

Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve

Management Committee Meeting June 13, 2013
Molly Malone's

Meeting started at 7:10 pm

Committee Members present:

Richard Duncan
Werner Jud
Neena Jud

Tama Cassidy
Jerry Brandenburg

Also Attending:

Tammy Otten
Ron Hager

James Clements
Sherry Johnson-Clements

Secretary's Report

The minutes of May's meeting at the shelter were reviewed.
JB made a motion to accept, TC 2nd

Caretaker's Report

Bill Carr is working with Moon Tractor on ignition switch malfunction. Dumpster will be switched after Camp Wesley. He observed of slippery elm bark trees stripped of their bark near Electric sites. Bill expressed his opinion to leave the pipe joint exposed (see further discussion below).

Treasurer's Report

May's income was mostly attributable to Open House, secondly Field Trips and Revival.

Our expenses (i.e. property maintenance, utilities, etc.) were all typical amounts.

Income exceeded expenses. Full financial report available upon request.

Werner commented that the Scout income is way low for the number of Scouts that have been at the Preserve – for about half the year.

According to Tama Cassidy, Miami Valley Park system has also had difficulties on the honor system. They found that paying some money up front holds them more accountable. She recommends asking Scouts to donate in advance.

RD talked to Brian & Darryl about getting the Waivers and donations as soon as the Scouts arrive. On the flip side, if you wait until after the cave trip, they may give a good tip.

We reviewed the budget which had been tabled in February. Currently we are a bit low on Scout camping donations (see above), but received 500 more on merchandise sales. In expenses, we have about 300 remaining in the cost of merchandise and 2700 in property maintenance, were 300 under budget for Open House; all else is on track. It was suggested to not invest in any more merchandise until current inventory is sold. But sweatshirts might be good to replace. (WJ thinks hats should be marked down to \$10.00.)

Old Business

Pipe joint discussion – Many people have expressed the desire to leave it visible, figuring that there are plenty of other joints in the cave. But, how sure are we that this is the case?

There was a suggestion to apply fungicide and Thompson's Water seal to preserve the wood. Others suggest that there be further scientific/ preservationist investigation on the wood before any decision is made. In the 1970's Mammoth Cave folks "preserved" the Kemper map by laminating it – which is deteriorating.

What are the questions that need to be answered before we make a decision?

- Is a preservative going to stop deterioration?
- Should we consider leaving it open?
- Assuming we are going to leave it open, we need an assessment from a professional as to whether to treat this or leave them alone.

RH suggested to put something in the next newsletter to explain the considerations, and ask people who have any thoughts and input to please let us know.

RD tabled the decision.

Decon Station – Tama Cassidy reported on her research:

While having a decon station for one event (KOR) might not be too destructive, she questions the environmental sustainability of a permanent station at the Preserve.

Carter Caves spent \$450-500 on a walk thru thing to decontaminate visitors' shoes/boots prior to entering the cave and upon exiting. This contained a solution of Lysol quaternary disinfectant. They disposed of the solution at the camper dump sites.

Mammoth Cave is also using a walk-through thing which brushes mud off people's boots & shoes. The solution they use is Woolite which apparently is at least 95% effective. (Dawn also works like this.) They also have a spraybottle with Woolite for use at more remote or lesser traveled entrances.

She does not see a viable way of disposing of the spent solution – other than possibly having Loveless take it in one of his pumper trucks.

Suggest that for regular use throughout the year – require that cavers bag and take their stuff home to disinfect.

Last year at KOR we only used one barrel that had the quaternary disinfectant. The only reason to dump the quaternary solution is if it gets too muddy. A concern was raised about potentially concentrating any WNS in the wash-off mud in the ground.

This year the consensus seems to locate the decon station near the pile of lumber about 30' to the left of the Showerhouse, rather than in front where the Septic system is located. We will dedicate a long hose to be able to reach, cordon off the area and allow campers to make their own decision to camp in front of it or not. We might want it to move around though various KORs.

WiFi- At Open House, Tammy Otten talked with Patrick Gibson from COG about WiFi, and where service is needed: KOR registration near BC's, Vendor's Row and sometimes up near the cave. (This is what Patrick does for a living.) He recommended purchasing two WiFi access points, the first to cover vendor's row and down to scout camp with a 60 degree beam width. A second device could be purchased to boost it towards BC's (and could also catch the Cave).

Werner commented that the future of WiFi at the Preserve is questionable- it has been paid for enough so far, but if there is not enough money in the WiFi fund at some point when a bill is due, it will be cancelled. The number of people who use the system may be 20% more than the number of people who bought the passes.

One member volunteered to donate \$200 to purchase the equipment, thus resolving the issue of who or which organization would pay for it. RD moves that we accept this donation for WiFi equipment.

If KOR did not contribute last year for WiFi, it needs to be brought up to the Executive Committee of GCG. (No entry of such payment was found in the GSP Treasurer's records).

KOR- Discussion about GSP selling merchandise during KOR. Stipulations: register as a vendor, contribute merchandise towards the raffle, and do not sell t-shirts (don't want to compete with KOR t-shirts). Consensus to keep this small, set up a table under the Shelter, staffed part-time, and simply add "Check out our website" to the Welcome write-up article about GSP in the Guidebook. This means donate \$25 worth of merchandise to the KOR raffle.

On a related note, RKC is also putting together a raffle at KOR - and would really like to include one of GSP's new hats. We agreed, and will also contribute a pack of notecards.

KOR preparations - Gravel on the roads -possibly at electric sites and dip along the Creek, also road from Upper Mondo to tree line. Arrange for Friday or Saturday at the beginning of Work Weekend. WJ suggested getting waterbars to keep the gravel in place. TC to ask co-workers at the Park about correct slopes, also ask Carl Swanigan who has a number of these on his road up to his place (leading to Skylight Dome).

WJ reports that when he left last weekend, the dumpster was full and the lid just barely touched. He highly recommends it being switched before the Camp Wesley caving Adventures group arrives. TO suggested getting the large dumpster for KOR now, because it only was barely full at least a month after last year's event when it was finally removed. RD to get with BC on this.

RD will get a task list together for KOR prep weekend.

RD will tell BC to handle the dumpster, WJ will handle the Port-O-Lets.

Camping donations - People are to sign in at the Kiosk, and put donation money in the pipe. WJ did comment that close to 30 camping passes have been sold. BC has requested a list of GCG members. Also provide a list of those who have camping passes.

Projects - An anonymous grotto member is willing to donate the funds for a three compartment sink to upgrade the Kitchen. Anything that we do to the kitchen should get us to being health department compliant. Purchase this online or restaurant closing auction.

A question was raised – who will install it? Resolution: get it down there and it will get installed as people can get to it.

RD moves that we accept this donation of funds for kitchen equipment.

Bear question: How far away are the bears? One sighted going across the interstate at exit 59 and in Berea, one shot near Shawn Pollack's house. We don't want the dumpster to become an attractant.

No meeting in July, since the normal date falls on the Thursday before KOR.
Next meeting August 8, 2013, location To Be Determined.

Adjourned 8:58 pm