



Carbide Dump

April 2009 Vol 44 No 4

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EXCHANGE MAIL/TRIP COORDINATOR

Al Stewart
2528 Montgomery Ave. S.W.
Roanoke, Va. 24015-4204
H: (540) 989-0483

EDITORS

David & Mary Sue Socky
6572 Woodbrook Dr. S.W.
Roanoke, Va. 24018-5402
H: (540) 989-7693 W: (540) 387-8613
email: sockydr@cox.net or sockymss@cox.net



The Blue Ridge Grotto holds its monthly meetings every third Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the second floor meeting room of the Vinton Firehouse, 120 Jackson Ave, Vinton, VA 24179.

GROTTO OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

<u>Chairman</u>	<u>Vice-Chair</u>	<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>	<u>Safety & Techniques</u>
Susan Burr H: 540-989-5809 pondlady97@cox.net	David Socky H:540-989-7693 sockydr@cox.net	Aaron Moses C: 540-520-6507 amoses80@hotmail.net	Carl Cornett H: 540-342-3950 cyclenow@psknet.com	Dan McConnell H: 540-966-1345 pitresq@aol.com

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You can access the *Carbide Dump* electronically at: <http://blueridgegrotto.org/carbidedump.htm>

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Contributors: Dave & Mary Sue Socky, Aaron Moses, Meredith Hall Weberg, Bob Zimmerman, Carol Tiderman, Jerry Fuller, Miquel Angel Guterrez

Cover: A healthy pipistrelle bat in a Virginia cave - Photo by Dave Socky

CAVERS CALENDAR

NOTE: the Commonwealth of Virginia requests that there be a moratorium on wild cave visitation and exploration through April 15, 2009. Please honor this closure, and learn more about decontaminating your cave gear and preventing the spread of White Nose Syndrome (WNS) in bat colonies.

April 10-12: Annual Restoration Work Weekend in Grand Caverns/Fountain Cave. Free primitive camping, food and beverage provided for lunch & dinner Saturday.

April 17: BRG meeting, 7:30p Vinton Firehouse. Trip to Buckeye Creek Cave, WVA. Leader- Trish Geiger.

April 19-25: Virginia Cave Week.

April 24-26: Spring VAR, at Grand Caverns, VA. Hosted by members of the VAR. See info on p. 33-34.

May 2-3: Resurvey of Grand Caverns/Cave Hill. Survey, exploration and resto-

ration projects. Contact Carol Tiderman ctider@us.ibm.com to reserve a slot.

May 15: BRG meeting, 7:30p Vinton Firehouse. Trip TBA

May 22-25: 2009 Speleofest, Lone Star Cave Preserve, Bonnieville, KY. Hosted by Louisville Grotto. Go to <http://louisville.caves.org/Speleofest.html> for info & registration.

May 28-31: 58th annual SERA Cave Carnival, in Walker Co. GA. Hosted by Nashville Grotto. See <http://www.sera2009.org> for more info.

June 13-20: NCRC National Cave Rescue Operations and Management Seminar, Stalker Elementary School, Bedford, Indiana. See the [NCRC National Web site](http://www.ncrcnational.org) for more information.

June 19: BRG meeting, 7:30p Vinton Firehouse.

June 26-28: 56th Annual Cave Capers, Camp Rivervale, Mitchell, IN. Hosted by Central Indiana Grotto www.cavecapers.com or call Ron Adams 317-490-7727 for more info.

July 17: BRG meeting, 7:30p Vinton Firehouse.

July 19-26: 15th International Congress of Speleology. Sponsored by the NSS in Kerrville, Texas. For more information contact the [Secretary](http://www.ics2009.us) or visit the [ICS website](http://www.ics2009.us)

July 21-25: NSS Convention, Kerrville, TX, held in conjunction with the ICS above. See the [convention website](http://www.ics2009.us/nssconv.html) <http://www.ics2009.us/nssconv.html> for more info

Oct 8-11, 2009: 32nd Annual TAG Fall Cave-In. Hosted by Dogwood City Grotto. www.tagfallcavein.org or Andrea Tognetti 309-453-2816.



Meeting Notice

The **April 17, 2009** meeting of the Blue Ridge Grotto will be held at **Vinton Firehouse, 120 West Jackson Ave.** The meeting will start at 7:30 pm.

PROGRAM - This month's program will be the conclusion of the video on *Snowy River* in Fort Stanton Cave, NM.



Grotto Trips

Buckeye Creek Cave Greenbrier Co., WVA

Date & Time: Meet at Hanging Rock Orange Market at **9:00 am** on Saturday, **April 18, 2009.**

Leader: Trish Geiger 540-344-1754

Requirements: Basic caving gear. Clean and decontaminate all gear. WET Cave! Bring a complete change of clothes & shoes for the ride home.

Trip Limit: 12 cavers max

Description

WARNING: This cave floods! The trip to Buckeye Creek Cave will be rescheduled if heavy rains or thunderstorms are forecast. Call the leader if you are unsure that the trip is on.

NOTE: Buckeye Creek Cave has sensitive landowner relations. Any trips into Buckeye Creek Cave must have a WVACS member present in the group.

Buckeye Creek Cave is an interesting and fun cave. It has an impressive entrance with an insurge stream, and contains about 4.5 miles of passage. The lower stream level is very wet, the upper levels are dry to muddy - typical of so many Greenbrier Co. caves.

During our visit to Buckeye Creek Cave, we will be (mostly) walking in the stream passage, and hopping a little breakdown (for variety and to avoid deep pools). We can check out the upper level rooms, look for prismatic joint and fossils, and search for leads the surveyors missed. On the way in, our one big obstacle is a near sump called the "Watergate". There's about 2 to 3 feet of air space, but you will need to stoop in the water for a few feet and get your chest a little wet. From then on, our trip will be easy. We'll exit the cave same via the same route we entered -only wetter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TREASURER'S REPORT

MARCH 20, 2009

General Fund:	\$ 7102.03
Conservation:	\$ 156.09
Equipment:	\$ 279.00
Cave Bucks:	\$ 125.00
Total	\$ 7662.42

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

Grotto News

2009 Spring VAR – April 24-26 at Grand Caverns, Grottoes, VA! This VAR will be hosted by several grottos including members of the Blue Ridge Grotto. Price is \$30. See you there!

Grotto Gear - Pat Sims has found easy to adjust helmet suspensions –the one with the knobs, cost is \$11.90 each. Susan Burr made motion to buy 8 of them, Dave Socky seconds. One opposed- Motion Passed.

Donations - Pat Sims proposed that BRG make a \$100 donation to the NSS WNS Fund. Dave Socky seconds. None opposed. Motion passed.

Conservation

Cave Closures

3/15/2009: **ALL WILD CAVES in Virginia are currently closed** to due to WNS. Please honor this moratorium, which will be lifted April 15, 2009. Please disinfect your cave clothes, gear, car trunk, etc. after each cave trip.

3/26/2009: **MORE NEWS – The US Fish and Wildlife Service (federal government) has issued a moratorium on caving in 15 states.** All caves on government land are closed to visitation. The policy will be reviewed every 34 months. This request is voluntary.

Membership Updates

12 cavers and friends attended the March 20, 2009 BRG meeting.

Dave Socky showed an NSS DVD, "Snowy River" – saw the first half.

Mike Frazier, NSS 53334 RE, was voted in as BRG's newest member. Welcome, Mike!

Kim Deacon was accepted as a BRG Subscriber. Welcome, Kim!

BRG has 54 members and 2 subscribers for 2009.

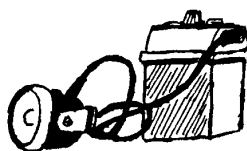
Know of a potential caver? Bring them to a BRG meeting, sponsor them on a BRG trip, let them experience caving at its finest, with the best cavers around .

Cave Softly and Safely

Membership Updates

New Member

Mike Frazier NSS 53334
4704 Salem Road
Spout Springs, VA 24593
c/ 434-609-3423
director37429@aol.com



(Continued on page 33)



Xibalba

By Miquel Angel Guterrez



MEXICO CITY (Reuters) - Mexican archeologists have discovered a maze of stone temples in underground caves, some submerged in water and containing human bones, which ancient Mayans believed was a portal where dead souls entered the underworld.

Clad in scuba gear and edging through narrow tunnels, researchers discovered the stone ruins of eleven sacred temples and what could be the remains of human sacrifices at the site in the Yucatan Peninsula.

Archeologists say Mayans believed the underground complex of water-filled caves leading into dry chambers -- including an underground road stretching some 330 feet -- was the path to a mythical underworld, known as Xibalba.

According to an ancient Mayan scripture, the Popol Vuh, the route

was filled with obstacles, including rivers filled with scorpions, blood and pus and houses shrouded in darkness or swarming with shrieking bats, Guillermo de Anda, one of the lead investigators at the site, said on Thursday.

The souls of the dead followed a mythical dog who could see at night, de Anda said.

Excavations over the past five months in the Yucatan caves revealed stone carvings and pottery left for the dead.

"They believed that this place was the entrance to Xibalba. That is why we have found the offerings there," de Anda said.

The Mayans built soaring pyramids and elaborate palaces in Central America and southern Mexico before mysteriously abandoning their cities around 900 A.D.

They described the torturous journey to Xibalba in the Popol Vuh sacred text, originally written in hieroglyphic script on long scrolls and later transcribed by Spanish conquerors.

"It is very likely this area was protected as a sacred depository for the dead or for the passage of their souls," said de Anda, whose team has found ceramic offerings along with bones in some temples.

Different Mayan groups who inhabited southern Mexico and northern Guatemala and Belize had their own entrances to the underworld which archeologists have discovered at other sites, almost always in cave systems buried deep in the jungle.

In the Yucatan site they have found one 1,900-year-old ceramic vase, but most of the artifacts date back to between 700 and 850 A.D.

"These sacred tunnels and caves were natural temples and annexes to temples on the surface," said de Anda.

(This article originally appeared in *Reuters News* 8/15/2008. Writing by Mica Rosenberg; editing by Todd Eastham)



White Nose Syndrome Gear Decontamination Options

(April 2009)

We need to kill the White Nose Syndrome (WNS) fungus, which can be done with any ONE of the decontaminate substances listed (Sodium Hypochlorite bleach, Formula 409, Professional Lysol) OR by exposing the gear to sufficient heat (produced by a washer, dryer, or dishwasher that can heat to 120°F/ 49°C).

After soaking pre-treated gear in the solution, rinse really well to get the solution off the gear. Use dryer or air dry.

Note: Bleach is NOT advised for any vertical gear – bleach destroys nylon.

REMEMBER, bag dirty gear in plastic trash bags. You must clean yourself, your clothes, your cave gear, boots, helmet, gloves, pack contents, and your car after **EVERY TRIP. NO CHEATING!** Decontaminate your cave gear bag or tub before placing clean cave gear in it.

It is NOT recommended for cavers to visit multiple caves on the same day, and this should definitely NOT be done if evidence of WNS is observed.

A) Hot Wash/Hot Dry Option

1. Pre-treat cave clothes and gear to remove most surface mud and organics.
2. Wash cave clothes, soft gear, poly underwear, socks, and travel clothes in washer on HOT setting with detergent, normal rinse cycle.
3. Dry clothes in dryer on HOT setting, or hang to completely air dry. *(The heat from the hot water or dryer temperature kills the fungus.)*

- Remember to decon your helmet, boots, and “hard gear” with bleach or chemicals. **(B, C, D)**

B) Bleach, Baby, Bleach

1. Pre-treat cave clothes and gear to remove most of surface mud and organics.
2. Make up a solution in tub or bucket: **1 part bleach to 9 parts water.**
3. The bleach used should have as its active ingredient **sodium hypochlorite.**
4. Soak cave clothes, gear, boots, gloves, and helmet, etc. for **10 minutes** in this solution. Wipe down your lights and gear that should not be immersed.
5. Remove clothes and gear from solution, rinse, and hang to completely air dry. *(The bleach solution kills the fungus.)*

C) Clean Helmet, Light, Boots, Gloves, and “Hard Gear” After EVERY trip!

1. Pre-treat cave clothes and gear to remove most surface mud and organics.
2. Use a chemical cleaner containing these active ingredients: **Dimethyl Benzyl Ammonium Chloride or Benzalkonium Chloride.** *Ex: Formula 409 Antibacterial can be used on anything: or Professional Lysol Antibacterial Cleaner*
3. Spray down helmet, light, boots, gloves, and “hard gear” with Formula 409 Antibacterial, let sit for **10 minutes**, then rinse and wipe down, and air dry thoroughly. *(The Dimethyl Benzyl Ammonium Chloride kills the fungus.)*

D) Dishwasher Cleaning

Some cavers are using their dishwashers to heat and “steam” their helmets, vertical gear, and “hard gear.”

1. Pre-treat helmets, hard gear, and vertical gear to remove most surface mud and organics.
2. Place pre-treated equipment in clean, empty dishwasher. Arrange items or use mesh bags so equipment won't tangle with dishwasher rotors/wands/etc.
3. Use hottest dishwasher settings, add dishwasher detergent (optional), and run to clean your gear.
4. Hang to completely air dry. *(The hot water kills the fungus.)*

These instructions follow the official guidelines as outlined on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife decontamination Website, <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/whitenosemessage.html>, and have been accepted for use during Spring 2009 bat counts in both West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

Information compiled by Mary Sue Socky, Bob Zimmerman, and edited by Meredith Hall Weberg 4/6/2009



Grotto Store

These goodies are available at each and every Grotto meeting:

- **Snot Gloves:** \$1.50 pair
- **T-Shirts:** \$7.00 each
- **BRG Patches** \$4.00 each
- **Bumper Stickers:** \$1.00 each

White-Nose Syndrome in bats: Cave Advisory March 26, 2009

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommends suspending activities in caves to protect bats from white-nose syndrome

Advisory:

White-nose syndrome (WNS) is a malady of unknown origin that has killed hundreds of thousands of bats across the northeast United States during the past three years and continues unchecked. It threatens to spread to the Midwest and Southeast, home to many federally endangered bat species as well as some of the largest bat populations in the country.

The evidence collected to date indicates that human activity in caves and mines may be assisting the spread of WNS. The primary agent of concern is a fungus that is new to science and may possibly be an invasive species. This fungus grows best in the cold and wet conditions common to caves and abandoned mines and likely can be transported inadvertently from site-to-site on boots and gear of cave visitors. Therefore, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is recommending actions to reduce the risks of further spread of WNS. We hope that slowing the spread of WNS will buy time that is critical to confirming the cause and potentially implementing management actions to minimize the impacts to native bat populations.

We recognize that the steps we are recommending will require sacrifice from the caving community and others, and we regret this inconvenience. However, the observed devastation to bat populations, exceeding 90 percent mortality at many affected sites, and the evidence for human-assisted spread justifies that we exercise an abundance of caution in managing activities that impact caves and bats. These measures will not be a cure for WNS, but they are necessary to help slow the spread of this affliction and to reduce the risks to bat populations in North America. While it is generally recommended that cavers avoid all caves and mines containing hibernating bats (hibernacula), even in states where WNS is not known to occur, we strongly recommend the following steps to further reduce risks of WNS:

1. A voluntary moratorium, effective immediately, on all caving activity in states known to have hibernacula affected by WNS, and all adjoining states, unless conducted as part of an agency*-sanctioned research or monitoring project. Caves infected with the WNS fungus may not show any obvious signs of its presence, and we do not know the actual geographic distribution of all affected sites. Human activity in affected caves may cause fungal spores and particles to become airborne, thereby contaminating exposed materials and allowing for transport. Although we have confidence in the current protocols for decontamination, there is no way to guarantee efficacy for all equipment in all circumstances, and they may not adequately address needs for technical or vertical gear.

2. Cavers in regions outside the WNS-affected and adjacent states should be using clothing and gear that has never been used in caves or mines in the affected or adjacent states, and should thoroughly clean and contain all clothing and gear upon exiting those locations. Because there is a lag time between the initial point of contact with the causative agent(s) of WNS and the first visible evidence of its presence, we cannot be certain that apparently unaffected sites do not pose a risk for contamination. In order to minimize the risk that WNS could travel across state, regional or national boundaries on clothing and equipment, we are advising that clothing and equipment used outside of the affected region be decontaminated following the protocols available on the Service WNS Web site (see below). This recommendation does not supersede state or local caving orders, and we request that cavers respect and observe all state and local cave closures and advisories.

3. All scientific activities that involve entry into caves or mines where bats reside should be evaluated to determine if the activity has the potential to facilitate the spread of WNS. Much of the research currently under way in bat hibernacula is related to WNS and/or monitoring, and continued research is essential to advancing our understanding of WNS. All non-WNS related research conducted in caves and mines should be coordinated with federal and state conservation agencies (as per No. 1 above). Potential benefits of research will be weighed against the risk posed to bats. Research or monitoring activities should not be conducted if risks cannot adequately be addressed.

4. For all scientific activity, no equipment or clothing that has been used in any cave or mine in a WNS-affected or adjacent state should be used in a cave or mine in an unaffected state. Within an affected state, no equipment or clothing that has been used in a WNS-affected county should be used in an unaffected or unknown county. As an added precaution, researchers should decontaminate all clothing and gear, using protocols available from the Service or a local state agency, when exiting any hibernacula.

At the issuance of this advisory, the investigation of key elements of the cause and spread of WNS has been under way for less than one year. Laboratory and field research currently being conducted will require time for analysis and replication. Therefore, these recommendations will remain in effect until the mechanisms behind transmission of WNS are understood, and/or the means to mitigate the risk of human-assisted transport are developed. We will provide quarterly updates on the status and scope of this advisory via the Service WNS Web site (http://www.fws.gov/northeast/white_nose.html).

(Continued on page 32)

(WNS Advisory continued from page 31)

Background and supporting evidence:

We estimate that more than 400,000 bats have died from WNS, including 25,000 federally endangered Indiana bats, and many more bats are at immediate risk. As of March 18, 2009, at least 60 hibernacula in nine states (Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia and West Virginia) are known to be affected by WNS.

Current data indicate that a newly identified fungus (*Geomyces* sp.) that thrives in the cold and humid conditions characteristic of the caves and mines used by bats is responsible, at least in part, for the impacts and mortality associated with WNS (see: **Bat White-Nose Syndrome: An Emerging Fungal Pathogen?** by Blehert et al. in *Science Magazine*, vol. 323, 2009, p.229).

While the mechanism of transmission is still unknown, the rapid dispersal of WNS from a single New York cave in 2006 to numerous sites in contiguous northeastern states by 2008 suggests that WNS is likely spread through direct bat-to-bat and bat-to-cave contact. Bats are likely the primary vector for WNS based on the rate of spread through 2008 and the behavior of the species affected. There is mounting evidence, however, that human activity may also be responsible for spreading the causative agent(s) of WNS, even during seasons when bats are not occupying caves. The fungus can grow on many different organic materials, and appears to persist in caves and mines year-round. Fungal spores, and/or other microscopic organisms, can easily become attached to skin, hair, clothing and equipment, and it is possible that such elements could remain viable for weeks or months after leaving a subterranean environment. The discontinuous nature of the rapid spread of WNS, especially to the most recently discovered sites in West Virginia and Virginia, suggests that something other than bat-to-bat transmission is contributing to the spread

of WNS. The potential for the human-assisted spread of WNS is further supported by the fact that many of the recently affected sites are also popular destinations for recreational cavers, while many bat hibernacula in less-popular or inaccessible caves between the newly affected caves and those affected in 2008 remain unaffected. Records of caver movements also reveal a connection between sites in these affected regions, additionally suggestive of a link to human activity.

Given the current evidence, and the recent advances in knowledge of the fungus associated with WNS, we have developed our recommendations to address the activities that are likely to contribute to the spread of WNS. At this time, the evidence is lacking to recommend the closure of commercial sites that offer cave tours to the general public. Visitors to commercial sites are less likely to visit multiple caves in a short time-period, generally wear plain clothes and shoes that are not repeatedly used for cave-related activities, and are considered to pose a very low risk for the spread of WNS to new caves. Additionally, we will be working with the owners and operators of commercial caves to help them employ methods to minimize the potential for contaminated materials from entering or leaving their sites.

Caves and mines in the newly affected regions of West Virginia and Virginia shelter bat species not previously impacted by WNS. They are also home to some of the largest wintering colonies of hibernating bats in the world, including some of the largest known U.S. populations of the Indiana bat, Virginia big-eared bat and gray bat, all endangered species. Because the Service has responsibility for endangered species, it is imperative that we take the measures necessary to protect these bats. If WNS spreads to these critical hibernacula, or to other significant hibernacula around the world, the impact on bat populations could be devastating.

Moving forward:

Service biologists are working with our federal, state, provincial and private partners to confirm the cause of WNS and to examine the ways in which the affliction spreads. We encourage those agencies and partners who manage cave resources to strongly consider limiting access to caves and mines to slow the spread of WNS.

As we learn more about the potential role of human transmission of WNS, or when we have the means to greatly reduce such risks, we will make the information available on the Service Web site and will revise these recommendations accordingly. Until then, we appreciate the high level of cooperation from all partners in this ongoing effort, as well as the continued cooperation of the public. We fully support all efforts to exercise caution in caving activities, such as the caving moratorium in Virginia, and we applaud the local and national caving organizations for their dedication to a strong conservation ethic. Furthermore, we encourage our partners with national and local caving organizations to continue their outreach and education efforts to spread the word about WNS and about responsible resource stewardship.

For more information, updates, and a map showing affected counties, see http://www.fws.gov/northeast/white_nose.html.

* agency - federal or state natural resource conservation agency, e.g., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Pennsylvania Game Commission, etc. See the Service WNS Web site for links to Web sites of several state and federal partners.



(Announcements continued from page 28)

Etc

- NCRC week long in Harrisonburg (May 1-9, 2009) has been cancelled due to WNS closures.
- SCCI has cancelled the Fricks Cave Open House do to WNS concerns.
- The Nature Conservancy wants BRG to renew for 2009.
- The NSS is seeking submissions for the ICS/NSS Print Salon 2009. **Deadline is May 1, 2009**
- NCRC is offering two \$200 scholarships for the June 13-20, 2009 Weeklong seminar in Bedford IN.



Grotto Trip Log

<p>2/14 - Chris Freitag and friends went in Island ford Cave, VA.</p> <p>2/21 - Bob Alderson Dave Socky & survey team went to Gap Cave VA and surveyed 600' of breakdown in the bat scratch crawl area.</p> <p>2/22 - Susan Burr, Doug Feller, and Pat Sims lead 14 scouts and leaders in Tawney Cave VA.</p>	<p>2/28 - Annual McClungs Cave, WV "hardcore" trip. Dave Socky, Rick Shortt, & Alan Stanton went on a 16 hour trip exploring Chocolate Avenue via the Lightner Entrance.</p> <p>3/7 - Grand Caverns survey - Susan Burr, Pat Smith and Mary Sue Socky, Bob Thren helped with cleanup and maintenance in Grand Caverns, VA. Susan also helped dig in Fountain Cave, VA.</p>
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Spring VAR 2009

Grand Caverns Regional Park, Grottoes, VA - April 24-26, 2009

In a little over 2 weeks the Spring VAR will be held at Grand Caverns. The host cavers are really looking forward to seeing you there. We have a lot of activities planned for the young in age & the young of mind. There are led caving trips planned, as well as self led trips, however some of them are contingent on the moratorium being lifted on April 15th. There will be vertical training on site, rock climbing trips & classes, canoe & kayak races, water races for the kids. Grottos have been "adopting a hole" at the put-put & creating a Speleo course. There may still be a hole or two left open for adoption by a creative or conniving group. More activities are popping up every day, so there may be a few surprises still to come. Tours of Grand will be available at a reduced rate of \$5.00 - you will receive an identification band as part of your registration package

For the project oriented, we have a sinkhole that is way overdue for a cleanup. No telling what treasures we may find at the bottom of the pile. We have a dump truck available to haul away what cannot be recycled. Also there will be a Kabota to help remove heavy items from the pit. A haul line may also be rigged.

On Friday night there will be lots of music, movies & old friends to catch up with. Despite any rumors you have heard, there will be plenty of camping space. Saturday morning, there will be free coffee available to get you primed for the days events. Saturday night there will be a great feed, followed by door prizes, presentations, more music & movies & the usual caver beverages.

Sunday, some folks plan to go caving. You may wish to attend the business meeting where, under new business, there will be a lot of information regarding WNS. Several VA DRN representatives, & others in the know, will be there to provide the latest information available & to answer questions.

If you have not made up your mind if you are going to attend yet, I encourage you to do so. True, there will not be as much caving as we would all wish, but we all are trying to adapt to the new environment & offer you a lot of fun activities and projects that will offer their own reward. We may have to plan our meetings this way for a while, so let's get good at it. Think outside the cave, plan to have a great time, see your old friends, & make new ones. See you there.



SPRING VAR 2009 REGISTRATION FORM

APRIL 24-26, 2009

GRAND CAVERNS REGIONAL PARK

5 GRAND CAVERNS ROAD

GROTTOES, VA 24441

HOSTED BY MEMBERS OF THE VAR

Name _____

Others you are paying for _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Grotto/Organization _____

Adult (16 + years) \$30.00 x _____ = \$ _____

Children (5-15 years) \$25.00 x _____ = \$ _____

Children (0-5 years) Free x _____ = \$ 0.00

Sunday Morning Breakfast \$4.00 x _____ = \$ _____

**Front Royal Grotto's Sunday
breakfast is only available to
those who pre-register.**

Total Due = \$ _____

There will be NO additional fee for on-site registration, but pre-registration is highly encouraged so we can better estimate food and plan activities. Pre-registration has been extended until April 18th.

Alcohol is technically not allowed in the park. Please exercise discretion and do not display bottles or cans in public. Pets must be on a leash and well behaved at all times.

WNS remains a serious concern. Please disinfect all cave gear before arrival according to the recommended protocols. Bring multiple sets of gear if you are planning to visit multiple caves

New Pre-Registration Deadline is April 18, 2009

Make checks payable to the Sligo Grotto send to:
c/o Jim McConkey
604 Shirley Manor Road
Reisterstown, MD 21136-231