

Chouteau Grotto Minutes from August 3, 2005

Present:

President: Marck Schneider

Vice-President: Eugene Vale

Treasurer: Kevin Feltz

Secretary: Kathryn Devany DiFoxfire

Other Members: 9 and 2 guests

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

REPORTS:

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Previous months' minutes still un-typed due to house-moving priorities.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Current: 1147.13 which represents an increase from the previous month. The increase represents four decals sold by Eugene.

MSS LIASON REPORT:

The next MSS meeting is the same weekend as the grotto picnic. Meeting is on Saturday with camping and caving Saturday evening and Sunday. It was suggested we look into the possibility of moving the picnic to a different weekend. Kat said she would check on dates.

FORESIGHT REPORT:

Kirsten Alvey said her computer was sending it as she left for tonight's meeting. It is four pages long.

QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT:

Mike Morgan mentioned that the retail value of the clinometer and compass are roughly \$100 each. We've never set a deposit amount for these items. Five dollars per item seems low. The main reason for the deposit is to make sure people bring back the equipment. Mike moved that we include a motion to increase deposit to \$60.00. Motion was seconded by Kirsten Alvey. It passed.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Marck Schneider introduced two prospective members: Dustin and Emily. They mentioned they would like feedback on equipment. It was suggested we do a cave equipment program in September.

OLD BUSINESS

ST. LOUIS CLEAN WATER CONFERENCE: Marck is still looking for volunteers to demonstrate the portable cave. The conference will be Friday and Saturday, Oct. 14-15 at the St.

Louis Science Center would be an excellent opportunity for the grotto to do some education and outreach.

GROTTO PICNIC See MSS Liaison report above.

THE KARST CONSERVANCY Kat gave a report and reviewed the letter received and discussed at the July meeting regarding TKC's request for donations. No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **National Cave Management Symposium** will be in Albany NY, Oct 31-Nov. 4
- **Halloween Weekend Caving Opportunities:** Bridal Cave Haunting will be from 7p.m. to midnight on Friday and Saturday evening that weekend. Grotto members who pre-register will receive a packet of information regarding caving opportunities in the Camdenton area that weekend. The packet includes GPS locations, cave maps and landowner permission for up to 20 caves. Camping available at nearby Ha Ha Tonka State park (reservations encouraged).

CAVE REPORTS

- **Meramec State Park, Mushroom Cave:** Eugene Vale, Jo Schaper and friends, including one 11-year-old who was an excellent caver. It was humid and foggy. Visibility 6 feet in some places as the main entrance was sucking in 100 degree hot air. They saw a few bats and a few cave salamanders. The cave was used to grow mushrooms in early part of the century ('03 or '07). It was a failed attempt.
- **Boone County, Spring Cave, Three Creeks Conservation Area:** Mike Morgan, Kirsten Alvey and Vince de Marco. 4 hours in cave. Cave was wet and small, requires much crawling. They went to one room past the sucking siphon, and found what is possibly a new room, 100' x 15' and 40' high. It siphoned back down at one end, went through a low crawl that connected back to main stream and then they found graffiti. Is there another way in? Rumors of it connecting to Sink Cave have existed for some time but are always unfounded or unproven. The cave didn't smell as bad as usual. They were going to take water samples but found it would cost \$37.00 per bottle to test water. When they were done caving, they felt like they'd been beaten up by the mob. Possibly the grotto would like to try mapping parts of Spring Cave during the grotto picnic.
- **Pulaski County, Hidden Well Cave, Hidden Well Annex, Fairview Cave:** Kirsten Alvey and Amber Spohn. They've finished mapping it: 726.8 feet. Nearby Hidden Well Annex is 27 feet. In Fairview Cave, they ended up breaking a compass. Cave included a 10" squeeze and a 7" squeeze that required losing the underwear and boots. They found a 100' x 60' kidney-

shaped room with a dome. They realized that they should have had at least two other people along. They will go back on Sunday Aug., 14th with Spike and Amy.

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Possible cave trips:** Upcoming trip planned by Kirsten to Bump Ridge in October or November. There are also five or six caves in Cole County within ¼ mile of each other that may be worth checking out.

MEETING ADJOURNED: at 8 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathryn Devany DiFoxfire, 10/31/05