

Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve Committee Meeting

March 11, 2021 – GoToMeeting

Committee Members Present:

Fred Ball

Jerry Brandenburg

Josh Heinbuch

Werner Jud

Neena Jud

Scott Pavey

Chris Redmon

Also attending:

Bill Carr

Gary Bush

James Clements

Sheri Clements

Sean Cain

Bob Dobbs

Jared Embree

Patrick Gibson

Kevin Lorms

Darryl Marsh

Ana Scherschel

Stephanie Suen

Meeting started at 7:04 pm.

Announcements

A good group of people came to the Preserve last weekend to clean up after the Ice and Flood. Things are mostly restored, the Sauna is set back up and the kitchen is clean.

Scott was advised that cavers have been caving in bat hibernacula caves. Scott asked all to please pass the word along to your grottos that this goes against the values of the member Grottos and the NSS. Please contact Scott if you need the closed cave list.

Jerry received a call asking if all of Goochland is closed. Werner's observations over the last 50 years suggests the right side only should be considered closed.

Gary Bush suggested that if you see bats, be considerate, turn around & leave.

Closure of hibernacula ends on April 15th.

TAG Fall Cave In will be the weekend before Columbus Day.

Secretary's Report:

JH made a motion to accept the Secretary's report as amended, FB 2nd.

Caretaker's Report:

Bill sent two interim emails to the Committee reporting on weather issues in the region. On March 1 he reported 6 inches of rain in 24 hours bringing water across the Point and campground up to the Shower house, washing away a Port-O-Let from the electric sites. A significant amount of mud washed into the kitchen and large ruts were created in roads.

On March 5 he reported that while re-grading the roads he noticed much of the gravel has been washed away. On a positive note he reported that the Devil Below movie (formerly known as Shookum Hills) has been released as a video on demand. GSP did get credit. Bill has a copy of the movie and is willing to share. Bring a flash drive and he will copy the movie onto it.

The Shower house has been brought up for the season. The outside shower leaks at the shut-off valves at the ceiling. The valves are gate valves with aging rubber seals. Next valves should be ball valves.

He started working on the outside shower on the Women's side. He has the floor boards, will get the privacy walls and plumbing lines, requested help getting the ball valves.

Shawn Loveless brought another Port-O-Let, commented that the parts from the one that washed away cannot be re-assembled. He agrees that tying them down with cables would help. Jerry is willing to do that. Bill recommends making an additional donation to Loveless due to the pandemic slowdown. Werner has asked for a bill, we did not receive one last year.

Treasurer's Report:

Financial Report available upon request.

FB made a motion to accept Treasurer's Report, CR 2nd.

Old Business

Project – Shelter Roof: James Clements reviewed the proposal he submitted to the Committee on March 1, 2021. He is proposing CertainTeed Landmark Pro Shingles which have a 110 mph wind warranty and a 10 year Sure start warranty. They have coordinating hip & ridge shingles. He suggests the color: Weathered Wood. He will inspect sheathing and replace sections as necessary with plywood or solid lumber according to what was removed. He will install synthetic underlayment throughout, Ice & water shield along the perimeter, and a two strips in the valleys alongside & under W shaped metal valleys. He will install rake edges, gutter apron, 6" gutters with gutter guards and 4" downspouts.

Offers were made of volunteer labor, but James prefers no one else on the roof due to his liability insurance & worker's compensation coverage.

Bee Garbage quoted Werner \$800 for a dumpster for this project. James can bring his double dump truck at a much lower cost.

James requested a kitchen key for use during the week this will be done. Kitchen training will be by Werner or Scott.

JB made a motion to accept James' proposal as written, without replacing the SunTuff, and without sales tax, FB 2nd, all in favor.

People who want to contribute to this project can make donations through the button on the GSP website.

FOGSP (JH): They are considering a clean-up on 25.

Kitchen: Scott reported that Debi led the effort to clean the floor of washed in mud. The kitchen faucet has a leak in the front at the two big union nuts. Kevin will look at it next weekend. The new baking oven door is repaired and ready to go down. It is 230 volt unit, drawing 11 amps and requires a dedicated outlet and breaker.

Phone (JH): The Shelter phone is working.

COVID-19 (SP): Kentucky is starting to lift the restrictions.

Scouts (DM): The first youth group trip will be this weekend. Next trips will be later in the month. They have COVID protocols in place: one group at a time, no scouts in Shower house, limited to the Port-O-Let in Scout Camp. Contact tracing logs will be maintained by the Youth Groups as well as Darryl. Adult Caving outreach is still off in the distance.

Ticket House (SP): Last weekend, Pat Hutson levelled out the side with his skid steer. Interior work will resume when weather breaks.

Website (Gary Bush): The old website will go away at the end of the month. The new website address is <https://gsp.caves.org/>. Gary reset the links on the GCG, GSP and RKC websites to this new site. He added a Thank You page that comes up when donations are made through PayPal.

It was agreed that the Burn Ban notice should be taken down.

The Sponsor Form is not working on the new site. He will work on it.

The “comments to seller” issue with PayPal has been fixed.

KOR (Bob Dobbs): nothing new. They are still waiting for NSS to make their decision on Convention dates.

Open House: Neena shared the results of the poll regarding dates for Open House. 41 responses were received (a 29% response rate). Of these, 14 would feel comfortable helping and are available to volunteer the weekend of May 15 & 16 (as normal). 34 checked October 2 & 3. 9 people checked both of the above. 6 people checked we should have Open House in May, 31 people checked October, and one checked another date. These responses significantly favor the October dates.

Discussion about alternate dates in October was settled by Patrick reminding all that the poll specifically mentioned the 2nd & 3rd, and people responded for those dates.

Scott made a motion to move this year's Open House to October, JB 2nd. 6 in favor, one opposed (but will be there anyway). Motion passed.

Patrick asked JROTC: they are unsure about May. They will not be able to camp, but some may be able to help. They are unsure about October, it may hit the fall break for school.

Bob Dobbs recommended placing an announcement in the Mt. Vernon Signal now so that people will be prepared. WJ will contact Signal, NJ will update facebook, Gary will update website.

Merchandise: Werner reached out to Angelo George, the author of the Saltpetre Empires book. He has 14 books available to sell. There will not be a reprint, the master plates are gone. He has a similar amount of the Outer Door to the Auger Hole, which also will not be reprinted. He has a third book about Mammoth Saltpetre Works, printed in 2005, that continues the story where Saltpetre Empires left off. Werner requested authorization to purchase a dozen each of the first two (out of print) books.

JH made a motion to authorize that purchase, SP 2nd, no opposition.

Gary requested a copy of each book for the GCG library. Scott would like a copy of the Mammoth book also. Werner will place the order.

Gary also suggested asking Angelo for a release for us to scan his books and put them in the members-only section of the website (behind a paywall). Gary is willing to make a donation towards this.

New Business

Shelter Posts: Bob Dobbs suggested that while the roof work was in progress, we should consider installing the 6 x 6 posts we got to replace some deteriorated one.

Sinks of the Roundstone clean-up – Stephanie Suen is coordinating a GCG cleanup of Sinks on March 20, 2021 in preparation for resuming Scout trips soon. She requested permission for participants' camping at the Preserve. All approved.

JH made a motion to adjourn, WJ 2nd. Meeting ended approx. 8:45 pm.

Next meeting will be:

7 pm, Thursday April 8, 2021, via GoToMeeting.