

CARBIDE DUMP



October 2024 -Vol 59, No 08

The **Carbide Dump** is published monthly by the Blue Ridge Grotto of the National Speleological Society in Roanoke, Virginia. Distribution date is approximately the second week of each month. An issue may be skipped if insufficient material is received. Contributions of articles and artwork are invited and will be gratefully acknowledged. Art work originals will be returned. Contributions should be sent to the editor. Regular and associate grotto membership (\$10) includes a **Carbide Dump** subscription. Subscriber rate is \$10.00. Exchanges with other grotto and caving organizations are invited. Direct exchange mail to Mary Sue Socky.

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The Blue Ridge Grotto holds its monthly meetings every third Friday of the month at 6:30p at Taylor Masonic Lodge, 1200 Texas Street, Salem, VA 24153 (at least of Oct & Nov). See the Grotto meeting announcement in this issue.

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Contributors: David & Mary Sue Socky, Nick Socky, John Pearson, Kevin Johnson, Marian McConnell, Susan Burr, Kelly Perkins, Nick Schmalenberger, Bill Balfour, Alina Valop, Bill Koerschner and Jerry Fuller.

Cover: An oldie but goody from the October 2003 "Haunted Cave" Carbide Dump. Artwork by Marian McConnell

CAVERS CALENDAR

Oct 18: BRG meeting, 6:30 pm. Taylor Masonic Lodge in Salem, VA. See article on page 61.

Oct 19- 20: CaveSim IS returning to the Roanoke Valley during the annual **Roanoke GoFest!** Updates through the BRG Google Group.

Oct 25-27: Orientation to Cave Rescue (OCR) 3-day class, offered by ER-NCR, Blacksburg Volunteer Rescue Squad, and VPI Cave Club. See <https://tickets.caving.dev/caverescue/ocr2024/>. Contact Ashley Lewis (alewis@cave.org) for camp info.

Nov 7-10: Karst Waters Institute 4th Appalachian Karst Symposium, Lewisburg, WV. Meetings, field trip on Saturday & Banquet Saturday night. See <https://karstwaters.org/conferences/appalachian-karst-symposium-2024/> for info. Questions: appkarst2024@karstwaters.org

Nov 9, 2024: WVCC Banquet, Lewisburg, WV in conjunction with the Appalachian Karst Symposium.

Nov 15: BRG meeting, 6:30p, Elections! NOTE— NEW meeting site— Taylor Masonic Lodge in Salem, VA See p. 61.

Dec 14: WVACS Xmas Party at their fieldhouse near Frankford, WV. Contact Kelly McCarthy at 419-303-1694 or kellyrachelmcc@gmail.com for info.

Dec. 20: NO BRG Meeting. See you at BRG party in 2025.

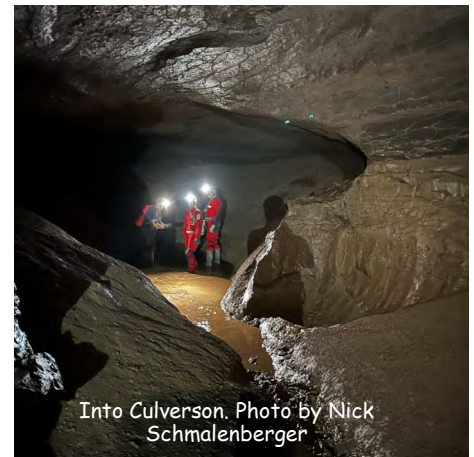
January 1, 2025—Happy New Year!

Jan 17, 2025: BRG meeting

Feb 21, 2025: BRG meeting

Mar 21, 2025: BRG meeting

June 21 - 28, 2025: NSS 2025 Convention, Cobleskill, NY. [See link](#)



Into Culverson. Photo by Nick Schmalenberger

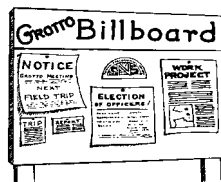
Treasurer's Report 10/09/2024

Cave Bucks	\$ 110.96
Conservation	\$ 2.00
Equipment	\$ 144.12
General	\$5,234.61
Total	\$5,491.69

Long Cave Lists

A legacy of Bob Gulden, now maintained by Paul Berger

<https://cave-exploring.com/index.php/long-and-deep-caves-of-the-world/>



BRG Meeting & Trip Notice

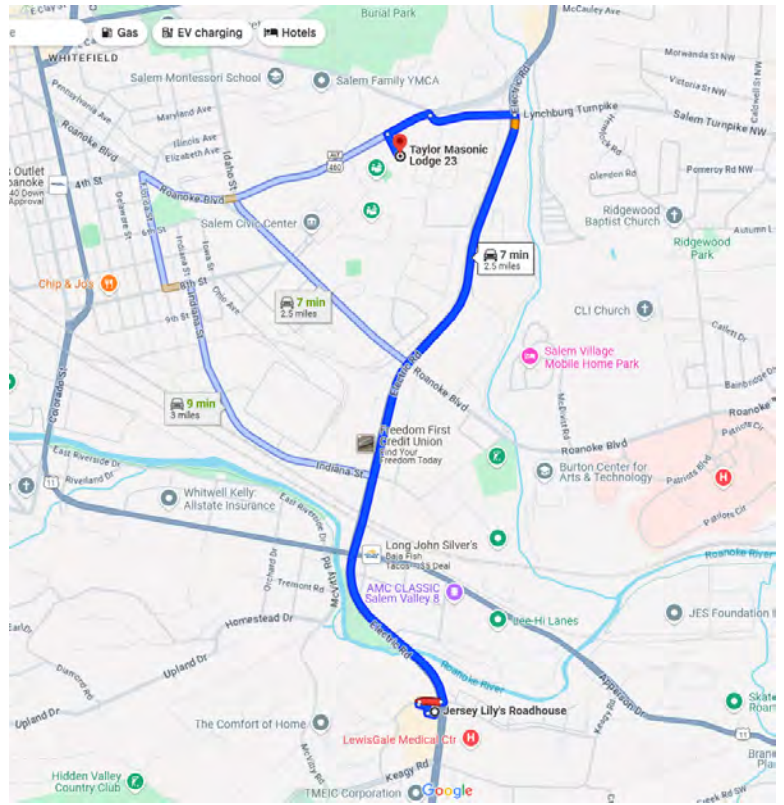
Jersey Lily's restaurant has been permanently closed. Because of this, we need to find a new meeting spot. Thanks to Kevin Johnson and Marian McConnell, we have temporarily rented the meeting room at the **Taylor Masonic Lodge, 1200 Texas Street, Salem, VA 24153**. The meeting room has been rented for the **October 18th** and **November 15th** grotto meetings.

There is no food provided there, so either eat before the meeting or bring your own bag meal. The grotto meeting will start at 7 pm.

This month's program will be a slide presentation on recent cave trips.

[Click here for a Google Map Link for directions to new location directions from Jersey Lily's to Taylor Lodge](#)

Grotto Trip To Be Announced



ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRG Meeting Minutes – can be read on the BRG webpage at: <https://blueridgegrotto.org> under the 'BRG Organization' button.

NSS Membership: Would you like to join or renew with the NSS? See this [link](#) for details.

Cave Bucks are voluntary donations from cavers who have recently been caving. Most people donate a few dollars for each cave trip they have been on. Then send the money where it will do some good and buy some caves!



Remember to Bring your BRG T-Shirt for the October 18th grotto meeting, remember to wear your new BRG t-shirt and bring a **Santa/Christmas hat** for a group photo (which may be used as our Christmas card).

BRG Christmas Card: Submit your idea for a BRG Christmas card to Dave Socky (sockydr@cox.net) by the November 15 BRG meeting.

BRG T-Shirts are in. Pay the Treasurer and claim your shirt! \$12 per shirt (XXL \$15). Shirts will be available at BRG meetings. You can pay by PayPal

to blueridgegrottoofficers@gmail.com; or you can pay with cash, check, or money order. Please pay ASAP. Need your T-shirt mailed? Add \$8.00 for shipping & handling. Questions? Ask Kelly Perkins perkinskm13@gmail.com

BRG Christmas party will NOT be on December 15th since the Socky's will be at a WVACS party, so we are looking at alternate dates; probably after Christmas. Will keep you posted.

Future VAR - After much discussion, it was decided there was not enough interest for Blue Ridge Grotto to host a VAR in 2025. Perhaps when we have more active members.

CaveSim at GO Fest. Cave Sim will return to Roanoke, VA in October for the GO Fest event! CaveSim will be open Saturday, Oct. 19, and Sunday, Oct 20, 2024. If you helped with CaveSim in July, then you know how much fun it is. We had 100-200 people a day in July. It is estimated that 5000 people a day will visit during GO Fest. CaveSim needs your help! We need cavers willing to interact with the public to help explorers 'helmet up' and experience CaveSim! We also need folks to help with the

Squeeze Box, Pulley Systems, and answer questions about caves, bats and how to 'Cave Softly and Safely.' There will be a 'Cave info' table. We need volunteers Both Days for the various shifts. Please sign up. Contact Mary Sue Socky sockymss@cox.net or 540-529-3954. CaveSim will be in Zone 2 on Jefferson Street - [See this link](#).

2024 Fall VAR was cancelled by Hurricane Helene! Out of Bounds Grotto is issuing refunds. Alternately, you can request that your refund be donated to SCCI, ACC, and the CACRT. Please contact Talia Sepiol of Out of Bounds Grotto for more info:

outofboundsgrotto@gmail.com

Hungry Mother State Park (site of Fall VAR) remains closed due to storm damage and flooding. The park hopes to reopen Oct. 14, 2024.

OCR - Orientation to Cave Rescue Class will be October 25-27, 2024 in Blacksburg, VA. See this [link](#) for info

VAR Closed Cave List can be found at this [link](#). Please send changes

(Continued on page 62)

(Announcements continued from page 61)
and updates to Brad Blase at
blase@virginiacaves.org

Bat Cave Closures -

Bat Hibernacula Caves in VA and WV are now in winter closure: These closures do not affect all caves. Check the closed list, and please go elsewhere if your intended cave is closed. *There are thousands of caves in the Virginias.*

West Virginia - Closed Sept 1 - May 15 - for bat hibernaculum colonies. (Winter Closure in effect).

Virginia - Closed Oct. 15 - Apr. 15 for bat maternity colonies. (Winter Closure in effect.)

See [this link](#) for more WV closed cave information.

Please respect all cave closures.

RIP Bill Halliday

NSS # 812 RL
HM-CM-PH-AI-FE



Well known caver and author, Dr. William Halliday, passed away on September 24, 2024. He caved throughout the country and wrote several popular books on caves and caving, such as "*Depths of the Earth*" which were influential in generating interest and excitement in many young cavers over several decades. Below is a link to his obituary:

<https://www.pattonfuneralhome.com/obituaries/william-halliday-md>

BRG Christmas Card Ideas

Below is a Christmas Card idea submission by Marian McConnell. Another idea is a group photo of BRG members in their new BRG t-shirts (and Xmas hat) to be taken at the Oct 18 grotto meeting. Please submit other ideas to Dave Socky (sockydr@cox.net). We'll vote at the November BRG meeting.



Faroe Islands Crystal Cave

By Kevin Johnson

Carrie and I recently visited the Faroe Islands in September 2024 (*The Faroe Islands are a beautiful archipelago located in the North Atlantic Ocean, half-way between Iceland and Scotland*). Although we did not see any actual caves, while touring the Faroe Islands National Museum of Nature and Culture located in the capital of Torshavn, I did find information about a crystal cave that was discovered in 2011. This cave was purported to be rare, 15 feet in height, about a foot and half wide, and 15 feet long. The cave looks like something out of the movie *Journey to the Center of the Earth*. The calcite crystals found in the cave are quite large.



some actual crystals
from the cave



Karbidlampa - Carbide lamp

Coal mining used to occur on the Faroe Islands. This is a picture of an interesting carbide light I had never seen before .



The Agony or The Ecstasy?
Is Bill Koerschner Happy?

Photo by Mary Sue Socky

McClung Cave Just Keeps Givin!

Article by *Nick Socky*

Big weekend in McClungs over September 2024 project weekend. Team 1 - Alina Valop, Peter Anastasiou, Andrew Allard, and Jason Sargent went to the Lost Freeman Ave Passage. This is located after you climb out of Freeman Ave heading toward the Sump, there is a breakdown collapse and a small hole. Prior to the WVACS Classic this year, Nick Socky, Dave Socky, and Paul Walko re-identified the missing passage and rigged it. Alina, Peter, Andrew and Jason went down the rope and pushed the lead heading back towards Freeman Ave. They surveyed up until it was TT and were able to make a TT connection to the above passage through the breakdown. Pretty cool puzzle piece solved there. There are still two leads down in

went past third breakdown and past the 2020 crawls to work on some stream passage leads in that area. At the Column of Tears, we climbed down to the stream and started our first lead. This lead was reported to be a mud plug in about 50 ft and we think we found where this used to be. We think 2016 blew it out, and we surveyed 230 ft downstream to a sump! The sump elevation is the exact same elevation of the total siphon in 3rd breakdown, so I am now speculating that this stream is in-fact upstream Chocolate Avenue. I would like to do a dye trace from Ludington with dye traps set in this upper part of the stream.

We then moved up to MGT21 (the large turn that leaves the stream before the Meat Grinder). On the last trip I crawled over a sand blow-out and saw that

there was a large pool of water and a low airspace. I could see a long way and it was open (not sumped).

This trip, we hauled in wetsuits, got super sandy. Like, VERY Sandy, everyone had sand in their wetsuits. We surveyed up and over the sand and then got to the water part. We surveyed through a 3 - 4 deep pool with about 1 foot of airspace for 200 ft before getting back into dry-ish passage. As we continued upstream, we got excited as we could see through TT holes in the flow-stone/breakdown



Paul Walko looking at Low Airspace.
Photo by Nick Socky.

above us up into a large passage. Eventually, the lower stream passage opened into a nice walking passage, with access to the upper level and the passage continued upstream. Both leads have air as well! We scooped just enough to tell that both kept going and then swam back out of the low airspace and made our way out of the cave.

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Survey in Lost Freeman.
Photo by Alina Valop

this section of the cave, upstream breakdown at the stream and downstream breakdown at the stream.

As for the Meat Grinder team - Bethany Bookout, Paul Walko, Eric Shuler, and I



New Sump Upstream 3rd Breakdown - Photo by Nick Socky



Paul Walko and Bethany Bookout Enjoying the water on the way out. Photo by Nick Socky

This is very exciting because this could be the missing piece of upstream Chocolate Ave that goes all the way to Ludington before the Ludington sump. Granted, it might get too low or sump again between where we are and Ludington, but either way, this is a very exciting find

with A LOT of protentional. Next thing to do is to check the low air space out back during normal weather (wet) conditions to see if its sumps or if this is a very infrequent opportunity due to the current drought. We are going to call this the Wrought Day.

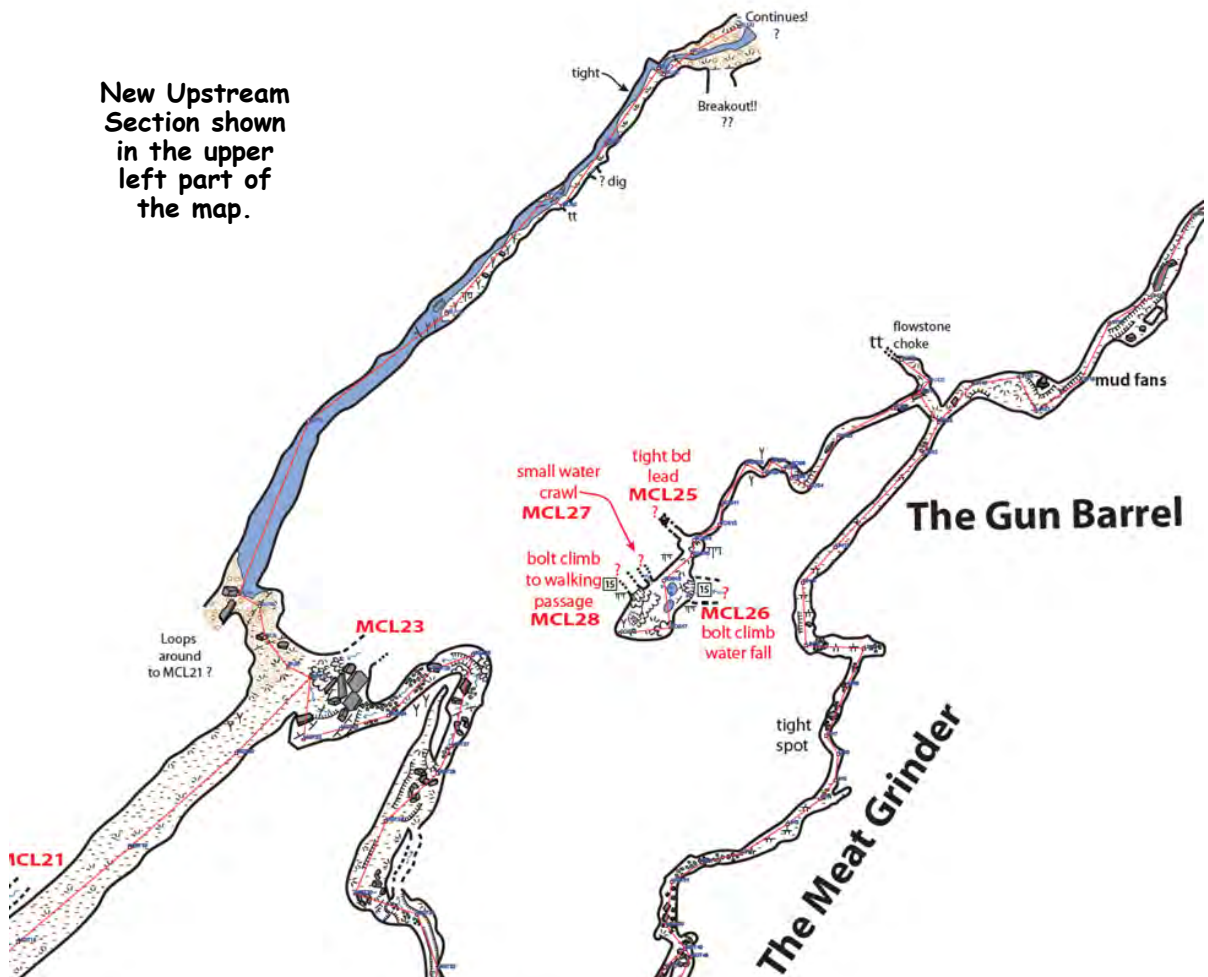
IBU surveyed 588 ft and PAJA surveyed 179.2 ft for 767.2 ft. The McClung side of Great Savannah Cave System is now 26.10 miles long and GSCS is 54.83 miles long now!



Nick Socky, Bethany Bookout, Eric Shuler, Paul Walko in the new Passage Beyond the Wrought Day. Photo by Nick Socky



New Upstream Section shown in the upper left part of the map.



New Cave in Alleghany County

Article by *Bill Koerschner* & Photos by *Dave Socky*

Warm Springs Project

September 25, 2024

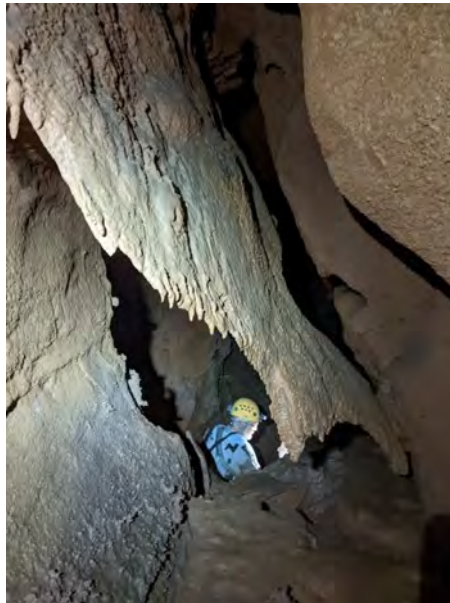
Survey crew Bob Alderson, Bill Koerschner, Dave Socky, Jason Sargent. Surface support and digging: Keith Sweeney, Jim Schurman, and Tom McIntyre.

Objective: Open and begin survey of new cave in Allegheny County, Virginia

In: 11:30 AM **Out:** 7:00 PM (7.5 hours)

Background: Keith Sweeney had been contacted by land owner J. S Williams about a cave on his property on the SE side of Warm Springs Mountain. Mr. Williams said that he had known about the cave entrance since he was a boy and always wondered what was down there. We agreed to survey the cave as part of the Warm Springs Project even though it was outside of the cove itself.

Report: On Wednesday Sept 25th Bob Alderson, Bill Koerschner, Jason Sargent and Dave Socky began the survey of J. S. Williams Cave immediately after the entrance was enlarged and rigged with a cable ladder. The entrance is vertical squeeze between a fallen sandstone block and a sandstone bedrock cliff. It drops 8 feet onto a steep dirt



A cool fin bisecting the passage

slope that leads to the top of a vertical drop of 6 feet. Station A3 was set on the back wall of a 15Hx5W canyon in the limestone running off to the left. The top of the limestone occurs 0.5 ft above station A3. The limestone consists of very pure fossil fragment grainstone with abundant crinoids and brachiopods. Best guess is that this is the Devonian Licking Creek Limestone which makes the overlying sandstone the Oriskany.

Jason led the way down a very steep dirt slope to the top of a 25ft fissure climbdown. Bob followed and cut steps in the dirt with his rock hammer (much appreciated). We crossed the drop by chimneying across a ledge to an ascending dirt slope on the far side. The slope led to a crawl hole that opens into a 15x15 room. Sandstone forms the ceiling of the room and the floor is flowstone. The passage continued ahead as an 8Hx2W canyon crawl to a small stand-up bell where the passage split. We set A10 on the wall and took the survey down an awkward hole on the right into a continuing lower canyon.

We crossed over a spectacular shelf of cream-colored rimstone and set our last station in this passage (A13) at the top of a wicked tight vertical S-bend slot. Jason attempted the slot but could not make the bend at the bottom so he could not get a good look at any would be con-

tinuation. He briefly became wedged and requested the webbing from his pack, which Dave went to retrieve. Jason managed to free his trapped leg by the time Dave returned but still required assistance getting up the vertical squeeze. Bob tied a loop in the end of the sling which Jason managed to get onto his foot. Bob pulled the sling tight and Jason was able to take a tiny step upward. By this method, Bob was able to 'ratchet' Jason slowly out of the slot. He soon appeared at the top covered in peanut butter mud, thus explaining why he needed help. There may be a lead here but none of us are very excited to return.

We retreated to A10 and surveyed ahead along the original main canyon. We had to pass a couple of very tight and awkward formation squeezes to enter continuing walking passage. At A23 we came to the top of a 25ft fissure drop into a lower room. We were able to traverse across the top to where the main passage comes to an abrupt end in a cone of drippy surface rubble. We took the survey back along the bottom of the room to below A23. There was no way onward from the bottom of the room so we wrapped up the survey and returned to the entrance.

(Continued on page 66)



Bill stemming the high canyon near the entrance.



Calcite covered floor.

(Continued from page 65)

Jason climbed down the fissure drop that we had crossed back near the entrance. He reported that there was enough to survey for a return trip and maybe a possible lead that could continue.

The cave entrance proved tricky to get out of due to the difficulty of bending

your leg enough in the confines of the slot to reach the next ladder rung. Everyone was out by 7:00 PM for a fun, 7.5 hour trip.

Discussion: The cave entrance is in the Devonian Oriskany Sandstone and the cave is developed in the underly-

ing Licking Creek Limestone. The cave is a classic phreatic 'funnel' canyon formed just below the sandstone, similar to Low Moor Cave. The initial survey netted 420 ft and there should be enough passage remaining to get the cave length past the 500 ft mark.



Dry rimstone dams



Bill among the formations near the end of the upper level

The Virginia Cave & Karst Trail

Trip 1 – The Virginia Living Museum – Stop 24
524 J. Clyde Morris Blvd., Newport News VA

By John Pearson

September 28, 2024. It was my original intention to begin visiting The Virginia Cave & Karst Trail sites starting either in the northern end of the Shenandoah Valley or the Cumberland Gap region of the Commonwealth and work north this last spring. However, due to life rushing by me, I ended up starting with the one location that was extremely off the beaten path. Specifically, the Virginia Living Museum (VLM).

First off, nothing in this life is free, except for time well spent. If you visit VLM, expect an adult admission charge of \$19.95 to \$23.95, depending on the day of the week you visit. Children's pricing for 3-12 year olds starts at \$16.95.

Also, before you go, you may want to check and see what exhibits are open as many were being reconstructed when I visited. There were two main areas on the first floor that pertained to karst and caves; *Virginia's World of Darkness* and

Virginia's Underground. Unfortunately, the *World of Darkness* bat exhibit was under reconstruction, so I trekked over to *Virginia's Underground*. Essentially, you can read poster-board exhibits explaining caves and their environment to the layman as well as dioramas of various geological environments located in the Commonwealth.

Exhibits included Ancient Coral Habitat, James River Fossil Bank, a Pack Rat exhibit, Cave Crickets, Cave Formations, Virginia Gemstones and Blind Cave Fish. Unfortunately, some of the exhibits were being upgraded, so I only got to "see" the Cave Cricket exhibit as the Blind Cave Fish exhibit was closed.

Now, don't get me wrong, this museum is excellent for kids, with lots of things to do. I particularly liked the outdoor areas, which included a tank with alligators, gars, lots of painted turtles and other fish. There's also a three-quarter mile Boardwalk Trail that showcases wood-



land and wetland areas with native animals. There is also a coastal plains Aviary, a Dinosaur Discovery trail, Native plants and a Butterfly Sanctuary.

In 2025, I cordially invite BRG and their friends to join me and map out and visit the remaining 24 Karst trail sites. Visit <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/vacavetrail> for an idea of sites near us. Hey. I've never been to Dixie Caverns, a great place to start.

Culverson Creek Grotto Trip

By *Dave Socky*

September 21, 2024

David Socky, Nick Schmalenberger, Susan Burr, Kelly Perkins, Margo Soucek, and Jeff Huffman

The Blue Ridge Grotto has been trying to do a trip into Culverson Creek for a long time now, but plans have constantly been cancelled due to weather issues. The cave floods easily. Finally, a trip was planned for September 2024 which wasn't cancelled. Water levels were the lowest anyone had seen in a long time and the forecast was for a beautiful sunny day.

We entered the cave via the near vertical culvert at the Wildcat entrance. Fifteen feet down at the bottom of the culvert was a set of tight climbdowns through breakdown. Then a damp and wet tube that led to the climbdown into the main Culverson stream. I had brought in a 50 foot rope to use as a handline, which was much appreciated by everyone.

Turning left, we tromped downstream through the large trunk passage. There were many crawdads and salamanders - and even some frogs.

Soon we reached the "Hairy Spot". A fifteen foot deep waterfall with a ledge on the right. An old handline was still in place to help with getting to the point where you have to climb down. I put in an additional webbing handline since the climbdown was a little tricky.

I got down and then climbed part way back up to spot everyone as they climbed down. Good thing I put in the webbing because Nick slipped and almost fell off the ledge but caught himself just in time with the webbing handline. He banged his right knee.

After trying to get over the top ledge for 15 minutes, Jeff Huffman decided he didn't want to risk falling and hurting his back. He waited at the climb down while the rest of us went to see the log jam.

We got above the Muddahorn and found we were going the hard way. After turning around to look for the correct way, Nick said his knee was twanging. After a few minutes I decided to call the trip. Better to be safe than sorry. We went back.

At the climb up, we all decided it was easy enough to take a look at the passage going upstream towards the main Culverson entrance. After a lot of walking stream passage we got to a spot where the water got pretty deep. Margo and I were the only ones to swim through the "over your head water" and check out the passage for a little longer. We did not reach the entrance (which was reported to be clogged with debris) deciding to not make everyone else wait too long. The trip out was uneventful. We were out at 4pm. We went to the Bowling Alley for dinner.



Looking downstream in the main Culverson stream passage. Photo by Kelly Perkins.



The ledge at the Hairy Spot. Dave Socky spotting Susan Burr. Photo by Kelly Perkins.



Before group photo. L-R: Jeff Huffman, Dave Socky, Margo Soucek, Susan Burr, Nick Schmalenberger, Kelly Perkins. Photo by Bill Balfour



Frog by Kelly Perkins

Grotto Trip Log

7/28: Mine Tunnel, CO. David Socky. Explored an old mine tunnel hear the trail head for Gray and Torrey's Peak in Colorado. The tunnel only went for 30 feet or so before ending in a total collapse. Probably just as well, since old mines are dangerous and unstable. It was probably an old silver or gold mine.

8/17: Island Ford, VA. See trip report in Aug/Sept *Carbide Dump* (Mary Sue Socky)

8/18: Dig near the church on Gray Ledge Road in Botetourt County (Nick Schmalenberger) – Didn't go; went with Martin to Greenbrier meeting.

8/24: Lone Ash Cave (AKA Bertha Cave), VA – (Susan Burr) See trip report in Aug/Sept *Carbide Dump*.

8/24: McClung Cave, WV. Participants included for team #1 David Socky, Paul Walko, and Eli Meyer. Team #2: Nick Socky and Gracie Cornish. Team #3: Nikki Fox and one other. Team 4: Jason Delafield, Laurel Molloy, and Andy Bui. Crystal Canyon, Ludington dig, and Venti Muddy wet lead. We had a total of 600 feet or so of survey completed, three aid climbs completed, plus digging on the Ludington lead. We spent a total of 13 hours in the cave. Leads killed, but others left. The Ludington dig is discouraging, but Jason left going cave in his very wet lead.

9/4: Triplet Cave, VA. Participants included David Socky, Bill Koerschner, Rick Lambert, Keith Sweeney, Amos Mincin, and Jason Sargent. We dug in Triplet cave from 10:30am to 2:30pm. Amos had to quit at 2pm because Rick had to take him to Bill Jones's so Bill could take him to Staunton to rent a car since Amos totaled his coming back from OTR (fell asleep at the wheel and drove into a ditch). So, after 2pm we sat around and BS'ed, then went over to look at Wave Function Cave.

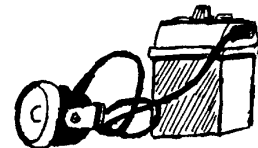
9/21: Culverson Creek, WV. See article on Page 67

9/25: JS Williams Cave, VA. See article on Page 65.

9/28: Boarhole Cave, WV. Participants included David Socky, Greg Springer, Logan Leffler, and Jada Townsend. We picked up where Greg & I had quit back in June in the narrow canyon. Good stemming at first with a narrow crack in the floor. But after 30 of 40 feet we gained a floor. Further in there were spots where there were holes in floor that dropped down 20 feet or so to large cave with drippy water. But we couldn't find a way down. Will have to come back with vertical gear or cable ladder. We then went back to the main room where we surveyed a short section accessed from a drain. It all ended, plus tied back into the main passage. Good 7 hour trip with about 370 feet of survey in the book.

10/2: Coralberry Dig, VA. Participants included David Socky, Rick Lambert, and Jim Schurman. Worked on a dig on the 10 Commandments farm, close to Warm River. Used about 10 straws and many buckets of rock and dirt. This was a hole that had been filled in by the landowner a while back because of the big sandstone blocks that we had to remove. We are down about 6 feet with a small crack and a little bit of air.

10/5: Olmec Dig, WV. Participants included David Socky, Greg Springer, and Silas Springer. This is a dig that Greg has been working on for a while. It is across the field from Carroll Bassett's house and up on the hillside. The dig is about 25 feet deep and is barely free climbable. There are nails in the walls near the bottom and now there is a 8 foot aluminum ladder to make the climb easier. The entrance was very drippy so the person digging at the bottom more or less got soaked. Greg did most of the work below while Silas and I pulled up the bucket with rocks. A pulley was used to make it easier, but the buckets were still heavy. This is a long term dig. We made only about 3 feet of progress, if even that.



Upcoming BRG Nominations

BRG will begin the Nominations for office during the **October 21, 2023**, grotto meeting.

Who can run for office?

- Any current adult Regular BRG member who has been a BRG member for more than a year can run for grotto office.
- Consider becoming a BRG Officer – see BRG By-laws to see the requirements and responsibilities for each office. https://blueridgegrotto.org/organization_set.htm
- All current BRG Officers have completed one year in office and can

hold their offices another year if they so choose, except for Marian McConnell who has been Secretary for two years.

Current Officers:

Chair

Nick Schmalenberger, NSS #62709

Vice Chair

David Socky, NSS #16334

Secretary

Marian McConnell, NSS #37358

Treasurer

Kelly Perkins, NSS #71972

In addition to Marian, Kelly Perkins is not able to hold the office of treasurer next year because of too many other commitments.

So, we need a Secretary and a Treasurer for next year! Anyone wish to step up? Do I hear any nominations?

Nominations will close at the November BRG meeting, after which voting will take place.



West Virginia Cave Conservancy



Annual Banquet

Saturday, November 9, 2024

At the Alumni Center at the WV School of Osteopathic Medicine in
Lewisburg, West Virginia

Happy Hour (cash bar) starts at 5:00 PM. Dinner is at 7:00 PM

Banquet Speaker: Greg Springer will be the banquet speaker. *Look and ye shall find: cave exploration and research as inseparable sides of the same coin.* Cave exploration has led to scientifically interesting discoveries and observations throughout my time as a caver. In this talk, I will detail exploration's essential role in my research program and highlight selected interesting scientific discoveries made possible by my years of cave surveying in West Virginia karst.

Silent Auction: There will be the traditional Silent Auction at the banquet. Donations are welcome, or bring money to bid on the many treasures.

Menu: There are three menu options this year and you must choose one ahead of time. The three options are described on the back of this page.

Appalachian Karst Symposium: The year's banquet is being held in conjunction with the 4th Appalachian Karst Symposium. If you are attending the Symposium, the banquet is included with your registration and there is no need to register separately. If you are interested in attending the Symposium there is more information at <https://karstwaters.org/conferences/appalachian-karst-symposium-2024/>

Banquet Registration:

- Event registration is \$50 per person.
- Reservations must be received by **Thursday, October 31**. Reservations are required so we know how much food to order. There will be no 'at the door' meal tickets available. Make checks payable to WVCC and mail to: WVCC Banquet, c/o Bob Hoke, 6304 Kaybro St., Laurel, MD 20707.
- Tickets can also be purchased using a credit card or PayPal account. To use a credit card or PayPal go to WVCC.net/banquet.
- There will be a cash bar from 5–7 PM. Bringing personal alcohol is strictly prohibited.

Please see the driving directions and map on the back



Yes, I will attend the West Virginia Cave Conservancy's Annual Banquet:

Name(s) _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Number of meals: Prime Rib _____ Chicken _____ Vegetarian (vegan) _____

If you are registering multiple people please include a note saying which meal each person wants.

Total Amount Enclosed (\$50 per person) _____