Squeaks

The Death Chamber

Go in the main entrance of Great Rock Sink and turn to the right, then take the first significant right turn and climb up into a large room. This room was the paleo-entrance passage of Great Rock Sink. The section from the room to the paleo-entrance is now filled with stream gravel and sediment.

This resultant room, which I coined the Death Chamber, is a trap for bats. In the autumn bats enter the cave to hibernate. The Death Chamber is well above the main passage, above the normal level of Lake Cumberland, and high enough to stay warm (56°F) through the winter. Bats that prefer warmer areas in which to hibernate go to this room. Unfortunately in the late winter or early spring while the bats are still hibernating, Lake Cumberland returns to normal pool level or higher. The bats are trapped and they starve. There are so many bat skeletons and decaying bats that one cannot take a step in the higher parts of this room without stepping on dead bats – yes plural!

One thought I had is to tunnel through the stream sediment and gravel from the paleo-entrance to the Death Chamber. This would allow bats to enter and leave. Yes, it will change the airflow through the cave, but it will save thousands of bat lives. Of course such a tunnel would require a gate. If such a project were approved by the owner and by the KY Fish and Wildlife Department, we would have to tunnel through 108 feet of gravel and stream sediment. Give this some thought and let me know what your ideas on this might be.



Dr. George Crothers and Bill Walden surveying in the Death Chamber – photo by Ivan Artiouchine

02/11/09

Bat White Nose Syndrome (WNS)
Occurrence by County*

- Confirmed
- Likely but not confirmed
- Suspicious

*Confirmed

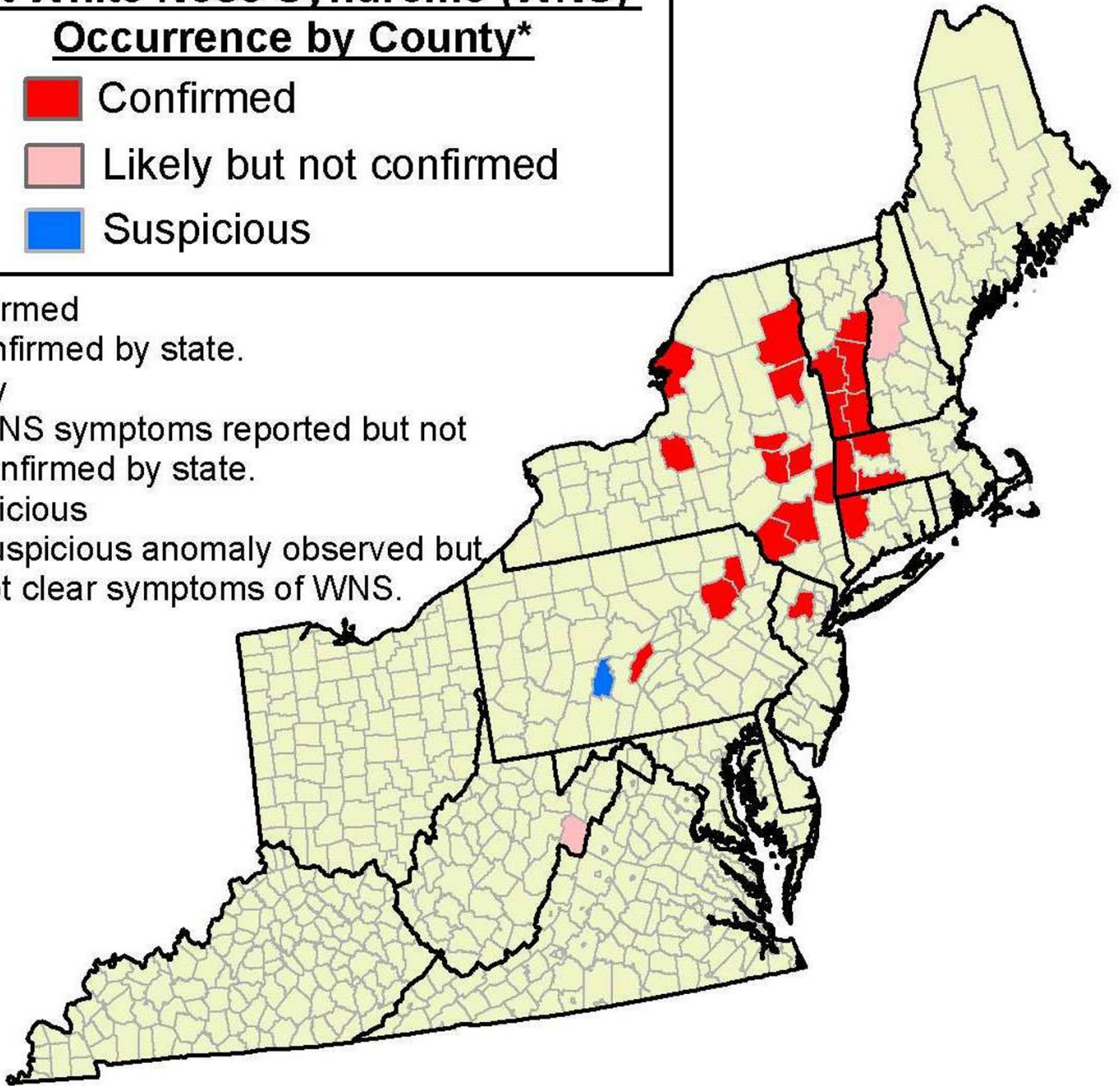
Confirmed by state.

*Likely

WNS symptoms reported but not confirmed by state.

*Suspicious

Suspicious anomaly observed but not clear symptoms of WNS.



Map from Cal Butchkoski, PA Game Commission