

Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve Committee Meeting

September 8, 2013 - Shelter at GSP

Committee Members Present:

Jerry Brandenburg
Tama Cassidy
Pat Hutson

Werner Jud
Neena Jud
Scott Pavey

Also attending:

Fred Ball
Bill Carr
Tom Cholmondeley
James Clements
Bob Dobbs
Kent Fasick
Lee Florea
Mary Gratsch
Gil Gould
Ron Hager

Howard Kalnitz
Matt Keller
Darlene Kisner
Tammy Otten
Debi Pavey
Brian Pitcher
James Robinson
Mark Skinner
Mike Wuerth
Bob Yuellig

Meeting started at 10:10 am. Bob Dobbs was asked to preside over the meeting in Richard Duncan's absence.

Announcements:

Hunting Season began Saturday September 7, 2013 (Archery for deer & turkey). *Please wear orange & bright colors when walking in the woods. Please be respectful of the hunters when you are out and about. See the following website for more information about Hunting Season in Kentucky: <http://fw.ky.gov/pdf/1314huntposter.pdf>*

Bill Simpson (senior member of GCG, heavily involved on Scouts and Landowner relations) has taken a turn for the worse. His mental facilities are declining. He has been living in Springfield, Ohio for a few years in a nursing home. He has great difficulty talking and responding in general, but does obviously react when caves and caving is mentioned. He does receive the Electric Caver, but Bob encourages all members to send a card or note, as all correspondence is read to him by the staff.

*Mailing Address: William (Bill) Simpson
Essex of Springfield
2317 East Home Rd.
Springfield, Ohio 45503*

Bob Dobbs explained that the Chair of GCG appoints the Chair of the GSP Committee, who then selects the other three representatives from GCG and works with DUG & BGG to fill the remaining positions. Matt Keller announced that Chris Hacker will be the Chair of the GSP committee for the year 2013-2014. Thanks to Richard Duncan for his term as Chair.

Bob also reminded everyone that GSP is like our second home, and as such we all need to take care of it and pay attention to what goes on.

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from the August meeting were summarized.

SP made a motion to accept, PH 2nd.

Meeting minutes are posted on the GSP website (without actual dollar amounts in the financial report). The minutes contain the facts and decisions, not necessarily all the discussions and opinions. To be fully informed, it is best to attend the meetings.

Treasurer's Report:

Income exceeded expenses. Detailed Financial report available upon request.

Our largest source of income historically has been camping donations from Scout & Youth Groups. This year donations have not kept pace with the Scout activity, requiring numerous phone calls & emails by WJ to track down. If you sponsor a Scout Group, please encourage them to put their camping donation in an envelope, mark their troop on it, and deposit it in the pay pipe.

The expenses in August were all typical amounts and included fuel for the machinery and utilities. The WiFi fund currently stands at \$90.39 (*correction from what was said in the meeting*). If you want to use WiFi, please contribute.

A question was raised about the Reserve Fund. At the end of last year we put \$1,000 into it (in accordance with our budget). \$1,000 is also budgeted for this year.

PH made a motion to accept, SP 2nd.

Caretaker's Report:

The large (30 cu yd) dumpster from KOR is still in use, and not yet full. There is no additional charge for keeping it over a specific length of time, and so far we have saved \$195 from not getting the small (8 cu yd) dumpster back and having it emptied.

Unanimous agreement of all in attendance to keep large dumpster until it is full.

Two Port-O-Lets have been moved to a test location beyond the fire pit and cut into the hillside a bit. James Robinson did the digging required. Shawn Loveless had no problem servicing them in this location. They were not serviced last week. The usage this weekend should enable us to test the odors from this location.

Please provide comments to the Committee on this location.

Michael McKinney would like to return to the Cave with the Johnson Sisters on Sunday, June 15, 2014 to once again perform for a small group (last year was 30 mostly elderly folks). *He made a \$200 donation to GSP out of the fees he charged for the whole weekend tour.* The only thing they need is help carrying chairs in and out of the Cave. Bill would like people to help him with this. Questions were raised about when our typical summer events will be relative to this date – no answers provided. No decision was made and no response to Mr. McKinney was suggested.

BC passed along a check for \$250.00 from the Cincinnati Gem & Mineral Club as an unrestricted donation. Mary Gratsch sponsored this group of 12 people who took a tour of the Cave and had a picnic under the Shelter. She emphasized that caves are not collecting sites and that they are legally protected environments.

Scott Pavey brought more parts to fix the Tractor. They are on and it is running well. BC also got a spring for the reverse throttle.

The property that has Sherman Singleton's Cave aka Endless Caverns is available for sale.

Old Business

Pipe Joint: After much discussion the following motions were made:

To cover the pipe by November 1, 2013 with an approved method. Four in favor, two opposed.

If an approved method is found to preserve or conserve the pipe in place, uncovered, it will be brought to the Committee at that time. Unanimous in favor.

To form a subcommittee within ourselves including professional and experienced advisors to research & develop protocols for all projects in the Cave. Unanimous in favor.

Bill Carr & Tama Cassidy offered to be on the protocol subcommittee. Lee Florea suggested his wife, Amber Yuellig who is an Archaeologist, as another member.

No further pipe excavation, or any project digging is to be done until the protocols are developed.

Graffiti Issue: Neena reviewed the history of graffiti found this year in the Cave (see August meeting minutes). During last month's meeting a motion was made to **Form an Official Committee for Vandalism Mitigation and Deterrence.** It was not seconded, voted upon, or tabled at that time.

TC re-made the motion, NJ 2nd, Unanimous in favor.

It is important for all of us to educate our guests and stress to all visitors that the Cave is a living museum. Stay on the pathway. Do not touch walls or artifacts. The GSP website includes Cave Rules http://www.caves.org/conservancy/gsp/info/rules_cave.shtml There is a Cave Key Form for use by Committee Members when loaning a key to Grotto members.

Scott Pavey reported on his discovery of new graffiti in Signature Alley. When you unlock the Cave gate for anyone, you are responsible for their actions. A suggestion was made to add information to Tour Guide sheets to remind cave guides what to say in various places, i.e. just before entering Signature Alley.

New Business

A number of major projects were completed this year, including the Kitchen Floor, Range Hood and Scout Shelter.

The Cave gate lock was changed during KOR. We would like to recognize and thank Fred Ball for providing the new lock and a batch of keys. The next time the lock is replaced we may want to consider using a restricted keyway or a removable core in order to reduce massive copying and distribution of the gate key.

School field trip: One school has contacted Bob Dobbs for mid to late October. There will be 100 or more students in this group. He would like to schedule them on a Friday and asked for suggestions of good dates for this. It turns out that October 18th is the Friday before Bridge Day, and October 25th is the Friday before the Rotunda Climb.

The Zero-turn key was missing from the lockbox. Scott Pavey put his key on that ring. Fred Ball offered to make copies.

Howard Kalnitz is re-surveying the Cave. Please leave any survey tape that you find in place.

We have some new (young) people helping out around the Preserve and learning how to operate the equipment. If anyone sees them doing anything incorrectly, please view this as an opportunity to educate rather than scold. More people familiar with the equipment will make it easier on all.

NJ to prepare a letter to RD thanking him for his service as Chair of the Committee this year.

Adjourned at 11:48 am.

Next meeting place, and date to be determined.