

Central Ohio Grotto Squeaks

July 2024



Cover photo by Ryan Braga – Frenchman's Knob

THE CENTRAL OHIO GROTTO (COG)

The Central Ohio Grotto (COG) of the National Speleological Society meets at 7:00 p.m. the fourth Thursday 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 Facebook page.

Check out our Facebook group:

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/centralohiogrotto/>

Check out our website:

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

Grotto Mailing Address:

C/O Pat Gibson, 4211 Caswell Rd
Johnstown, OH 43031 614-496-5345
Email: kd8ion@gmail.com

Grotto Membership Dues:

\$20 per individual or \$25 per family.

The C.O.G. Squeaks

The C.O.G. Squeaks is emailed to dues paying members and to grottoes with which the COG exchanges newsletters. Please send trip reports, caving articles, cave fiction, cave poetry, and cave photos to Mark Swelstad for publication: mswelstad@gmail.com

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.

COG Executive Committee:

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Aaron.Deal@gmail.com

Member-At-Large:

Joe Chaput
jchaput@gjpepsi.com

Member-At-Large:

Mark Swelstad
mswelstad@gmail.com



Upcoming COG Events – Note: Details of our events can be found on [our Facebook page](#). You do not have to be a member to be in our Facebook group.

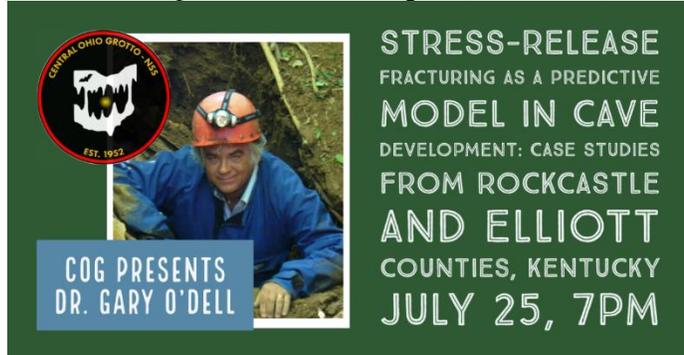
July 1-5	NSS Convention	Sewanee, TN
July 25	COG Monthly Meeting	Worthington Presbyterian Church
August 10	Crawlathon	Carter Caves State Park
August 15-17	Indiana Cave Capers	Indiana
August 22	COG Monthly Meeting	Worthington Presbyterian Church
August 24	Misty Cave Cleanup	Contact Wendy Orlandi

Contact Info for Trip Organizers:

- Wendy Orlandi - wenlo0319@gmail.com
- Ryan Braga - ryanbraga1007@gmail.com
- Pat Gibson - patrickrgibson@yahoo.com

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 Join us for our next monthly meeting at Worthington Presbyterian Church on THURSDAY, June 27th, 7pm in person or online. To join virtually, find remote meeting information in the Discussion in Facebook. You do NOT have to be a member to attend, everyone is welcome. Contact Wendy Orlandi if you need help with the link.

Our June presenter will be Dr. Gary O’Dell, bio below. After the meeting, we head over to Villa Nova Ristorante for pizza on 5545 N High St, Columbus, OH 43214. Please bring cash to cover your share.



Dr. Gary O’Dell is our guest speaker for COG’s July Meeting. His topic will be Stress Release Fracturing as a Predictive Model in Cave Development: Case Studies from Rockcastle and Elliot Counties.

Gary O’Dell has been exploring and studying caves and karst systems for more than fifty years, having joined the National Speleological Society and the Blue Grass Grotto of Lexington in 1967. His primary cave areas of research interest have been southeastern Kentucky, the Inner Bluegrass Karst Region, and Carter Caves State Park. He received a PhD in Geography from the University of Kentucky in 2003 and has been employed as an instructor in Geography at Morehead State University in Kentucky since 2001. Gary has an extensive publication record with his primary research interests including caves and karst, of course, but also historical archaeology, environmental issues, regional history, and Appalachian studies. In addition to the ACCA, he is also a board member of the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy and Vice President of the Kentucky Old Mill Association. In recognition of his scholarship, he was appointed by Governor Steven Beshear as the State Geographer of Kentucky in 2014. He currently resides in Morehead with his wife of thirty years, Carol.

CENTRAL OHIO GROTTO 5-YEAR MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

**75 MEMBERS ON OUR
75TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2027**

Why
More members mean a larger pool of volunteers, leaders, and trip planners. Younger members mean that we can continue our grotto into the future.

How can you help?
If every current member brings in just 1 new member over the next 5 years, we will be close to meeting our goal. Recommendations from active members is the best way to build a solid group of cavers. But showing up to a meeting or two isn't enough! We are looking for people committed to maintaining ACTIVE membership within the grotto.

Additional recruitment ideas (we NEED volunteers to make these happen!)

- Lead **trips** intentionally geared toward recruitment
- **Sponsor local events** or participate as vendors in events that get exposure
- Put together a **guest information packet**
- Teach **classes** at REI
- Hold **joint meetings** with related groups in the community
- Work with students who need **volunteer opportunities**
- Ask me about caving **stickers**

Odds and Ends:

Dues

Individual Dues \$20
Family Dues \$25

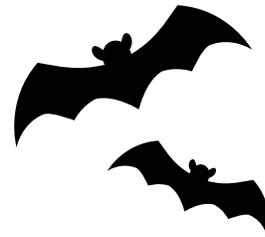
Dues may be paid during the Grotto monthly meeting, mail, or Venmo and should be paid by the end of March.

Suzanne Gagnon
10548 Elderberry Drive
Plain City, Ohio 43064

Venmo: @suzgagnon (Suz with red helmet)
<https://venmo.com/u/suzgagnon>

2024 Budget

Central Ohio Grotto - 2024 Budget		
	2024 Budget	
Income		
Dues		
Individual - \$20	55	\$1,100.00
Family - \$25	15	\$375.00
Donations/Gifts		
Total Income		\$1,475.00
Expenses		
Meeting & Website		
Domain Name Registrar		(\$10.14)
Online Meeting Expense		
Meeting Location		(\$125.00)
Web Hosting		(\$95.95)
Memberships/Awards/Recognitions		
Ohio Cave Survey Membership		(\$30.00)
RKC Membership		(\$25.00)
Joe Gibson Award		(\$25.00)
Volunteer Recognition		(\$100.00)
Community Outreach		
Conservation		(\$50.00)
Community Support		(\$100.00)
Marketing		(\$100.00)
Events		
Grotto Events		(\$200.00)
Survey		(\$50.00)
Other		
Library		(\$100.00)
Survey		(\$150.00)
501(c)(3) fee		(\$275.00)
Total Expenses		(\$1,436.09)
2023 Net Profit (Loss)		\$38.91
From Savings		
Vertical Gear		\$900.00



COG History

Unfortunately, we don't have records for when members first joined, or how long they were members – but I know that when I (Mark Swelstad) first joined the Central Ohio Grotto back in probably 1986 or 1987, Don Conover was already a member and was quite active. Those who knew Don may be surprised to learn that I caved with him back then in some cave at Speleofest around that time. I didn't know him well but he was a long time COG member and he will be missed. I asked Katie Schmid (Bill Walden's daughter) to write something up since she had known Don her whole life. Thank you, Katie.



Memorial for Don Conover

- Katie Schmid

I have many fond memories with Don Conover. Probably through most of the 1980's and at least the early 1990's, Don was the toy committee chairman of the Central Ohio Grotto. He would usually bring some sort of gadget to show at the monthly meetings – sometimes he would bring a specific cave-related item and sometimes he would run out to his van and find something to show the grotto. I remember caving with Donnie, and in some places digging to make the passages 'conoverable'. Don was active in many grottos. His job had him travelling often. I remember one COG Christmas party to which he brought bags of fortune cookies from San Francisco. My parents had hosted that party at our house in Galena, Ohio. We were finding fortunes from those cookies for months afterwards. Don's family worked with various circus acts; he invited one such act to a grotto event in which we were doing rope practice in my parent's barn. The people from the circus act thought we were crazy! (This was a group of guys that rode motorcycles

around in big steel balls.) Another time, he invited us to see an elephant at his parent's house. I got to hear the elephant purr and see the elephant hug Don with its trunk. Don was always such a friendly and outgoing person. He was always encouraging people to see new things (like OTR).

RIP Don ~ Central Ohio Grotto

Shoveleater Trip Report - Vertical Works - Skyline Pit Drain

June 8th, 2024

Written by Andy Schofield

Team: Danika Mayback, Mike Shank, Jason Glancy, Andy Schofield

After a rousing breakfast at the Gateway and jockeying for position in the bathroom line, all members headed back to the fieldhouse. There was some debate as to the plan of the day, with the group eventually ending up on digging in the Skyline Pit drain. After Andy passed out as much gear as possible for others to carry, everyone loaded up to head to the cave entrance. Other intrepid cavers were already heading into the cave bound to watch a bolt climb.

Entering sometime around 10:30 AM, the entrance series was uneventful. Jason and Danika leading the way while Andy and Mike puttered around on the surface giving them a little space as it was Danika's first time in Shoveleater. Jason led a vertical practice event for the Central Ohio Grotto nearby and Danika had stayed around afterwards to backpack Dolly Sods and cave with Jason. Fresh off of vertical practice and several days of Germany Valley caves she felt ready to tackle Shoveleater for the first time.

On the way down the Ohio Bypass Andy and Mike discussed the overall rock stability after Andy noticed a large rock that was precariously perched and moved with barely

any persuasion. Andy handed the rock to Mike who carefully placed it out of the way at the top of the bypass. Andy and Mike met up with Jason and Danika at the end of the transverse where they had been snacking and Jason asked Mike if he needed to stop for food. Mike merely replied that he was just getting started and wouldn't be hungry for a couple more hours. Savage.

After traveling further through the cave, we passed the rope up to the top of Split Pit where Andy and Garret had helped to establish a voice connection with Paul and ? (sorry I forget who else was on the other side that weekend) between both sides. During the voice connection I recall Garrett saying it sounded like Paul was right there, not far away. Continuing past the up rope we descended down onto the next ledge down. There were a couple of bolts with hangers and quicklinks attached to a short piece of rope lying on the ledge. The rest of the group descended to the bottom of the pit to investigate the drain and begin digging.

Mike, being the last to descend, picked up the rope and hardware from the "first" ledge. The group had initially meant for Mike to pick up hardware on the ledge below that ledge (not confusing at all) however shouting doesn't always translate well. I don't recall the final resting place of the bolts, hangers, and rope but if they are missing from where you expected them, I believe they are one ledge (~20ft) below. Mike then rigged a redirect to keep the rope out of a fin of rock which has been troublesome at the rebelay below. Due to the slack in the rope and proximity to the ground the group decided to add a second bolt to the last rebelay. After vertical shenanigans had ceased it was time to investigate the drain. Based on the voice connection I expected a relatively small area with an obvious connection but we

were met with more cave. Shortly after entering, the passage splits in a T intersection. To the right I could see survey stations and there were several small rooms. Towards the end was a source of water dripping and likely helping to create the drainage we were in.

Initially we were unsure where the dig was exactly but after poking around we determined the most obvious dig was to the left. We focused on removing rock and heading downwards as we noticed that the drainage/canyon we were in had perhaps 8 feet of drop under our feet in the areas we could tell. A few errant rocks tossed into the canyon confirmed some drop but nothing cavernous. Decent progress was made fishing rocks out of the passage and leaving some as chockstones in the short sideways crawl to the dig face. Several larger stones do remain which may be tricky to remove and relocate out of the way.

After letting out the last of the pixies from our batteries we decided it was time to begin our exit. The newly rigged redirect above the first rebelay when climbing (or last rebelay when descending) helped to keep the rope out of the mischievous fin of rock which plagued previous cavers. Much of the exit was uneventful. We stopped at the turn off where Mike encouraged us to take a short detour to investigate the large bulbous popcorn. Some may know this area by a different name but fun was had trying to come up with the best innuendos. Mike began to regret this decision as Danika kept going and exploring more and more cave.

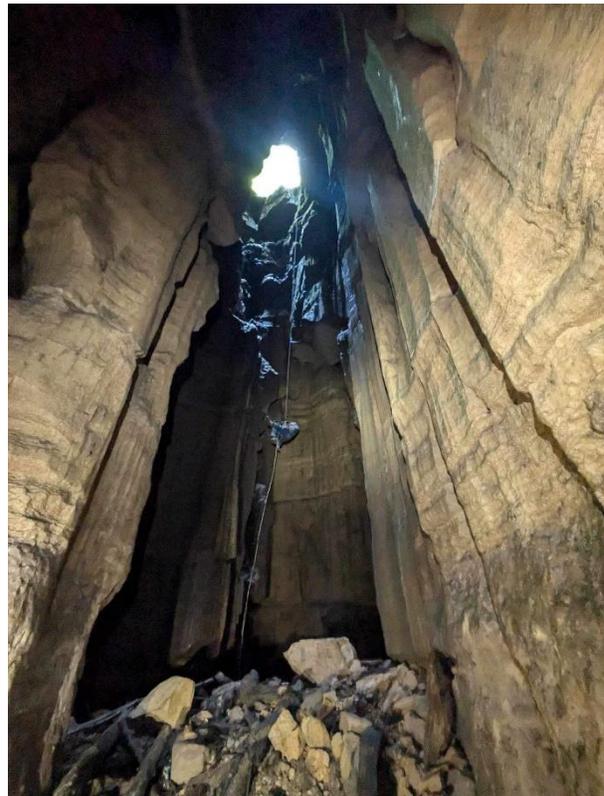
The group exited around 11:30 PM and returned to the field house with Danika having completed her first trip to Shoveleater and a ~13 hour trip no less. I suspect more trips are in her future and would not be surprised to see her become a frequent caver in Germany Valley.

Who moved the cave?

- Ryan Braga

After a very wet Grayson Gunner trip on Saturday in Wayne County, I drove over to Cave City to meet up with friends at Onyx cave to go drop Frenchman's Knob. After leaving the hideout around 8:30am and driving through pouring rain, I met up at onyx with A'dra Peterson, Bethany Widmayer, John Sies and Missy Shields Sies. Next, we drove up to Frenchman's knob with vague directions and pulled up the first drive and got to the old schoolhouse up top and parked. After John and I searched for the cave in the sweltering heat for what felt like eternity, we came back to the others and the cars defeated and decided to rethink this as a storm started to come in. After I pulled up Gaia (a GPS app to show landowners and property boundaries), I was able to see that we were on Hart County land and NOT SCCI land. This is due to the entrances being next to each other and both being open to cavers. After a few hours of searching for this cave, we drove back down the hill and next door and headed up the hill directly to the pit. After waiting out a nasty bit of rain, John and I walked over to the pit and started to rig it with his brand new 300ft 11mm rope. After playing with our rigging some, we grabbed the others and geared up to get on rope. I got the honors of going down first and had a nice rappel down the 140ish foot drop. What I'm told is if you get all the way down the mud slope, you can hit 180ft but I didn't go for this as it would rub the rope over a rough edge so I took my 140ft rappel and watched some episodes of my favorite show on a perfect sitting log deeper into the cave out of the fall zone while others came down. Since it was getting late, we decided just to bounce the pit even though there is a bit

of cave down there. After climbing up first and complaining about forgetting my knee pads in the car, I got up followed by everyone else. Once leaving and opening the gate, it came right off the hinges! Luckily having a socket set in my car, we were able to fix the gate and get on our way. Quite the way of ending our trip. Overall, it was a fun trip and worth getting home at 1am!



Photos courtesy of Ryan Braga and A'dra Peterson





Indian Cave

Wendy Orlandi

Photos courtesy of Dave Long

On Saturday, June 15th 2024, COG members Darryl Marsh, Dave Long, Wendy Orlandi and landowner, Joe Truskowski, visited a few caves on Joe's property including Moonshiner's, Goat Cave, (what we hope to be) the entrance of Tombstone and Indian Cave. Indian Cave is a small cave on Joe's property that is most remarkable for being a nesting site for area vultures. Fortunately, no vultures were home that day or I would have completely freaked out, possibly traumatized for life. I couldn't imagine being eye to eye with such a huge, menacing-looking creature in such a tight space with little room to move. As I later learned while writing this report, both parents take turns minding the nest. As carrion eaters, they feed their chicks by regurgitation. If you disturb them, they will hiss at you and if you don't heed their warning you'll get a face full of hot vulture vomit as reward for your intrusion. Carrion vomit, let that sink in. Ew.

Most of the cave is a fairly tight belly crawl and had evidence of several vulture nests further back than I would have imagined they would have been comfortable in total darkness. As we entered the right side passage the first thing we noticed was the smell for which I have no words. It was enough to make even a hardy soul turn around but we soon found the first nest that still had an egg in it, so that kinda made it worth it!





Vulture egg. Also notice some leaves, flagging tape and shredded plastic sheeting.

We continued on our belly crawl through vulture guano and feathers. Dave and I noticed more depressions through the crawl and all seemed to have the same shredded plastic. At one point we came to a tight constriction on the left which I went through while Dave explored a small dome on the right. At the end of the terminal crawl, I found the remains of a shovel which might have been an abandoned search for another entrance into nearby Tombstone. I also found more plastic in another depression and an old beverage can lying near the dig. I started gathering the plastic from the back of the passage to the front and ended up with a nice pile of garbage at the entrance where Joe and Darryl were waiting.



Garbage collected from Indian Cave

As I didn't have a bag, Joe collected it from the entrance later in the week and disposed of it. Joe was surprised we found that much because he didn't remember seeing any the last time he visited. Based on the placement in each of the nests, it would seem that the vultures themselves had brought it in the cave to loosely line their nests. Interestingly, as I've been reading more about the nesting habits I haven't found anything about them adding anything to their nests - only that they make the shallow depressions in the soil. So, it's a mystery. One that I, personally, will not continue to monitor. My work there is done. I'm not going back, but truly enjoyed the unique experience.

[Dolly Sods Wilderness Backpacking](#)
[June 3-5, 2024](#)

by Wendy Orlandi, [Aaron Collier](#), [Jennie Hawkey](#), [Danika Mayback](#)

Note by authors: This trip exemplified teamwork in the backcountry. Everyone took care of each other and shared what they had for the good of the group. We wanted our trip report to reflect that same spirit of collaboration, yet also showcase the unique perspective of individual members during each leg of our journey together.

Prologue

After camping for three nights at the rustic Bear Heaven Campground for *Intro to Vertical*, we tried to check into our Airbnb, the Smokin' Dolly. We got there rather late as we first stopped at Harper's Pit (74') and stayed until dark. It's very difficult to find a cell signal anywhere in this area of West Virginia and most of us had gone without service for days. When we arrived at the cabin, we were able to log on to the wifi from outside and then checked the app and email for our keycode to the front door, except there wasn't any.

We called our host. We called Airbnb support. We rattled every window. Looked under doormats. We called the resort down the road. In desperation, we assessed the suitability of the side yard to pitch our tents, although it was the last thing this exhausted, sore and filthy-stinking party wanted to do. Then Jennie suggested we try a credit card. She carefully slid the card behind the latch bolt and turned the handle and on the first attempt - success! Jennie single handedly saved the evening and hot showers, clean laundry and a stiff drink were had by all!

Blackbird Knob and Red Creek, 7 miles

We started our journey picking our way through rhododendron, mountain laurel, pine forests, meadows full of ferns and ancient, gnarled fruit trees. We talked of plants, of islands with wolves and the curious color of the aptly named Red Creek where we took our first break after crossing.



Jennie and Danika fording one of many creek crossings. Photo by Wendy Orlandi

Aaron: The trail was littered with various sized rocks and at times it reminded me of navigating breakdown. Every step was measured which made for slow hiking. Fortunately Dolly Sods' beauty offset the extra time it took to reach camp 1.

Jennie Hawkey: Blackbird Knob and Red Creek Trail on the first day gave me a definite sense of entering a jungle wilderness. The trail was pretty rocky and the scenery was tangles of rhododendron, mountain laurel, and other Appalachia flora. It was a struggle to resist the urge to stop and take pictures of all the beauty.

Danika Mayback: Wendy spent much of the time teaching us how to ID different plants and some of their uses. I may have been convinced to eat a few and somehow lived.

Camp 1

Near the end of our day, we passed a 4-H group laboring up the hill near where Red Creek Trail intersects with Rocky Point. One of the adults mentioned a beautiful campsite along the bank below and we made it our mission to find it. It truly was both stunning and secluded, surrounded by earthen walls and mature rhododendron. Most striking, we were

only steps away from the creek which boasted a series of waterfalls. We were all busying ourselves with something during the evening such as bathing, filtering water for dinner, setting up camp or collecting dry wood for the evening's campfire.



Danika enjoying a cold shower in our own private waterfall. Photo by Aaron Collier



Aaron: I found this little fella off trail, around 8:30 am on day 2. Photo by Aaron Collier

Jennie Hawkey: We had a quintessentially perfect campground on day 1 near a waterfall. We were in a secluded small clearing among you guessed it... more rhododendron. I decided a swim would be nice after the hike and the water was cold enough that after about 30 seconds of it I had had enough.

Danika Mayback: Despite the freezing water and not having any extra clothes on the trip (not intentional), I really couldn't resist a good waterfall swim. I don't think I was fully dry again until we got back to the cars after the trip ended.

Rocky Point and Big Stonecoal, 8 miles

After breaking camp, we headed up, up and up on Rocky Point Trail and then finally to the top of Breathed Mountain. I've never seen so many rocks on a trail in my life. We spent some time speculating why this was so. In this area, the trails were graded for locomotives that hauled timber off the mountain. I thought maybe the rocks were placed under the tracks to stabilize them from erosion, but wikipedia says not so. The humus layer that covered the rocks completely dried up from numerous forest fires caused by the removal of protective tree cover, leftover slash from timbering and sparks from the trains in the 1900's. It's hard to imagine that a landscape that is now so breathtaking must have looked like a barren wasteland just 100 years ago.

Once we made it to the top, our next task was to find the famous Lion's Head outcropping. We searched the perimeter and kept pointing out plausible features but Aaron kept telling us, "No, that's not it." Luckily, we took pictures anyway and when viewed on a phone screen, he immediately recognized it for what it truly was. Pretty rad, as Danika would say.



It's Lion's Head, after all. photo by Danika Mayback

wedding ring went flying off my finger (didn't know that was even possible). Luckily it wasn't bad enough to affect the trip, but my knees were a rainbow of bruises for a long time afterward. Getting to the Lion's Head area made it worth it though. We spent a lot of time trying to figure out which rock was Lion's Head and I even saw another rock that looked very much like a lion, but Aaron insisted that wasn't THE rock. Luckily we did realize which one was the right one after looking through photos.

Danika Mayback: Definitely a highlight of the trip! I got to spend a good while running around, climbing, and sunbathing. Everyone also had pretty good snacks we all shared.



Aaron: Lion's Head proved to be the highlight of our trip. It offered interesting terrain and expansive views. The giant crevasses were a bit unsettling. It was fun to watch others in the group take great care when crossing them.
Photo by Aaron Collier

Jennie Hawkey: I was feeling pretty proud of myself for doing 10-15 minutes straight of steep incline after leaving camp and shortly thereafter, I tripped on a rock and took a nasty fall. A bad enough fall that my silicone



Wendy walking down the cathedral. Photo by Danika Mayback

After having lunch, hopping over seemingly bottomless fissures and taking in the gorgeous views, we headed through a pine stand known as the Cathedral. Not soon after, came the deluge, or as Aaron would say, a real gully washer. Danika was the first to sense this was going to be more than a sprinkle. We scrambled to put on rain jackets, ponchos and rain covers on our backs. I could barely see anything with my hood pulled over my head, so I just plodded along, eyes to the ground, waiting for the rain to stop. We were fortunate that it started clearing up just as we heard the roar of water. Engorged from the recent rain, the waterfall felt powerful and proud as it poured down the mountain.



Photo by Wendy Orlandi

After that excitement, we trekked on and eventually took a break in another pine stand near the confluence of two small creeks. It was kinda magical in a mysterious, medieval kind of way. We filtered water once more and were on our way.

The next leg of the trip was straight up bog. At this point, Aaron, Danika and Jennie were carefully monitoring the AllTrails app to find the last possible camping spot before we had to turn in for the evening. On the way we found this super cool beaver dam.



Beaver dam. Photo by Wendy Orlandi



Aaron: Jenny and Danika looking at campsites. Rain is part of it, but the area was already wet and I was concerned that we would be without fire that night. *Photo by Aaron Collier*

Jennie Hawkey: Violet, you're turning violet! Had to whip out my huge blue plastic poncho for the deluge of rain that made the rest of the trip boggy and soggy. The pine forests that we encountered were really pretty though. It definitely gave me Grimm's fairy tale vibes.

Danika: I was so confident that this would be a 15min nice rainfall instead of the torrential downpour we got and Aaron would not let me live it down.

Camp 2

While not ideal, our camp had a small stream around it that we could use to filter and bathe. We set camp up rather quickly and shed our wet clothes. Despite the rain, we had a roaring

fire with careful preparation. As soon as our meals and bourbon were finished, the rain came back and sent us off to bed for an early evening.



Aaron: I managed to find some fatwood at the cathedral. At camp 2, Danika scraped shavings while the rest of us gathered wood. Wendy spotted a dead tree at the campsite. It was a potential danger to campers so we used it as fuel. I was impressed that we were able to get a fire started in such wet conditions. *Photo by Aaron Collier*

Jennie Hawkey: The best part of camp 2 was Aaron's bourbon.

Danika: My favorite moment from this evening was when I wandered upstream to clean up after I fell in a mud puddle running around trying to find a better campsite. While standing in the muddy stream, feeling sickly coated in sliminess from the day, I look back at the campsite to see an entire tree shaking back and forth. Squinting through the brush, I

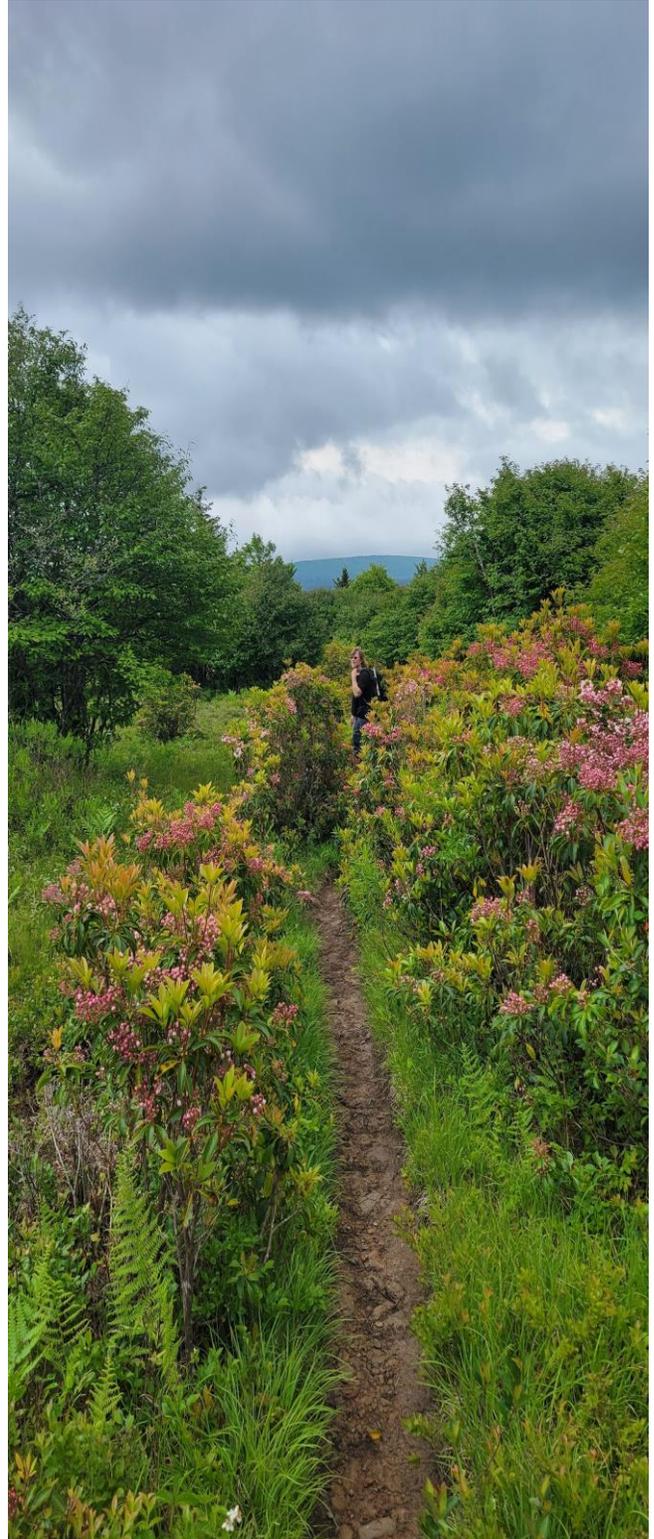
realize the earthquake is coming from Aaron! He was determined to take out a precarious dead tree we could burn. Unfortunately, Wendy and Jennie quickly ditched the fire as rain started to fall. Aaron and I held out awhile longer to appreciate our work before giving up. The embers somehow stayed hot through the rainstorm and we got to have another fire in the morning.

Blackbird Knob, 5 miles

Fortunately, we were able to eat a warm breakfast, break camp and get on the trail before it started raining again. On this part of the trail we passed through an expansive heath on a narrow trail that we shared with the local wildlife.



*Eastern Milk Snake ID'd by Chris Bauer
photo by Aaron Collier*



*Aaron leading the way. Photo by Danika
Mayback*

Eventually, our surroundings started to become familiar as we started out on Blackbird Knob the first day. I was worn out on the long slog back, but cheered myself up with some scheming for a novel cave trip Danika and I hope to plan. I was so happy to see the boardwalk that we first hiked on at the start of our trip. We made it back!

Aaron: After a while, the rain has a way of beating you down. Practically everything I had was wet, and I was like a horse to water getting to the car.

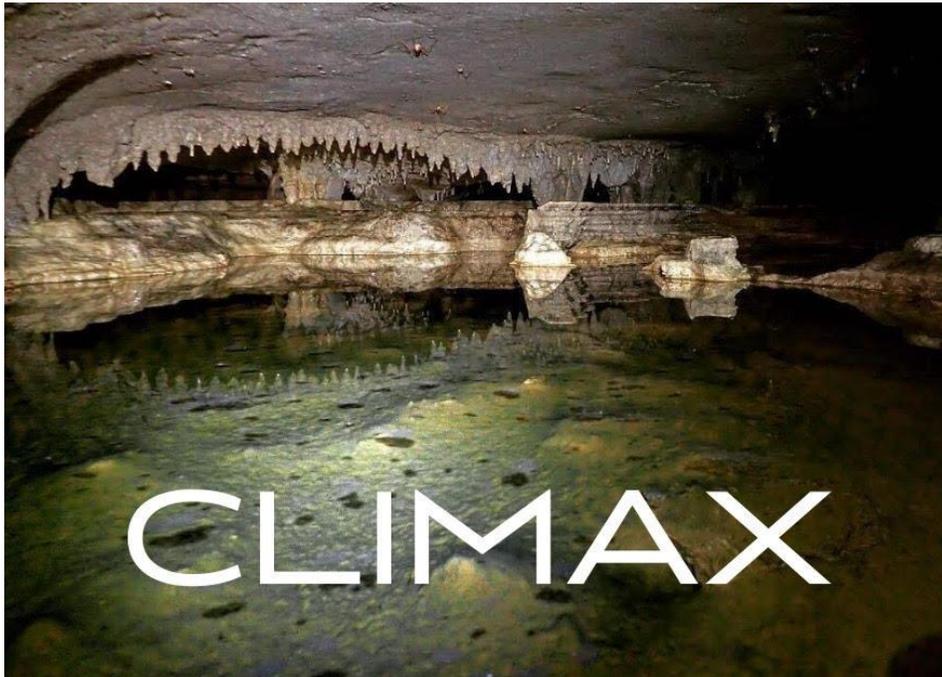
Jennie Hawkey: I think we were all looking forward to getting back to our cars on the last day. Despite everything though, no one complained or griped about the circumstances. We had fun talking about future trip ideas and we finally saw some scenery that resembled the “sods” wilderness.

Danika: This last day was especially soggy. My pack was feeling extra heavy despite having eaten most of my food and carrying little water for the last leg. After we made it to our cars, I immediately drove off to the nearest cheeseburger and wifi available before heading off onto my next West Virginia adventures.



Danika, Ryan, Suz in front of Mullins Springs Cave – picture by Mark Swelstad





L2L

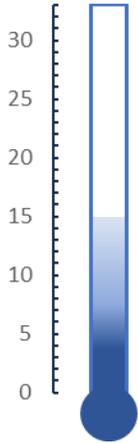
SUNDAY
JULY
14TH
10 AM

If you are new to caving and want to learn under an experienced guide or are an experienced caver looking for a volunteer opportunity to give back to GSP, L2L trips are for you! Learn to Lead trips are adult only trips that prepare you to learn a cave well enough that you can lead your own scout trip with the support of a tailgunner. Climax is an iconic Rockcastle County cave and like an onion, it's got layers. Most folks know the thru trip route, which is great for scouts, but there's much more to unlock in the lower levels as well. We'll explore all of it during this Learn to Lead.

To join the Learn to Lead trip you can sign up on Facebook or contact Wendy Orlandi. You can also sign up to lead or tailgun on Saturday, July 13 or just come for the training on Sunday. To sign up for the Saturday, July 13th scout trip to check out an experienced leader in action, sign up here:

<https://signup.com/mobileweb/2.0/vspot.html>

Be a part of History, Join the GSP 33!
We Need 18 more people to meet our goal!



Will you be one of the 33 who will commit to supporting GSP with a small \$25 monthly donation over the next 5 years?

Proceeds are used to pay off the loans used to purchase the Caretakers Residence.

Are you interested in a free family camping pass for the next 5 years, a free polo shirt, and a celebration at the end of the commitment period?

Please contact Patrick Gibson for more details!
614.496.5345, kd8ion@gmail.com

Payment Options:

1. Mail a check Monthly or some other defined period such as quarterly/yearly
2. Pay once in Full
3. Paypal as a recurring payment with GSP 33 in comment

Payments should be made out to "Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve" and mailed to

GSP 33
% Patrick Gibson
4211 Caswell Rd
Johnstown, OH 43031