

Cumberland Valley Caver

published by

Franklin County Grotto



March 2014

CUMBERLAND VALLEY CAVER

Published by

FRANKLIN COUNTY GROTTO

An Internal Organization of the National Speleological Society

Vol. 15, No 1

March 2014

2014 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



CHAIR

Kenneth B. Tayman
13373 Sunrise Drive
Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214
(717) 794-2069

MEMBERSHIP DUES

REGULAR (NSS MEMBER)	\$10
NON-NSS MEMBERS	\$12
FAMILY MEMBERS	\$ 3
LIFE (NSS ONLY) 20 x Reg	

SECRETARY

Pat Minnick
14220 Blue Mountain Rd
Waynesboro, PA 17268
(717) 765-0521

VICE-CHAIR

Gordy Ley
34 North Miller St
Fairfield, PA 17320
(717) 642-8970

TREASURER

John Boswell
45 Manada Creek Cir
Carlisle, PA 17013
(717) 386-5397

MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Don Arrowood
5522 Montgomery Church Rd
Greencastle, PA 17225
(717) 515-8744

EDITOR

Kenneth B. Tayman
13373 Sunrise Drive
Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214
(717) 794-2069

MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Glen Sarvis
21 Helen Ave
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
(717) 766-5003

WEB SITE: www.karst.org/fcg

Webmaster: Don Arrowood

darrowood@comcast.net

Franklin County Grotto meetings are held the 3rd Monday of the month. The location is at "**The Cottage Pub and Restaurant**" at 572 Wayne Ave, Chambersburg, PA 17201. The meeting starts at 7:00 PM. Both grotto caving trips and smaller individual trips are planned at these meetings. All members are invited depending on their ability to safely participate. You must attend at least one vertical training session in order to participate in vertical trips. Visitors are welcome. Contact any of the above individuals for more information or email fcg@karst.org.

The Cumberland Valley Caver is published four times per year by the Franklin County Grotto PA. All cave related articles should be submitted to the editor for publication. The contents of this publication are not copyrighted unless previously copyrighted by the author. Material from this publication may be reprinted by other official organizations of the National Speleological Society without prior permission provided credit is given to the original author and this publication, and the article is not changed in anyway. Other interested parties must request permission in advance. Franklin County Grotto actively participates in a newsletter exchange program. All exchanges should be mailed to: John Boswell, 45 Manada Creek Circle, Carlisle, PA 17213. Information regarding exchanges should be coordinated with editor so the exchange list can be updated.

Cover: Bat hanging from stalactite in Lightner's Cave, Greenbrier Co., WV

Photo by Gordy Ley

Table of Contents

From the Editor.....	3
Tawney's Cave <i>by John Boswell</i>	4
Pics from the Past	7
Cleversburg Sink (Equipment replacement) <i>by Ken Tayman</i>	8
Missouri Hunter Falls into Sinkhole.....	10
Cave Buck\$ / Quotes of the Quarter	10
Internet Cave News.....	11
FCG Cave Rescue Scholarship	12
FCG Budget Summary for 2013 <i>by John Boswell</i>	13

See the entire newsletter in **COLOR** on the website
http://www.karst.org/fcg/fcg_newsletters.htm

From the editor:

Late this quarter, Franklin County Grotto lost a long time member, caver and friend to cancer. After about a year and a half battle, Ken Jones passed away on March 20, 2014. Our June issue will have some articles and pictures in remembrance of Ken.

The winter weather this quarter really wrecked our caving schedule, forcing us to cancel several day trips and our annual winter trip. That put sort of a bind on the number of articles for this newsletter, thus this short issue.

I'd like to thank, Gordy, John, Dane and Don for articles, pictures, quotes, printing, distribution assistance and web support used in getting this issue out to our members and friends.

Ken Tayman, Editor

Tawney's Cave

January 12, 2014 by John Boswell



Since I had plans to visit my daughter in Blacksburg, Virginia the weekend of January 12, I decided to try to set up a cave trip while down there. I contacted VPI Cave Club and asked if anyone would be willing to

lead a trip to one of the fine local caves. Scott Rapier was kind enough to respond with an offer to show us through Tawney's Cave in Giles County. Scott, along with Ed Fortney, met me, my daughter Regan and son Justin at the infamous Bat Ranch on Sunday morning.

We made the requisite introductions, geared up, and hiked across the street and up the hill to the entrance of the cave. We entered through the gate and immediately found ourselves at the top of a very large and profusely decorated chamber called (appropriately) the Formation Room. There were draperies and cave bacon everywhere we looked along the ceiling. There were very large stalagmites scattered all around the chamber and several very large and impressive columns. One of the columns was probably forty feet tall and three feet in diameter. The room trends down fairly steeply towards the stream passage at the bottom. There is a path to the left which takes a high route around the circumference of the Formation Room, across a fairly narrow and exposed

ledge called the Butt Ledge. We chose to avoid the exposure and picked our way carefully among the formations, descending past some nice glittery flowstone cascades and pools of nearly invisible water.

Upon reaching the bottom of the room, we forded the shallow stream and followed the passage along the opposite bank until we came to the Moon Room. This is a large dome-shaped room a hundred feet or more in diameter with an interesting ceiling marked by many very round solutional features. The walls and ceiling of this room were very clean, light gray limestone interspersed with bands and swirls of darker shades of gray. It reminded me of pictures of the surface of Jupiter. The stream followed the outline of the room and disappeared under one of the walls. There was a very high, sharply sculpted dripping dome at one end of the room and several low belly-crawls that lead into other small chambers.

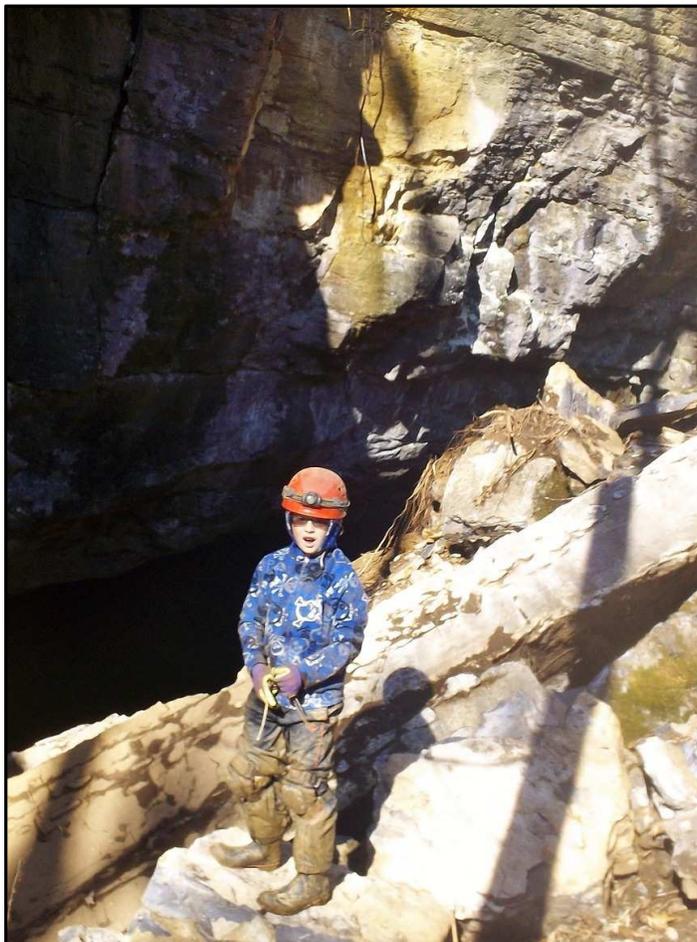


Justin, John and Regan Boswell at entrance to Tawney's Cave, Giles Co. VA

We made our way across the Moon Room and climbed to the top of a very high breakdown pile. Scott then showed us how to negotiate an intimidating-looking twisty climbdown through the breakdown pile called the Toilet Bowl. It wasn't as hard as it looked and brought us again to the stream passage. Turning right, we followed the stream strolling through trunk passage for several hundred feet and passing a multitude of historical signatures scratched into the walls by the saltpeter miners of years past.

Eventually we arrived at another large, mostly dome-shaped chamber known as the Saltpeter Room where (surprise!) saltpeter was mined in the 1800s. There were piles of the old mined dirt dotting the floor of the room, although most of the saltpeter relics have been removed. The ceiling of very dark limestone here is covered with condensation droplets and it was very easy to picture the mass of bats that must have roosted here before WNS devastated their numbers (we didn't see a single bat throughout the entire cave). There was an archeological dig in this room a number of years ago and many artifacts were discovered, cataloged, and then covered over again. There is also a modern formation in this room - a steel well casing passes from the roof through the floor. You can look up in the space between the casing and the drilled hole and see up for quite a ways. It looks like some kind of misplaced stripper pole.

Continuing on through the Saltpeter Room, we came to the Swiss Cheese area of the cave. This is an area of very clean and sharply sculpted passages that intertwine



Justin just outside cave near sink hole entrance.

with each other double back every which way and over and under each other but always come back to the same room. There are some sporting fun climbs and crawls in this area.

We left the Swiss Cheese and the passage began to trend upward and a breeze was becoming noticeable. The reason why became obvious as we ducked under a low wall of rock and emerged into the sinkhole entrance to the cave. This was a huge concave room in a sheer wall of limestone with a very large opening into an even larger sinkhole. It reminded me a bit of the entrance to Crookshank, but with a floor. This gaping entrance probably approaches a



Regan in formation room just inside cave.

hundred feet wide. Blue skies and a temperature in the upper fifties enticed us all to take a nice break in the sunny sinkhole. This was an impressive sinkhole, over a hundred feet in diameter and probably thirty or forty feet deep.

We re-entered the cave through another opening in the other side of the sinkhole room and followed a section of easy strolling passage consisting of very light gray limestone with hundreds of chert nodules embedded in it. It looked almost like some kind of man-made wall and was very pretty. There are supposed to be some good fossil examples embedded in this passage, but I didn't see any. This passage leads back to

the far side of the Saltpeter Room and from there we splashed our way back along the stream following the way we had come. Before we got back to the Toilet Bowl, we took turns trying to climb up an alternate route over some very smoothly-worn blocks of breakdown. None of us had any luck conquering this obstacle, so we used the Toilet Bowl to climb back up to the top of the Moon Room, took a fun muddy slide through a rabbit hole passage, crossed the stream back into the impressive Formation Room and climbed back up to the exit, wrapping up a three-and-a-half hour trip.

I knew that Tawney's had served as the area's sacrificial cave for years until it was gated just over ten years ago and due to its proximity to Virginia Tech I expected it to be trashed and not very impressive. Boy, was I wrong in that assumption! The property is owned

by a caver-friendly NSS member and also contains Links Cave, which is more sporting with smaller canyon passages and exposure. A few hundred feet up the road is Smokehole Cave, which has an entrance higher up on the ridge and in which you make your way down to a stream level and eventually a duck-under wet exit that brings you out right on the road. Clover Hollow Cave and Pig Hole (both vertical and more advanced) are less than five miles away, and New River Cave with about five miles of passage is also nearby. I think a return grotto trip to the area would be very enjoyable to a wide variety of our members, and is easily do-able.□



Pics from the Past

This young man is caving in Breathing Cave with his brother in 1965.

It was back when he still had some hair. He still likes caving in cotton, but really doesn't like carbide lamps any more.

On a recent FCG "carbide only" trip, he's quoted as saying "Now I remember why I don't like carbide".

Guess who it is.

(See page 11 for his name)



Cleversburg Sink

February 28, 2014 By Ken Tayman

I received an email from Professor Feeney asking if we would be available for a trip to Cleversburg sink. He had just recently received his external battery pack for his water sensor.

We've had a sensor in the cave for over four years and discovered the internal battery life the hard way. Last year, when downloading data, during the really dry season, we received an error message indicating the batteries were dead and we were missing data.

It was disappointing to have tracked water level for four years trying to get a complete drain / flood cycle, and then have missed the early stages of the re-flooding.

We swapped out the sensor at that time with another that still retained 30% of its four battery life, with the hopes of being able to retrieve the majority of the flood cycle.

Today we would be reinstalling the original sensor and attach an external battery pack where you can replace the batteries as needed.

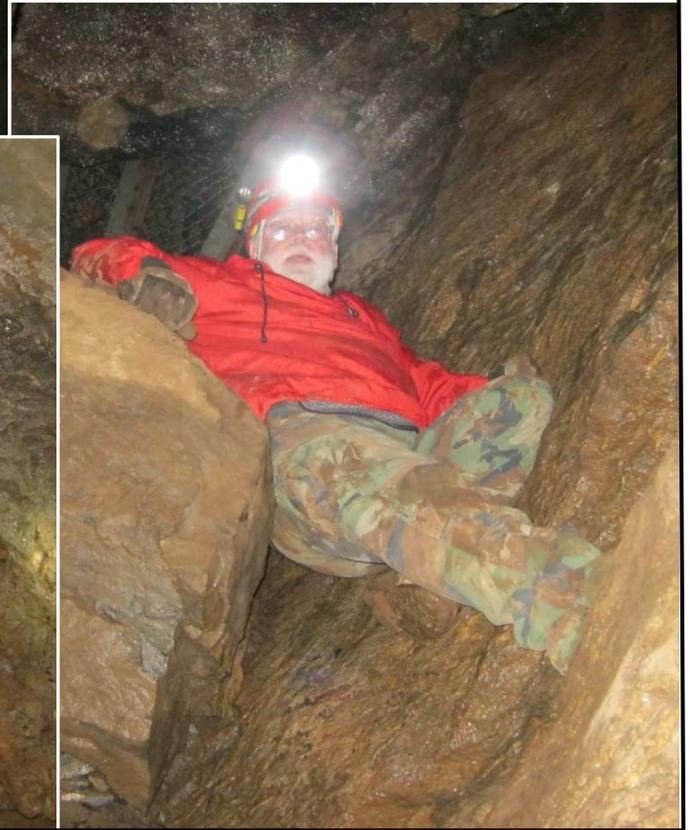
Participants today are Professor Tom Feeney, one of his students, Sarah Bartle, Gordy Ley, Don Arrowood and me.

Tom would connect the new battery pack up near the gate,

while the rest of us went down into the entrance room. The water level in the cave was fairly high at 24 feet. Gordy had to climb up over the breakdown and around the wall to get to the data cable. After pulling the old sensor and replacing it, he guided it back down into the slot, carefully avoiding the ledge that had previously hung up the sensor about ten feet above the floor of the passage.



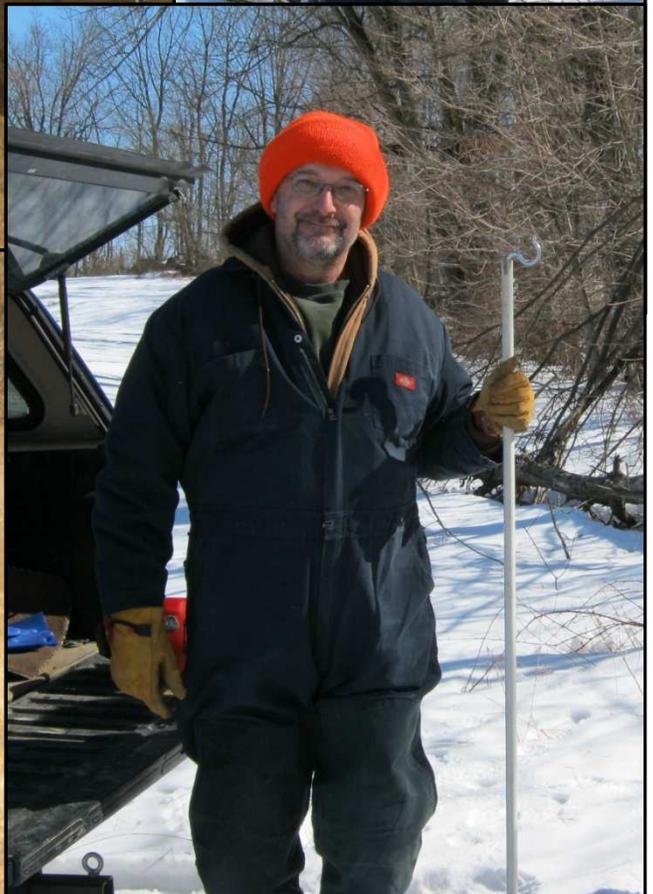
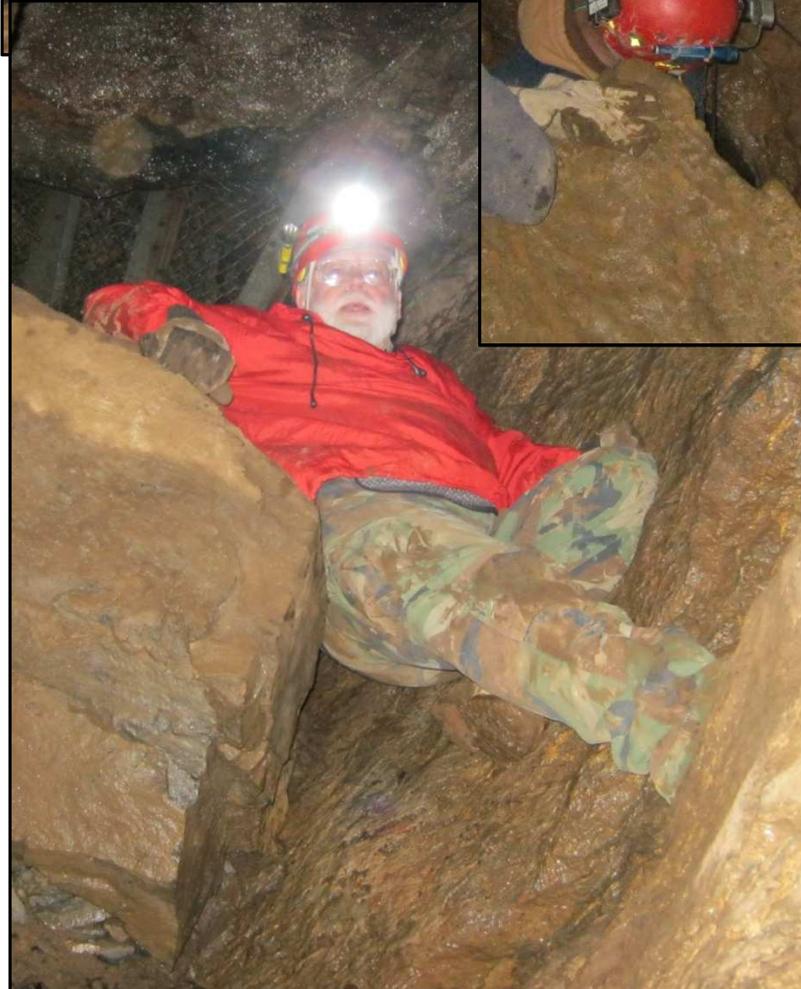
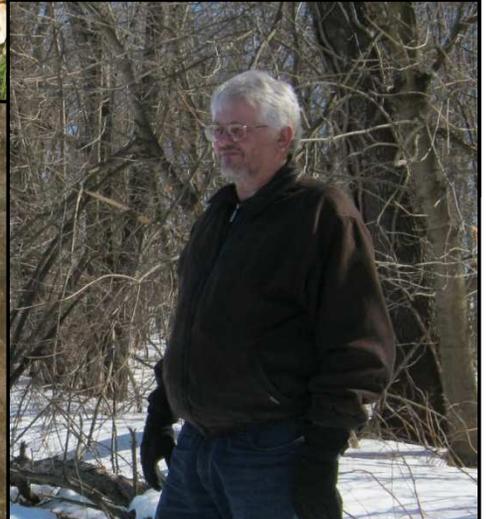
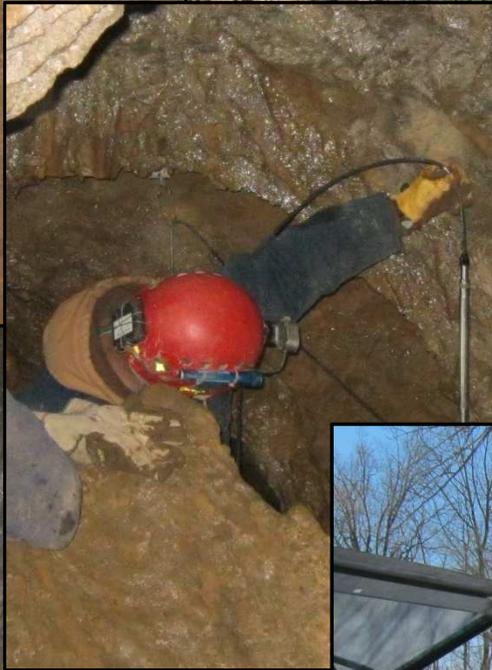
Professor Tom Feeney and Shippensburg student Sarah Bartle. Photo by Ken Tayman



Cleversburg Sink



External Battery Pack



Missouri Hunter Dies After Falling into Sinkhole

September 21, 2013 / [Missouri](#)

A Missouri deer hunter died after falling into a sinkhole earlier this week.

Curtis Powelson, 31, had been out bow-hunting near his home in Pulaski County, Missouri on Monday, September 16th when the incident occurred.

Just before dusk he contacted his wife to let her know that he had shot a deer and was going to retrieve the animal. When he did not arrive home his wife contacted authorities.

Rescuers arrived and began search a grid search for Powelson around 10:00 pm. Some five hours later, at around 3:00 am, his body was discovered at the bottom of a 21 meter (70 foot) deep sinkhole.

They just did a general grid search pattern and they came across the sinkhole and were able to shine lights down there and were able to find him at that point. Michael McCart, Pulaski County Assistant Coroner

The sinkhole is believed to be fairly new, having opened only recently due to heavy rains.

Myself, I've hunted out there since I was a kid, and the landowner himself had no idea this was out there. We had several firefighters and deputies that almost stepped into it themselves, just out there wandering around looking for him last night. Michael McCart, Pulaski County Assistant Coroner

Powelson was an active duty U.S. Marine stationed at Missouri's Fort Leonard Wood

"Quotes" of the Quarter

"Just an inch is all I need!"

JB to KT re entrance to Walnut Ridge Cave

" Double Doodie Plus Large Toilet Waste Bags

\$13.95 new \$12.02 used?"

Amazon.Com price quote for poop bags

"Bring us back a deep fried Puffin"

DM to MS re trip to Iceland

"We Found Ken Jones"

Graffiti on Walking Dead movie

CAVE BUCK\$

As of March 17, 2014

Franklin County Grotto sponsors a "Cave Bucks" program that solicits voluntary contributions from its cavers of \$1.00 per cave visited during the month. The money collected is then forwarded to a Cave conservancy or other organization for the specific purpose of buying or leasing caves.

On March 17, 2014, FCG approved a \$71 cave buck contribution to NSS New River Cave Acquisition Fund

Since starting in February 1998, FCG has collected and donated \$1553 Cave Bucks to the following organizations:

Tytoona Cave Preserve	\$ 40
Southeastern Cave Conservancy	\$ 54
Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy	\$282
West Virginia Cave Conservancy	\$443
Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy	\$588
Appalachian Cave Conservancy	\$ 25
Butler Cave Conservancy Society	\$ 50
NSS New River Cave Acquisition Fund	\$ 71
Total	\$ 1553

Preservation group buys Cumberland County land, plans to open site to cavers. CROSSVILLE, TENN.

A preservation group has purchased a plot of land that includes two caves in Cumberland County.

The Southeastern Cave Conservancy has acquired the Run to the Mill Cave Preserve, a 75-acre plot of land in the southern part of the county. The organization will spend about \$200,000 to acquire the land.

The purchase will open a caving resource that had been off-limits to cavers and outdoor enthusiasts for several years, the Chattanooga Times Free Press reported. The upper levels of the Run to the Mill cave contain several pits and a 167-foot-deep drop known as the "Tilted Well."

"We've been working on this purchase for almost 20 years," said Buddy Lane, the conservancy's treasurer and a member of the board of trustees. "It's an amazing thing."

The cave recently was discovered to be home to what biologists believe to be one of Tennessee's largest hibernating populations of endangered Indiana bats. The cave property is presumed to be positive for the presence of the white-nose syndrome, which is deadly to the bats and other species.

Conservancy officials say they will manage Run to the Mill Cave in a manner consistent with its other caves that contain significant populations of hibernating bats.

They also will work to keep the surrounding ecosystem clean, since the cave contains an underground stream that eventually reaches the surface at the head of the Sequatchie Spring in the Devilstep Hollow portion of Cumberland Trail State Park.

The conservancy is raising the \$200,000 to pay for the property and additional funding for long-term stewardship of the new preserve. Donations and a \$50,000 grant from the Lyndhurst Foundation have amounted so far to about half the needed total. □

Pics from the past= Dane Wagle

Md.-W.Va. Trail Link Shelved Due to Bat Threat

January 27, 2014

Way back when, a second rail line went from Hancock to Cumberland, mostly along the north side of the Potomac. There have been efforts to turn the abandoned right of way into a trail, but that's on hold due to a bat population in some of the tunnels.

Cumberland-Times Newspaper Fwd by Jim Schweitzer.

MARTINSBURG, W.Va. (AP) — The National Park Service has shelved a proposed extension of the Western Maryland Rail Trail to Paw Paw because it could threaten bats that roost in three tunnels along the route.

Chris Stubbs with the park service told The (Martinsburg) Journal that the bat populations in the tunnels don't have white nose syndrome. He said disturbing their habitat would make them susceptible to the fungus that causes the deadly illness. Stubbs also said humans can carry the fungus.

He said there's no way to go around one tunnel along the proposed route because the land is too steep. Stubbs said the park service regrets that the extension project couldn't go forward. □

Bat bizarreness:

Four years ago, we learned that female fruit bats engaged in oral sex to prolong the reproductive act. This year scientists reported that male bats reciprocate. And if that's not kinky enough for you, researchers also determined that bat tongues have erectile tissue. It may sound as if those researchers have a bat fetish, but their interest isn't merely prurient: The structure of those tricky tongues could someday be adapted to create softer, more flexible surgical tools. Oh, myyy!

Franklin County Grotto

Cave Rescue Training Scholarship

March 17, 2014

Purpose: The purpose of this document is to establish guidelines for the awarding of scholarship money to Franklin County Grotto (FCG) members who attend and successfully complete the Orientation to Cave Rescue (OCR) Course. FCG members are encouraged to take advantage of this scholarship which will enhance the cave rescue skills of our members while participating in FCG caving trips.

Scholarship: The Amount of the scholarship will be 50% of the registration fee. There will be a limit of no more than four scholarships in any one calendar year. The scholarship must be pre-approved.

Prerequisites: The candidate must meet the following requirements;

1. Must be a paid up member of the Franklin County Grotto
2. Must be an active member demonstrated by attending at least three meetings within the last year. *(See note 1 below)*
3. Have participated in at least two Franklin County Grotto cave trips. On these trips the candidate must demonstrate safe caving techniques, cave conservation and respect for land owners.
4. Must submit a request for consideration of the scholarship to a member of the executive committee.
5. After completion of the OCR the candidate will submit a short write-up on the course activities and how he was involved with the training.

Executive Committee: The Executive Committee will consider the request, based on the above criteria, and recommend approval/disapproval to the general membership for a vote. Exceptions may be approved by majority vote.

Payment: After completion of the course and submission of write-up for the newsletter, the treasurer will send a check to the candidate for 50% of the registration fee.

Note 1: This rule may be exempted by executive committee.

2013 Yearly Summary: November 2012 - November 2013			
	TOTAL INCOME:		\$ 1,205.75
	TOTAL EXPENSES:		\$ 862.13
	NET LOSS/GAIN:		\$ 343.62
INCOME DETAILS			
Dues Income:		\$ 587.00	
Cave Bucks:		\$ 206.00	(not including cave bucks from 11/18/13 mtg)
Xmas party gross		\$ 303.75	
Xmas reimb Pat/Anne		\$ 23.75	
Xmas reimb Howard/Diane		\$ 39.61	
Xmas net income:		\$ 240.39	
Picnic gross		\$ 91.00	
Picnic reimb Howard/Diane		\$ 43.00	
Picnic net income:		\$ 48.00	
Miscellaneous Income			
2 patches sold		\$ 10.00	
t-shirt sold		\$ 8.00	
Misc Income Total		\$ 18.00	
EXPENSE DETAILS			
Printing Expense			
Printing 4th Qtr 2012		\$ 30.65	
Printing 1st Qtr 2013		\$ 38.58	
Printing 2nd Qtr 2013		\$ 27.92	
Printing 3rd Qtr 2013		\$ 30.42	
2013 printing expense:		\$ 127.57	
Miscellaneous Expenses			
Cave signs		\$ 60.00	
2 books of stamps		\$ 18.20	
Misc Expense Total:		\$ 78.20	
Donations			
West VA Cave Conservancy		\$ 125.00	
Rouzerville Hunt Club		\$ 100.00	
Franklin Fire Company		\$ 100.00	
NSS Building Fund		\$ 50.00	
Butler Cave Conservancy		\$ 50.00	
CaveSim Convention Travel		\$ 50.00	
MAKC		\$ 75.00	
Total 2013 Donations:		\$ 550.00	

**Kenneth Tayman, Editor
13373 Sunrise Drive
Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214**

FRANKLIN COUNTY GROTTO



Franklin County Grotto 2013 Christmas/New Year dinner