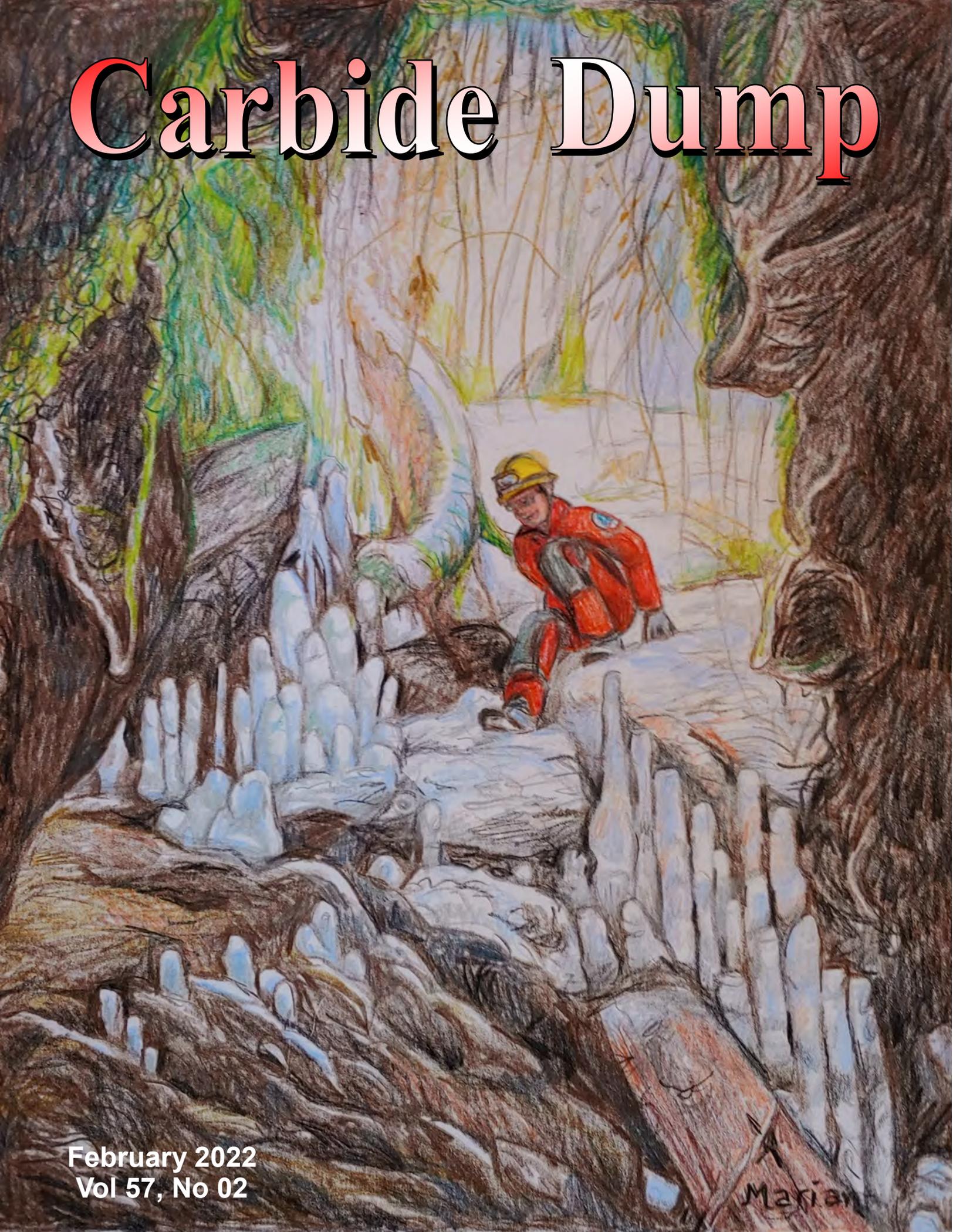


Carbide Dump



February 2022
Vol 57, No 02

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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 Jersey Lily's Roadhouse, 1650 Braeburn Dr. Salem, VA 24153. See the Grotto meeting announcement in this issue.

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Contributors: David & Mary Sue Socky, Marian McConnell, Meredith Weberg, Susan Burr, Brian Williams, Bob Gulden, Dave Jackson, Bill Balfour, and Jerry Fuller.

Cover: Entrance to Poor Farm Cave, Greenbrier County, WV. Artwork by Marian McConnell based on a photo by Doug Feller

CAVERS CALENDAR

Feb 18: BRG meeting, 6:30p, Jersey Lily's-Salem, VA.

Feb 19: ~~Cancelled~~ BRG Conservation trip in The Caverns @ Natural Bridge. See p. 11

Feb 26: Rescheduled date for Virginia Cave Board Meeting, 11am, EnGeo building at JMU, Harrisonburg VA.

Mar 18: BRG meeting, 6:30p, Jersey Lily's-Salem, VA.

Apr 15: BRG meeting, 6:30p, Jersey Lily's-Salem, VA.

Apr 22-24: Grand Caverns Spring Restoration. See page 12 for details.

Apr 30: *(Tentative)* Cricket Maze Cave WV OPEN HOUSE noon-6p.

May 20-22: *(Tentative)* SPRING MAR/VAR, at Grand Caverns, Grottoes, VA. Hosts: Seven Rivers Grotto & Charlottesville Grotto.

June 5-11: Virginia Cave Week.

June 13-17: NSS Convention, Rapid City, SD. See nss2022.caves.org

June 17: BRG meeting, 6:30p, Jersey Lily's-Salem.

July 16-21: NCRC National Week-long, to be held in Covington, VA. See this [link](#).

July 24-31: International Congress of Speleology, Savoie, France. See page 11 for details.

Treasurer's Report 02/07/2022

Cave Bucks	\$ 0.00
Conservation	\$ 0.00
Equipment	\$ 104.12
General	\$4,252.64
Total	\$4,356.76

Long Cave Lists

maintained by Bob Gulden
USA Long & Deep, World Long & Deep, & World Big Rooms
www.caverbob.com/usalong.htm
www.caverbob.com/usadeep.htm
www.caverbob.com/rooms.htm
www.caverbob.com/wlong.htm
www.caverbob.com/wdeep.htm

Closed Caves: Remember that some caves have closed for the WINTER for hibernating bat colonies.

VA--Winter closure dates: Oct 15-Apr.15
WV--Winter closure dates: Sept 1-May 15.

Please respect all cave closures.

Membership

Welcome, Carrie Douppnik, NSS 71075, our newest BRG member! Carrie was voted in as BRG's newest member at the January 21, 2022 meeting.

BRG currently has 55 members and 5 subscribers. Updated membership packets and BRG cards will be mailed soon.

Membership Updates

Carrie Douppnik NSS 71075
PO Box 20373
Roanoke, VA 24018
Cell 540-598-5385
lccld@gmail.com

Ed Saugstad – new email address:
Saugy1942@protonmail.com

BRG Meeting & Trips Notice

The February 18, 2022 meeting of the Blue Ridge Grotto will be held live, at **Jersey Lily's Roadhouse 1650 Braeburn Dr, Salem, VA 24153**. Dinner or appetizers with socializing starts at 6:30pm with the meeting starting soon after.

The program this month will be a guest speaker, Dr. Tina Salowey, who will talk about the karst and geology of Greece, and the importance of caves to the ancient Greeks and mythology.

Caverns at Natural Bridge Conservation trip: The Natural Bridge Caverns project has been cancelled at this time due to things not coming together. We will possibly reschedule in the near future. Thanks to all who volunteered. I will let you know if & when we do reschedule it. Susan Burr

Grotto Trip

Rapps Cave, WV

Date & Time: Saturday, February 19, 2022. Meet at Hanging Rock Orange Market at **8:30 am**.

Leader: Mystik Miller & Doug Feller

Coordination: Susan Burr 540-989-5809
pondlady97@gmail.com

Requirements: Beginner horizontal trip. Basic caving gear. Contact Susan Burr by 02/18/2022 to sign up.

Limits: no limit.

Description

Rapps Cave is gated. Access is controlled by the West Virginia Cave Conservancy (WVCC).

This cave contains a paleontological site and protected Native American glyphs and artifacts. Permission is required in order to visit this cave.

The Rapps Cave entrance, 4 feet high and 10 feet wide, slopes into a large room (20 feet high by 80 feet wide, and 100 feet long), with a floor of smooth clay and flowstone and some columns on the east side of the room. The cave consists of two main passages. One extends approximately 2400 feet to the west and is intersected by numerous small dead-bottom pits and long low rooms. The other passage extends about 1000 feet to the NW as a broad passage, floored with huge slabs of breakdown covered with formations. The cave may continue, but no way through the breakdown choke has been found. The far end of the Breakdown Room connects with another room where prismatic jointing is prominent in the ceiling.

There are multiple levels within the cave. There are pits, a lower level with a long, 4-foot-tall room containing a slippery mud floor. In another area of the cave there is a dome pit with a waterfall. There is a big canyon, and 1,375 feet of upper-level passage.

Rapps Cave is formed in the Union limestone, with over 5000 feet of surveyed passage. It is hydrologically connected to nearby Buckeye Creek Cave, WV. 

rience. The best part is meeting you and all the members. Lots of good people who care about caves. Thanks for all you do."

Al Stewart's cave books auction raised \$674.00 for Blue Ridge Grotto. Thanks for your generosity, AL!!!

Safety and Techniques: Dan McConnell's shoulder replacement is scheduled for March 2022.

CLOSED CAVE: The upper entrance (*Slot entrance*, opposite Dave & Sandy Cowan's driveway) to *Boar Hole, Greenbrier Co, WV*, is closed by the new owner. No thru trips. Use the *radio/culvert entrance* on Carroll Bassett's property instead! Do not block Carroll's driveway.

CHANGING CAVE ACCESS: (Reprinted from *The Region Record* v34n4, and the *Dead Dog Dispatch* v36n10, Oct 2021). The majority of the *Greenville Saltpeter Cave, Monroe Co, WV*, has been purchased by the *Conservation Fund* for protection of the historical and natural resources present in the cave. Two of the four entrances (**Water and Hilltop**) are still owned by an adjacent landowner. *The Conservation Fund*, along with the *WVD-NR*, are currently working to produce a management plan that will address further use of the cave.

Simmons Mingo Cave, WV. (from *Hunter Campbell*). I ran into Edmond Friel, who owns the historic entrance to Simmons Mingo. He said to go straight to the cave now instead of checking in at Bob Bright's. They don't want to expose Bob to Covid-19.

The gate is normally dummy locked but, if you can't get around the gate there's now a place to park along the road past the last house. 3 cars can easily fit in the spot. He said he was contemplating closing the cave because of all the trash he has found there recently. I'm assuming that it's mostly from bear hunters but if you see trash grab it so we can keep Edmond happy.

Please spread this around.

NCRC Weeklong Scholarships - National Cave Rescue Commission Scholarships: USA The next National Cave Rescue Commission (NCRC) course will be held in Virginia, USA, on 15-23 July 2022. If you need more info

(Continued on page 15)

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.

John Fox donation: BRG has donated \$100.00 to **CaveSim** in memory of John Fox. "Dear BRG members, Thank you so much for continuing to support Cave Sim with your very generous dona-

tion in memory of John Fox. It means a lot to me that you are helping us reach children who could not otherwise afford to have CaveSim come to their schools... Thank you again, **Dave Jackson**."

CaveSim update: CaveSim is planning to visit the SW Virginia/Maryland area in the fall of 2022!

Virginia Cave Board: Marian McConnell's term on the Virginia Cave Board has ended. Marian says "It has been an honor and an educational expe-

The Lindsay Lane Survey

By *Dave Socky*

We were supposed to go caving on Friday, February 4, 2022, in Russell Co. VA. Steph Petri had set up a time for me, Brian Williams, and Bob Alderson to help a local to check out a 'new' cave which was said to have a six second entrance pit. We were a little doubtful about six seconds, but even a new 100- to 200- foot deep pit would be cool. However, to get to the entrance required crossing a creek. We were all set to go up until Thursday night when reports of lots of rain and rising creeks were putting the trip in doubt. When we saw a photo of the creek Friday morning, we knew the trip would be cancelled. It was not a simple "We can just wade across" type-situation, but rather a "Dive in and start swimming and we'll pick up your body a mile downstream" type creek.

Stephanie had other commitments, so Bob, Brian, and I decided to (where else?) do a little survey in **McClung Cave, WV** on Saturday, February 5, when the weather would be a bit better. It wasn't raining Saturday morning, but it was partly cloudy with a few snow flurries here and there. It was getting colder. Luckily, the Historic Entrance to

McClung's allows for changing clothes in the entrance room, where the temps are in the low 50s instead of 13°F outside.

With the OK from Mystik to use the Historic Entrance, we headed for the Seven Fingers area at 11:30am Saturday morning. The passages were wetter than usual due to all the rain and snow melt. Still, I made it through the Toilet Bowl with getting only one leg wet up to the knee. After going under the First Breakdown, we traveled through Bat Bone Crawl and then headed east to the end of Freeman Ave. Our first goal was a side lead heading east at the end of the Jeb Stuart Passage.

Well, the Jeb Stuart Passage is no more. There had been talk about renaming this passage to something else that is not so



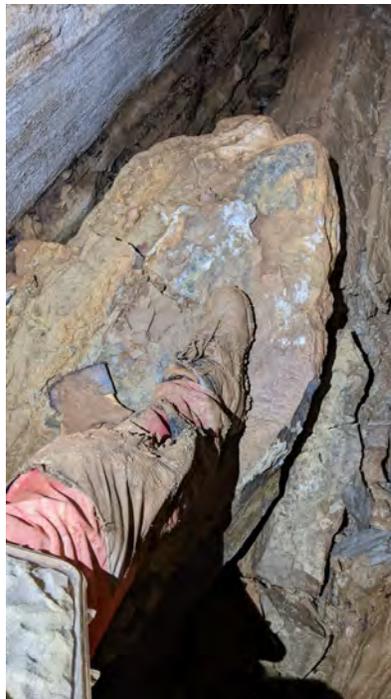
Brian Williams setting a survey point.
Photo by Dave Socky

divisive, for obvious reasons. Several other suggestions were made, and comments about when the Civil War ended came up. So it was decided that it was best not to politicize things and come up with something everyone could agree on. It was decided to name the passage "Lindsay Lane" after Cliff Lindsay. And this was the reason why we name our survey for day the LL Survey, For Lindsay Lane.

On December 4 of last year, Joe Zokaites and I started the survey of this side lead but found a point where it turned back on itself and went back under Lindsay Lane and tied back into a survey we had done earlier. But the side lead also continued to the east at the point where we had doubled back. The old Caldwell map indicated the passage continued for 100 feet where the ceiling was 17 high and there was a lead marked as "?? 13 inches by 17 inches". I figured it would take an hour or so to get to the lead at the end of the passage.

After a quick snack we left our packs and headed to the start of our survey at TSN31. Bob was doing sketch, Brian did point & back sights, while I did cross sections and front sights. As we got going, we had problems getting our DistoXs to agree. The DistoX Brian was using kept on getting different reading from one try to another. The swings were pretty large. Brian was using one of these lights similar to a Zebra, which had strong magnets in both the light and the mount. But even with his helmet off

(Continued on page 13)



Left: unstable rock before it fell. Right: Rock in stream after falling.
Left photo by Brian Williams. Right photo by Dave Socky

(Lindsay Lane continued from page 12)

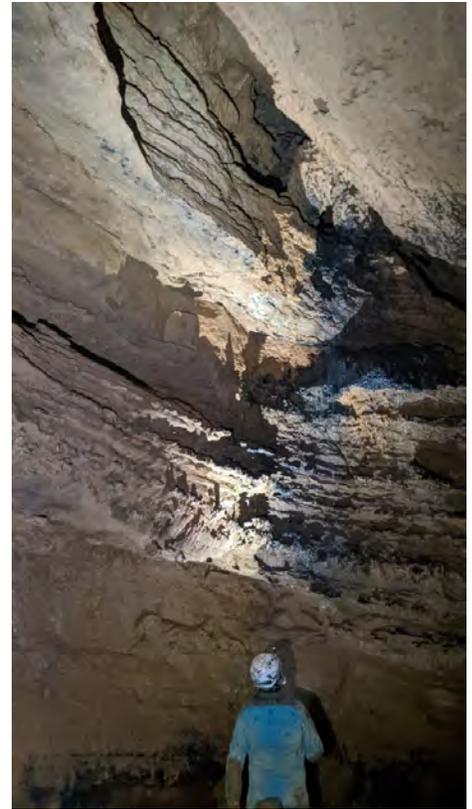
and far away, his readings were still inconsistent. “Aaah, it’s my phone in my suit pocket!” Brian exclaimed. But no, that didn’t help either. I suggested his belt, which had two biners on it. But they were aluminum and moving the belt away didn’t help. Well, short story is, it turns out it was Brian’s ring! It was titanium and on the hand in which he held the DistoX. I took his ring and as I moved it toward the DistoX, you could see the compass reading making huge swings of 40, 50, 80 degrees! The reading would swing around even when

map. However, the passage was pretty nice. A walking stream passage which averaged about 4 to 8 feet wide and 6 to 10 feet high. Lots of breakdown with scrambles and little climbs up and down. The stream was not large, but more than just a trickle. There were a lot of little alcoves and climbs which were mostly mud filled, but some we couldn’t see if they went or not. Mud steps, nails, or bolts would be required to check a number of these spots.

We were getting hungry and a little chilled. We needed the hammer to do mud climbs. And the passage kept going! We reached a spot where there was a short bypass to the stream passage and where the passages rejoined (LL18), there were some large unstable looking rocks up on the right-hand ledge. Brian had gingerly crawled over the top of the 5-foot-long rock, and I had slid down the front of it to the stream six feet down. To get the next shot, I needed to climb back up on the shelf. But to do that it was hard to

avoid pulling on the rocks which seemed to be wedging the huge unstable looking rock in place. I tried, but finally said, “Nope, I’m not going to risk this big rock falling on me. I’m going back around via the stream”. As I was coming back toward the survey station, I heard “Oh shit” and the sound of the huge rock sliding and falling into the stream. Bob had ‘touched’ one of the supporting rocks & the whole thing slid down. Wow, did I make the right decision!

After this bit of excitement, we reached the end, after just another three shots, at station LL21. It was a dome with the water falling from the ceiling at



Brian Williams checking the dome lead. Photo by Dave Socky

the far end. The dome was 25’ x 17’ and 30 feet high with the waterfall coming down from the eastern side from a height of 22 feet. Bolt climb! The lead at the top looks good, but it was hard to tell if it goes or not because of a turn it makes. Only time will tell.

There was still time, so we headed back to our packs for a snack (dinner – it was 6:30pm). Then we went to the end of the large junction room where we checked two high breakdown leads. The leads were long enough to survey. Bob had sketcher burnout, so I took over sketch. It wasn’t too bad because the breakdown leads ended in just several shots. But at least the leads were killed.

At ten minutes to nine we were packed up and ready to head out. It was an uneventful trek back through the cave to the entrance. We arrived right at 10:30pm, taking us an hour and forty minutes to get from the end of Lindsay Lane to the entrance. Thank goodness we could change in the entrance, as it was 13F outside. It was a good and productive 11-hour trip.



Dave Socky lighting helictites. Photo by Brian Williams

holding the ring at a fixed distance, like the magnetic field was changing over time. It was the weirdest effect I’d ever seen. Anyway, Brian put his ring away and after that we had excellent agreement the rest of the day.

We soon reached 100 feet and the passage kept going and going. We had obviously gone way past the end of the old



Brian Williams looking into the dome. Photo by Dave Socky

Spring Restoration at Grand Caverns 2022

by Meredith Hall Weberg

It's back!

After a 2-year absence, the annual (well, except for Covid) Spring Restoration at Grand Caverns will return the weekend of **April 22-24, 2022**.

We will concentrate on trail maintenance inside the show cave. Two years without a concerted effort at this by cavers has really caused some problems. We will be breaking up parts of the trail before applying new gravel. Yes, we will be hauling in gravel as usual. Some areas just need to be raked to distribute existing gravel. We will need to redig trenches to keep the gravel where we want it.

I know, all of this sounds heavy and hard-because it is! If you don't think you can contribute in the "gravel gala" there is plenty of work to do elsewhere on the property. Invasive species are trying to take over and need to be eradicated. You know how a little weeding in your own garden makes it look so much better?

Well, the same goes for a park like Grand Caverns. We can use everyone's help!

Also, let us know if you have tools you can bring. We could use hammer drills, sturdy buckets, shovels, rakes, picks, sledges, chisels, wedges, and splitters. Please mark your items to make sure they get back to you. You can sign up on this list to let us know what tools you'll be bringing. Don't forget to bring your work gloves!

We respectfully ask that only vaccinated people join in on the fun. As usual we will be camping onsite the night before and that night. The VAR Conservation Committee will provide lunch and possibly dinner to all workers. Please RSVP to any committee member* so we know how much food to buy. If you don't RSVP, you'll be at the end of the food line. Also, keep track of your drive time so we can total up the volunteer value hours for the NSS. (See the article in the

NSS News, April 2021, page 34, about volunteer value hours at Grand Caverns.)

VAR Conservation Committee Members:

Carol Tiderman:

ctider@ymail.com

Janet Tinkham:

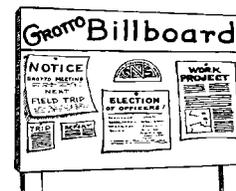
janete@shentel.net

Ken Walsh, co-chair:

kennywalsh@mindspring.com

Meredith Hall Weberg, co-chair:

merecaver@yahoo.com



Obituary for Clifford Fry Lindsay

NSS 11224RL, FE

November 13, 1946 - January 10, 2022

FRANKFORD, WV – Clifford Fry Lindsay, 75 of Frankford, WV passed away Monday, January 10, 2021. Born November 13, 1946, in Bedford, VA he was the son of the late John Crawford and Joyce Fry Lindsay. Cliff graduated from William and Mary with a B.S. in Chemistry, Virginia Tech with a MS, and PhD in Mining Engineering. He was a retired Mining Engineer. He had a passion for everything that dealt with geology. He was an avid mineral collector, but his main passion was the caves of the Greenbrier Valley. He spent over fifty years mapping and exploring the underground. Cliff was a life member and fellow of the National Speleological Society, a fifty-year member of the West Virginia Association for Cave Studies and a founding member and director of the West Virginia Cave Conservancy. He and his wife, Lois received the Virginia Region's Landowner of the Year award for their stewardship of Fuller's Cave.

Cliff was also working on a book of the caves and karst in the area around Renick. It is ready to be published. Cliff's love of caves is what brought him to settle in West Virginia for the last thirty years of his life.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother John M. Lindsay and his wife, Jane. Survivors include his loving wife of forty-three years, Lois Blevins Lindsay, a very special niece and Goddaughter, Jessica C. H. Lindsay and fiancé Nathaniel Milder of Rockville, MD.

It was Cliff's wish to be cremated. A memorial service will be planned later. Online guestbook can be signed at www.morganfh.net.

Arrangements by Morgan Funeral Home, Lewisburg, WV.



Cliff and Lois Lindsay

Grotto Trip Log

1/1/2022: Bob Alderson and Bill Koerschner surveyed 600' in the *Musser's Mess* area of **McClung Cave, WV**. They did an incredibly tight squeeze that goes to a waterfall.

1/1: Larry Manning and NCRC folks visited **McClung Cave, WV**. They went as far as the gate at first breakdown, then headed out. (Site selection for the NCRC Weeklong)

1/8: Bob Alderson, Vonnie Droms and Mark Minton surveyed in the *Patrick's Pit* area of **Shoveleater Cave, WV**. They rigged the pit and got through a dig into a room the size of two phone booths. How many cavers can we pack into this room??

01/15: McClung Cave, WV. Participants included David Socky, Greg Springer, and Sydney Hansen. We went in to check the streams and scope out locations for probes (sensors) for Sydney's research thesis through Ohio University. We went to First Breakdown, through the Toilet Bowl, and continued downstream past the turn off for Bat Bone Crawl. We then went down Breakdown Trunk to Second Breakdown. From there we went to Chocolate Ave and went downstream to the first near sump. No one wanted to get wet up to the neck, so we turned around there. At the top of the 2nd Breakdown, we decided to go out the way we came in instead of doing the

loop through Freeman Ave. The upcoming snowstorm was the main reason for completing the trip early.

1/22: McClung Cave, WV. Participants included David Socky, Bob Alderson, and Bill Koerschner on Team 1 and Greg Springer, Seth Rogers, and Brandon Sass on Team 2, and Paul Walko, Eli Meyers, and Erik Nieman on team 3, and finally, Nick Socky and Matt Vest on team 4. Bob, Bill, and I did two nail climbs in Freeman Ave which resulted in 150 feet of new cave, then we surveyed the stream passage beneath Freeman Ave, most of which had a pretty distinct ceiling. Nick and Matt Vest worked on the bolt climb in Beetle Run Room. Greg and his two new cavers surveyed one upper tube in Chocolate Ave. Paul Walko and team surveyed in the First Breakdown and in the Beetle Run Auxiliary passage.

1/29: McClung Cave, WV. Bob Alderson and Dave Socky got into the Waterfall Room at the end of Musser's Mess in McClung Cave. It took a little digging to get through the tight spot, but we finally got into the large breakdown room. We also surveyed another large upper-level breakdown area before the Waterfall Room. In all, we netted 410 feet of new cave for the system since the breakdown rooms had not been surveyed before (only sketched).

2/3: Lowmoor Cave, VA. Participants included David Socky, Tom Malabad, Katarina Ficco, Andrea Futrell, Rick Reynolds, Wil Orndorff, and Zenah Orndorff. Bat count day in Lowmoor. It was raining so we parked in the Sofa section of the mine. We hiked through the mine to where the bat cave section was that we had been surveying on. We found several large clusters (30 to 50) of bats. Wil and Zenah searched the whole mine for bats while the rest of us went to the cave. Tom Malabad and I went to the back section of the cave while Andrea, Katarina, and Rick checked the front end of the cave. It was a successful bat count.

2/5: McClung Cave, WV. Participants included David Socky, Brian Williams, and Bob Alderson. We had a really good survey in McClung Cave in the Seven Fingers area. Our first goal was to finish off a lead we had left late last year which was expected to be only a hundred feet or so. We ended up spending all day in that lead, surveying a little over 500 feet, most of which added to the length of the cave. We were stopped by 30-foot high dome with a good lead 20 feet up. It was a productive 11-hour trip.



(Announcements continued from page 11)

about the seminar, please check out <http://ncrc.info/>. A handful of scholarships are available to cover half of the cost of tuition for the upcoming NCRC Nationals in Virginia held July 15th-23rd, 2022. To apply for a scholarship, before April 10th, 2022, send the following information to:

scholarships@ncrc.info.

Decisions of who will receive a scholarship will be announced by mid-May; all applicants will be contacted at that time. As NCRC classes tend to fill up, you are encouraged to sign up for the training and pay half of the registration fee to secure your spot. Receiving a scholarship does not guarantee a spot for you in the class.



18th International Congress of Speleology Savoie Mont-Blanc, France

Cavers, scientists and all Karst lovers!

As you know, the International Congress of Speleology planned in 2021 but postponed because of the pandemic, will finally be held from **July 24 to 31, 2022**. It will be the major event of the Karst year, not to be missed next year! The scientific conference, the animations, the bookshops, the stands, the equipped caves, the beaches of the Lac du Bourget, everything is there! And you, will you be there?

We have the pleasure to share you the newsletter of the congress: https://depots.ffspeleo.fr/uploads/Newsletter_UIS_4En.pdf

Find all the other information on the website: <https://uis2021.speleos.fr/>

We are looking forward to welcoming you and sharing this moment with you

Yannick Decker - organizing committee UIS 2022



Spring MAR-VAR 2022

Grand Caverns, Grottoes, VA

May 20-22, 2022

Mark your calendars and save the date for the upcoming **2022 Spring MAR/VAR Field Meet on May 20-22**, hosted by **Charlottesville Grotto & Seven Valleys Grotto**. More info will be posted on the MAR and VAR websites as it becomes available:

<http://var.caves.org/index.php/events/spring-var> or

<https://mar.caves.org/fieldmeets.htm>

COVID - Grand Caverns currently requires reservations and masks for all tours in Grand Caverns itself. Masks must be worn in the park's bathhouses. All COVID restrictions are subject to change, and restrictions for the MAR/VAR are being discussed and will be updated soon. Please stay tuned.

Registration - Due to the tentative nature of the Spring VAR, **pre-registration is not open at this time.** **Prices may change.** Pre-registration price is \$33 for adults and \$25 for children 5-14. Children under 5 are free. On-site registration is \$38 per for adults and \$30 for children 5-14.

Camping - Shaded camping is available with ample picnic tables, shelters, and facilities. Smaller campers are welcome, but larger RVs might have a difficult time in that there are no hook-ups. Showers and water will be available.

Dogs - Well-behaved and leashed dogs are welcome!

Hotels - There are a number of hotels and motels in Harrisonburg and Verona VA (~10 miles from Grottoes, VA).

Friday, May 20

We will open the weekend Registration on Friday morning at **10:00 a.m.** for those who want to come for a long weekend.

Cave on your own on Friday.

There are a number of area Show Caves to visit, as well as wild cave trips.

There are numerous above ground activities as well!

Vendor: Marissa Loftus - Cave packs Survey bags. Ask about custom made cave suits

Saturday, May 21

SWAP - 11:00 a.m. Saturday & Sunday at Pavilion I. Now that you have upgraded your gear, it's time to spread the joy! Bring your old gear to sell or trade!

Cave Trips

Dinner: Saturday's dinner will be catered by Battarbee's.

Evening Program: in Pavilion II with the Presentation Titled "*Thomas Jefferson, Speleologist*" by Bert Ashbrook

DJ: In search of a DJ to keep John Fox's legacy alive.

BYOB: DISCRETELY!

Sunday, May 22

Breakfast! [Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy](#) (PCC) will offer a fundraising breakfast.

Meetings: VAR & PCC meetings beginning at 9:00 a.m.

SWAP: 11:00 a.m. Saturday & Sunday at Pavilion II. Now that you have upgraded your gear, it's time to spread the joy! Bring your old gear to sell or trade!



Renewing your Membership with the NSS

Have you paid your NSS dues?

To renew with the NSS, please Call the NSS Office at 256-852-1300. You will need to call, because if you missed your renewal deadline, then you are no longer in their computer and they will need to personally update your info, reactivate your NSS membership and number. (NSS Office is in Central Time).

If you are a NSS Life Member (RL), then you don't have to do anything. To renew 'ahead of time' access the NSS at <https://members.caves.org/>

Remember, to vote or to hold grotto office, you must be an active NSS member **and** a BRG member.



McClung Cave, WV Entrance Canyon. Photo by Brian Williams



Ice formations in the Truck Entrance to Lowmoor mine during a bat count trip. Tom Malabad is in the foreground. Photo by Dave Socky

Vote for your Favorite Five

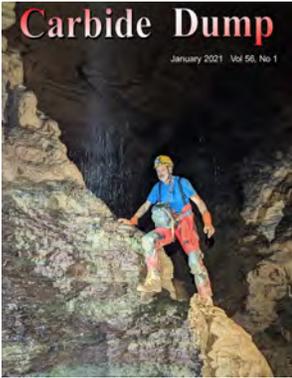
Every year, the NSS Convention offers a “Cover Art Contest”. Grottos submit their favorite covers from the previous year to be judged and selected for awards.

BRG covers know how to pick them! Most recently, the **CARBIDE DUMP** won an Honorable Mention award for its 2020 newsletter cover.

To be considered, a cover must be original, not previously used or reprinted. Covers may be photographic or non-photographic; a few other rules apply.

The covers are much more stunning in color – look at them on-line for the best viewing at <https://blueridgegrotto.org/carbidedump.htm>.

Below are covers from the 2021 **CARBIDE DUMPS** – Voting ends on April 1, 2022.



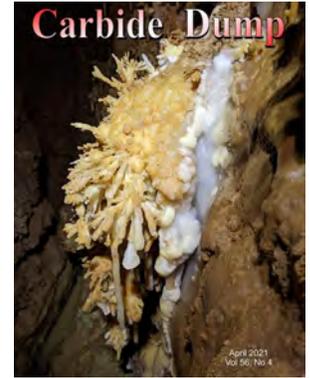
Jan. 2021 v56 n1: Dave Socky at the end of McClung Cave, WV Entrance Canyon. Photo by Nick Socky



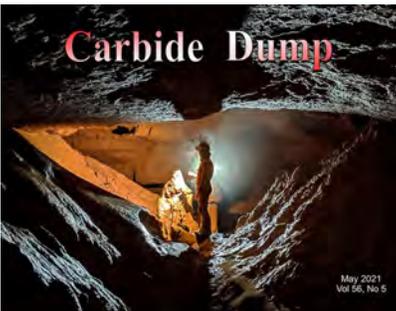
Feb. 2021 v56 n2: “Freeman Avenue Silhouette” Jonny Prouty in Freeman Ave. section of McClung Cave, WV. Photo by Nick Socky



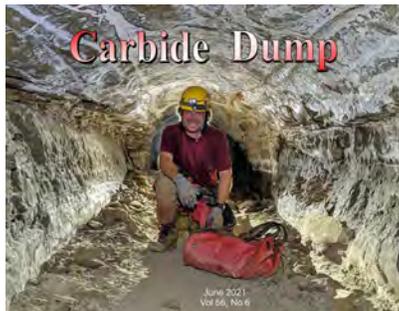
Mar 2021 v56 n3: “Contortions in Roppel” Bill Koerschner squirming through new cave passage in Roppel, KY. Photo by David Socky



Apr. 2021 v56 n4: “Max Cave Slug” Formation in virgin passage in Maxwellton Sink Cave, WV. Photo by David Socky



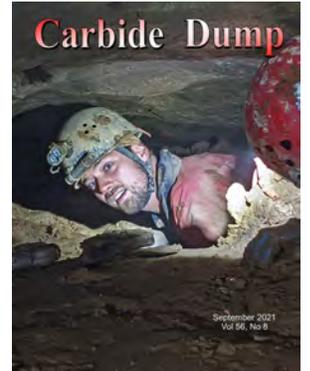
May 2021 v56 n5: “Double Helix Passage” Kelly McCarthy in Sweetwater (Maxwelton Cave), WV. Photo by Nikki Fox



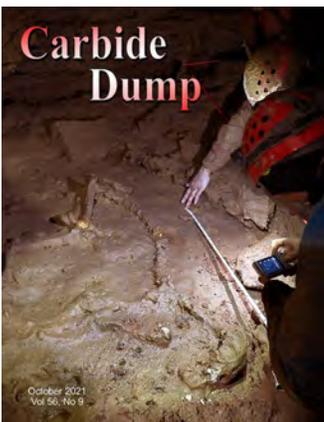
June 2021 v56 n6: “Wind Tunnel” Marty Abercrombie in the Wind Tunnel of McClung Cave, WV. Photo by Nick Socky



July 2021 v56 n7: “Checking a high lead” Carl Amundson checking a high lead in Crystal Canyon in McClung Cave, WV. (It didn’t go). Photo by Dave Socky



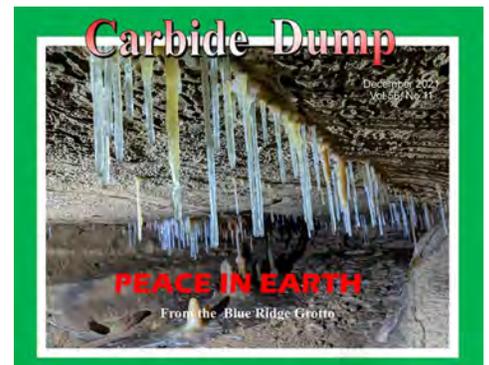
Sept 2021 v56 n8: “Checking a lead” Nick Socky and David Lyons checking a lead in Maxwellton, WV. Photo by Dave Socky



Oct 2021 v56 n9: Cat skeleton in Burja Cave, VA with Alex Hastings and Joe Myre. Photo by Dave Socky.



Nov 2022 v56 n10: The Beehive in McClung Cave, WV (L-R) Kathryn Koerschner, Mary Sue Socky, and Bill Koerschner. Photo by Dave Socky.



Dec. 2021 v56 n11: “Peace in Earth” BRG 2021 Cave Owner Christmas Card. Photo by Nikki Fox