

# Chouteau Grotto Minutes from March 2, 2005

## Present:

*President:* Marck Schneider

*Vice-President:* Eugene Vale

*Treasurer:* Kevin Feltz

*Secretary:* Kathryn Devany DiFoxfire

*Other Members:* 10

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order at 7:08 p.m.

## **REPORTS:**

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

February minutes still waiting to be typed. The IO report was completed on time and submitted.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Current: 1092.13 which represents an increase of \$39, due to decals sold.

### **MSS LIASON REPORT:**

Rita Worden, MSS Liaison, reported: The *MSS Liaison* newsletter used to be provided to the Grotto. Kevin receives one and so does the park.

### **FORESIGHT REPORT:**

Kirsten said she figured out her firewall issue. The March issue was re-sent. 4L and 4H out. Another issue will be send soon.

### **QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT:**

Lights and helmets available.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **GROTTO PICNIC**

Only 1 and ½ people attended last year due to heavy rain Friday night.

### **GROTTO WEBSITE**

Matt Nevels has done a great job on the website. If you have any suggestions, send them to him. We would like more recent grotto photography, especially as we do not have to worry about space. Marck can give Matt access to File Photos for uploading photos to website. It's pretty time intensive now to manage photos on the website.

### **WINTER CAMPOUT**

At Meremac State park. Friday night was cold and lonely. Rita arrived Saturday night. MMV and MMG had 10-12 people. They usually do a winter picnic instead of a winter campout. It was good that they came so that the group could meet the minimum number required for the cave

permits. Checked out **Fence Post Cave**; saw some cave pearls after some tight squeezes that included speed bumps. Met three new cavers from Illinois who went caving with the group on Saturday. They may not have gone if they had known ahead of time what they were getting into. Eugene and Jo went ridge walking on Saturday. After Fence Post: chili and campfire. Sunday: **Explored Little Hamilton Cave**. Saw lots of bats (about 200, all pips, about a half dozen were awake), got a good salamander photo, saw beaver dam at spring and a beaver lodge in the cave.

Rita and Jo also explored Lone Hill Onyx, Indian Cave #2 after everyone else left. Both caves were muddy. Little Hamilton was also hard to find because of vegetation. Lots of boy scouts out and about. Walked with GPS thru park. Jo accidentally backed into Rita's car. Eugene's had been backed into the previous day. Rita and Jo camped Sunday night also.

Note: To get MDC permits for MDC caves in Meramec area, you need to start a few weeks early to get through the red tape. Little Scott was broken into three times last year; the gate needs repair; some folks consider it a sacrifice cave as it's difficult to gate and has been trashed regularly for 30 years.

### **LEWIS AND CLARK CAVE TRIP**

Meet at the abandoned convenience store at the Rocheport exit at 9 a.m. Sunday March 13.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**SPRING MOVR:** Information is listed on the mocaves website. It will be May 20-22 at the Tick and Chigger Ranch near Ava, MO.

### **CAVING OPPORTUNITIES:**

- 1) Landowner of Un-named Cave #2 wants a map made. Landowner works for MDC Central Office. The cave is a huge bluff cave along the Osage River in Cole County. The mapping team will meet Saturday March 12 at 9 or 10 a.m. We'll be able to drive most of the way there. There's an old MDC cabin on property. Only opportunity to see this cave.
- 2) Saturday March 5, Chouteau was invited by MMV to explore Lone Hill Onyx and Brome Caves. Meet at the Meramec State Park office parking lot at 9 a.m.. Email Kirsten Alvey for details. Maybe we can set up an e-mail group specifically for trips.
- 3) Mike Morgan moved that Kirsten be appointed Chouteau's official trip coordinator. Ernie Bhend seconded. Motion carried.
- 4) Pulaski County, March 18, 19 20: Maybe start as early as the 16th Springfield area River Bluff Cave. By special invitation only, only grotto members welcome. Will be staying in Waynesville at Montez Inn.
- 5) Steve Taylor has been riding the rails in Cooper County from I-70 down to Wooldridge to Big Muddy Conservation Area all the way down to Lupus. About 20-30 caves in the bluff line, registered with MSS but mostly unmapped. Some may required climbing or rappelling to get into cave as they are high on the bluff.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **Mammoth Cave Restoration Camp: March 5-6** to kick off the year. For more info: <http://mcnprestonation.com/rfc.html>
- **Lewis and Clark Cave: March 19.** (see above for details)
- **Spring Break, 2-3 day trip with Kirsten:** to Ozark Spring or Crocker, Dixon or Hancock quads. Spring break starts weekend of March 19-20.
- **Cole County, Arch Cave Cleanup, sometime in April:** View of the Osage River, Crabtree, Henley Natural Arch, Loud Moth and Crevice Cave are all nearby.
- **Missouri Academy of Science Speleology Section Meeting:** Fri-Sat, April 15 & 16, Lincoln University campus in Jefferson City, MO. If you would like to present a paper on April 16, submit an abstract by January 31. Contact David Ashley: [ashley@mWSC.edu](mailto:ashley@mWSC.edu).
- **Spring VAR: April 29-May 1, 2005.** Greenbrier County, WV state fairgrounds, and hosted by Bubble Cave LLC. Some of the major caves in the area include Scott Hollow, Organ Cave System, McClung, Bone-Norman System, Portal-Boar Hole System (there's a tongue-twister), Friar's Hole System. A limited edition guide book is being prepared. There will be numerous trips scheduled including a kids rip and a teen trip. There is everything from horizontal beginner to advanced vertical caving. For information contact John E. Pearson at [jpearson@rcc.com](mailto:jpearson@rcc.com) or 304-497-3939 days or 304-497-3803 evenings.
- **MSS Board Meeting,** Saturday, May 14, location TBA since it's graduation weekend.
- **26<sup>th</sup> Annual Karst Field Studies program: June 5-25, 2005** hosted by the Center for Cave and Karst Studies, Western Kentucky University and Mammoth Cave National Park's International Center for Teaching and Learning. Eight week-long classes are being offered this year in Bowling Green, Kentucky, Mammoth Cave National Park and San Antonio, TX. All classes can be taken for college credit, continuing education credits or simply as a workshop. For more information, contact Annie Croft at [annie.croft@wku.edu](mailto:annie.croft@wku.edu)
- **Arkansas, Ennis Cave:** An anniversary celebration, "35 years with a shovel and a wheelbarrow." See NSS website for details. Will be sometime this summer.

## CAVE REPORTS

- **Wilton Cave.** Kirsten and Steve. My notes read: Pictures of sunset. Ladybugs. 2 cars. 6 or 7 guys. Columbia fraternity. Satanic Symbols (I can't remember what I was trying to say).
- **Boone County, Holton Cave:** Marck has pictures to show.
- Ernie Bhend and Marck Schneider went caving Feb. 6. Saw lots of bats awake, perhaps due to warm weather.

- Carroll Cave. Amber Spohn. Pushed Upper Thunder. Maybe water barrier goes to Lower Thunder.

- Stone County. Amber Spohn. Three new caves found and mapped. Amber entered one with an upper pit entrance. After she squirmed down the entrance she screamed when she saw roots hanging down from the top of dome to floor, about 10 feet wide and 20feet high. She's found about a year ago, and it appeared to be a virgin cave, that she then went back and mapped. It was close to a half mile.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Bill Elliot has a PowerPoint presentation "Caves and Karst in Missouri" geared for grades 3-6, up to 45 minutes.

- Add Alberta Zumwalt to list to e-mail minutes so she can take pieces and send to MSS:  
[Gzumw@aol.com](mailto:Gzumw@aol.com)

## **MEETING ADJOURNED:.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathryn Devany DiFoxfire, 11/17/05