

Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve

Management Committee Meeting 8/8/2013
Harrison Branch Library

Start: 7:08 pm

Committee members present:

Richard Duncan
Jerry Brandenburg
Tama Cassidy

Werner Jud
Neena Jud
Scott Pavey

Also attending:

James Robinson
Chris Hacker
Bob Dobbs

Tammy Otten
Pete Stow

Secretary's Report:

The minutes of the June meeting were summarized. There was no July meeting due to Karst-O-Rama.

JB made a motion to accept, TC 2nd

Treasurer's Report:

Expenses exceeded income. Detailed Financial report available on request.

The water consumption during KOR was less than 2012.

Wi-Fi fund currently stands at \$204.46 – which will cover four months until November. The KOR contribution for one month will finish the year.

NJ made a motion to accept, TC 2nd

Caretaker's Report:

Lyla Mullins Powell asked to bring a family group to the Preserve on Sunday of Labor Day weekend to celebrate Andrew's birthday. It would be good to relay our concerns about the condition of the Cave to her, especially in light of the National Register nomination and the graffiti incidences this year. In addition, Bill has a concern about leaving the gate standing wide open for hours.

Bill requests assistance in mowing the grass.

He mentioned that he heard of a new "plant poaching" activity in the neighborhood – mossing. Apparently people take moss patches off rocks and cliff faces.

People have been asking Bill about the Cave gate key. He asks that a message be sent out that the key has been changed and to ask a Committee Member to borrow one.

Bill commented that some people have been helping themselves to the firewood in the old dumpster enclosure. Tammy explained that KOR purchased that wood from GSP's Scout supply and has no issues with cavers using it.

A few things still need to be cleaned up from KOR. James Robinson volunteered to clean out the glass & cans from the Scout fire ring, and the banner poles from the front gate need to be put away.

Schedule

- 8/16-18 Three Scout Troops
- 8/17 Kentucky Life film crew with Dave Shuffett will be at Preserve to get footage for a show segment to be broadcast in March or April of next year. Also BGG will have a meeting and party that evening.
- 9/1 Andrew's birthday party
- 9/6-8 Caver Appreciation Weekend including KSS mtg Sunday at 1 pm
- 9/19-21 Small group of Japanese cavers, sponsored by Mary Gratsch and Tammy Otten

Old Business

Tractor parts requested by BC arrived. James Robinson will deliver them to him.

Ruts from KOR: WJ relayed Pat Hutson's method of dealing with ruts. He suggests chaining a big railroad tie to the back of the tractor and dragging it over the dry ground. If that does not make enough of a difference, try again in a couple of weeks with the railroad tie dragged at an angle (so that the dirt will be diverted into adjacent ruts).

KOR concerns:

Incidents that could have ended badly: culvert pipe surfing and tazing. After much discussion in the meeting, it was stated that "We cannot protect people from exploring the limits of their stupidity." Then we moved on.

Graffiti: On Saturday of KOR, a caver mentioned finding some graffiti with 2013 dates in Pig Pen to folks in the RKC tent. One set of initials was dated Thursday of KOR (7/11/13). Two locations with other initials were dated summer 2013. Other names were dated 2013. Once the information about this spread through the KOR and GSP Committees, it was explained that the graffiti with names dated 2013 occurred in February. (Shortly after the discovery of the February incident an ad hoc committee including Bob Dobbs, Neena Jud and Chris Hacker began to investigate it.) After KOR, Mary Gratsch, RKC Chair, asked the Management Committee to establish a committee to investigate & document such events, establish guidelines for prosecution, and develop a plan to better protect the Cave.

Tammy Otten went through the KOR waivers and registration forms, and reported finding three people with the first and last initials matching the 7/11/13 date. She found no names that matched the other initials dated summer 2013.

Neena Jud called two of the three names that Tammy identified, and were assured that was something they would not do. The third name did not have a phone number, and the sponsor could not be reached with the phone number provided or any other searches.

Chris Hacker shared a draft of a proposal (attached) for Vandalism Mitigation and Deterrence. He suggested forming a standing committee to gather information and determine facts.

A motion was formulated to establish an Official Committee for Vandalism Mitigation & Deterrence, (but not seconded or voted upon). Tama Cassidy offered to join Bob Dobbs, Chris Hacker & Neena Jud on the committee – currently still ad-hoc.

After revisiting the facts and much discussion, a motion was made and voted upon to fully banish Ben Duncan per the banishment rules in the GSP Management Plan. After one year, Ben may approach the Committee, to request early reinstatement. Four in favor, one recusal, one abstention.

In accordance with the Management Plan, banishment prohibits Ben from visiting GSP for five years. Early reinstatement must be requested first in writing and then in person. This motion was due to graffiti found at the end of Pig Pen with names of people in his party and a date of 2013, discovered on March 31, 2013 and attributed to their visit on the weekend of February 22-24, 2013. See March meeting minutes for additional discussion of the group's actions that weekend.

NJ will send this message to Ben.

Adjourned at 8:55 pm.

**The next meeting will be Sunday, September 8, 2013 at 10:00 am
Location: the Shelter at Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve**

PROPOSAL

Great Saltpeter Cave Preserve

Vandalism Mitigation and Deterrence

Synopsis:

Recent occurrences of vandalism, as well as past incidents occur within the boundaries of the Great Saltpeter Cave Preserve. These include graffiti scratched in cave walls, and elm tree bark being stripped from live trees on the property, as well as other miscellaneous events.

Details:

The outline presented here is part of a larger program that I have proposed to the parent organization of GSP, the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy. Each RKC property is different, and the vandalism mitigation and deterrence plans should be tailored to each specific property.

The Great Saltpeter Cave Preserve is the flagship property of the RKC, and has the most infrastructure as well as historical significance. Outlined below is a series of steps I believe the GSP Committee should adopt in order to minimize vandalism on the property. While these are not guaranteed, they take a more proactive stance towards reducing the number of occurrences.

Deterrence Items:

Consideration of restrictions of open cave events

Time windows

Gate keeper for time window

Sign In/Out policy

Explanation display about why steps are necessary

Cave Signage

Better signage regarding cave law and willingness of RKC to prosecute

Possible random actual/faux video monitoring signage

Property Signage

Signage about trespassing and video surveillance at targeted Elm tree sites

Requires site survey

Video Monitoring

Purchase and use of game/trail cameras at varied interval around the property and cave

Reward for prosecution

Dollar amount to fund for reward related to vandalism information and prosecution

Mitigation Items:

RKC proposal for standing investigative committee regarding events and occurrences.

Special Event occurrences

Training for evidence collection and reporting for incidents

Outline clear pathway for notifications and responsibilities of RKC and property board/committee members for incidents

Pre-established letters of intent from county prosecutors and law enforcement agencies regarding willingness to assist in event prosecution

Establish coordination with local agencies regarding incident notification, investigation and prosecutions.