

GSP Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 10, 2025 –virtual meeting

Call to order: 7:05 pm

Committee Members

Debi Pavey Chair GCG Rep	Werner Jud Treasurer GCG Rep	Neena Jud Secretary GCG Rep	Jerry Brandenburg GCG Rep
Fred Ball DUG Rep	Kevin Lorms COG Rep	Mark Swelstad COG Rep	David Lindemuth BGG Rep

Sub-Committee Members

Kristen Harper Caretaker	Scott Pavey Equipment Technician	Meg Gaskin Social Events Coordinator	Darryl Marsh Scouts Coordinator
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Additional Attendees

Jared Embree	Tera Williamson	Pete Stow	Kelly McNamara
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Announcements

None

Secretary's Report

Fred Ball made a motion to accept the March meeting minutes. Mark Swelstad 2nd. No opposition.

Treasurer's Report

Income exceeded Expenses in the month of March. Full Report available upon request.

FB moved to approve the Treasurer's report as delivered. MS 2nd. No opposition.

Caretaker's Report

Kristen was out of town and not on the call. She will return April 28th.

Werner will be at the Preserve on Friday to meet with Rodney. WJ will repair the split in the waterline down to the electric sites that the Scouts use, and plans to get to showerhouse items.

Scott fixed the green gate wheel (check it out!), and greased & serviced the front gate wheel.

Sub-committee Reports

Miscellaneous Property Maintenance

- Tractor – Scott delivered the tractor (Thurs 4/3/25)! The grader blade is ready to go back on it.
- Submeter for waterline to CR – Werner will be at the Preserve on Friday to meet with Rodney so he can replace the valve with a sub-meter assembly.
- Ticket house renovation – Walls are next – after Open House.
- Utility pole with main electric panel outside of the Cave (remains on the list) – no change since last meeting.
- Lights in the Cave (remains on the list) – no change since last meeting.
- Atlas Pillar Electric Panel Replacement (remains on the list) – no change since last meeting.

- Signs – as was said in previous months, Scott still plans on fabricating new directional and speed limit signage for the Preserve and will have this completed and installed by Open House.
 - branded boundary signs also remain on the list.
- WiFi – Patrick Gibson (remains on the list) – no change since last meeting
 - Patrick will prepare an instruction sheet on how to make phone calls over the internet on individual cell phones (VOIP) and post it at the Shelter.
 - There has been a landline phone in the mailbox at the CR for emergencies. We still should add a sign in the Shelter directing people to it.
- Cameras – Patrick Gibson – no updates.

New Sauna Structure – Jared Embree

- On schedule and under budget! Jared will be down on April 17th through the following weekend. He will be joined by the Sauna crew on the first weekend for framing the enclosure and tiling the second weekend. He mentioned that donations to the sauna will be matched dollar for dollar up to KOR.

Preserve Calendar

OPEN HOUSE – Kevin Lorms & Kelly McNamara

- 37 days until Open House on May 17-18, 2025! Work weekend is May 3 & 4, which also supports KOR. Kelly reports that 46 people have said they are interested in volunteering and 16 people have signed up for slots so far. If you haven't, please sign up.
- Question was posed to confirm the purpose/goal of Open House. Answers shared included: a way to open the Preserve to the local public, socialize, share soupbeans & cornbread, networking, and good faith with our neighbors. It's been a way to build community relations and introduce cavers to landowners who may want a cave on their property checked out. Not a fundraiser, we've been happy to break even. Fundraising was done in a very passive way through t-shirt sales and souvenirs. The secure donation boxes Jerry Brandenburg made to replace the old coffee cans made a big difference to the amount of donations we actually received.
- That question led to questioning the value of the soupbeans that we prepare to the success of the weekend. Much time is spent preparing the food, and lately we have been making 4,000 servings per weekend. Could we charge for this? Or could the volunteers in the kitchen be better used elsewhere? Is there a possibility of giving more to the Preserve? The event requires over 70 volunteers, and food must be prepared for all of them. The feedback comments included it is hard on the remaining volunteers when some leave early on Sunday to head home.
- The response started with asking the corresponding question – What problem are we trying to solve by charging for soupbeans? Another said it would negatively affect our Community relations. From a local resident's point of view, we are wealthy. It would be better to target our donation requests to something specific at the Preserve that we want to improve.
- Then someone else asked if the underlying issue is capacity? This event is tough on the Preserve, the Cave, the roads, as well as the volunteers. We realized we were at capacity a couple of years ago and scaled back social media & advertisements. Last year we backed off the length of the tour to 30 minutes by leaving off the main trunk passage to the north entrance.
- We won't be making changes for this year. We have advertised that we will be open from 10 am to 3:30 pm so the last tour can go in by 4:00. As it is, the front gate opens half an hour early. One thing we can do this year is start telling folks around 2 pm that the last people need to be

out by 5 pm because the Preserve closes then. This is particularly important on Sunday. Another suggestion is to hand out a paper to the incoming cars to gather info from them and provide them with a QR code for donations. We can also have targeted donation boxes and posters, like for the road repair. The majority was vocal against charging admission.

- It was suggested that the amount of people we've been getting lately might be a post-COVID bump. We won't know this for another few years. But we can collectively observe and consider the daily carrying capacity or various modifications to discuss in a post-event review.
- Logistics – the golf cart last year was very beneficial! Many trips to the front gate, hauled lots of food, helped many people, lots of goodwill for seniors. Maybe a local business has one they would donate for the weekend. Kelly will make calls this week. Otherwise, early next week Scott will contact Dever Equipment, Inc. to reserve one. This needs to be done by one month out. It was agreed that \$500 for a golf cart is a good event expense to incur.

KOR (June 6-8, 2025) – Meg Gaskin

- Pre-Registration goes live this weekend! Zeffy, the online payment system being used for the event, does not charge fees for 501(c)3 organizations.
- Via email, Meg asked a question about the surplus of donated baked beans they will have. She is working with Chelsea Parada to donate the unused cans.
- She also asked about the hours and guidelines for the Cave since they would like to have a special candle & lantern tour one evening. The Cave will be open from 8-9 am until dinner time (because alcohol starts flowing around then and behavior may be less cave-safe). Last year, some GSP members & family members did spontaneous, unannounced walk-throughs of the Cave to verify acceptable behavior. It was agreed that there could be a guided candle & lantern tour through the Cave during the weekend.
- Meg also previously asked if the dumpster could be emptied during the work week leading up to KOR. Werner will stop in to Bee Garbage tomorrow and will make the request. The KOR committee is fine with using just the small dumpster to collect the trash.
- We discussed having the tractor pull the trailer through the campground each day of the event to collect trash and recycling, as was done in years past. Recycling needs to be in bags before going into the bins due to Rockcastle Recycling's requirements.
- Mike Thornton (aka Hippie Homesteader, aka Terri Wolfe's fiancé) has a non-profit called Trash-Talkin'. He has offered to come to the Preserve on Sunday/Monday to clean up after the event if he can film or photograph the clean-up efforts for his website. Agreed!
- Debi requested that a message be placed in the Guidebook for the attendees to be mindful of their trash. A suggestion was made to ask Mike Wuerth to make a sign stating: "please pack out your trash".
- Meg is really pushing that this is a multi-grotto event. The sign-up sheet for volunteers is on the KOR facebook page.
- The KOR Committee has not made the final decision but is leaning towards not having the Howdy Party in the Cave, out of concern that later in the Party many of the people would have moved out of the Cave for one reason or another.

Status Reports

Field Trips – Neena Jud

- There is only one scheduled so far. Hopefully others will be added in April. *A second one was scheduled for April 24 while these minutes were being typed.*

- Neena plans on a poster for Open House to advertise the School Field Trip program. Ideally this would have a QR code that would take Teachers to our website for more info and how to request a Field Trip. Kelly Mac offered to generate the QR Code with the School Outing address.

Scouts and Outreach – Darryl Marsh (not in attendance)

- Messages on facebook indicate that Darryl is looking for additional guides and tailgunners for cave trips this weekend.

Lyla Requests – Debi Pavey

- Saturday of Memorial Day weekend – Lyla’s family reunion.
- Saturday, June 28th is Ralph Powell’s family reunion (listed as Bertha Ramsay reunion).
- July 26th is a Church Group of a friend of Lyla’s.

Kitchen Training

- Not mentioned, but David Lindemuth still needs Kitchen Training as a Committee member.

GSP Website

- Jared compiled the various responses to the questionnaire and gave us a verbal summary.
 - It is a repository of useful information, but that information is not easy to find.
 - There were requests for a search function within the website and accessibility features/adaptability to different devices (mobile through desktop).
 - People claimed that functions were missing: an easier way to donate, dedicated section for camping, quick access to forms.
- In conclusion, it seems worth redesigning the website, worth making it more flexible/accessible on various devices, worth providing an admin access so a select few of the Committee leadership could directly make a simple update. It is not currently broken, but out of date. Jared is happy to take on the task of redesigning the website – but not immediately. And if others volunteer, he will gladly support their efforts.
- He will send out his compiled report after the meeting to those in attendance and copy Gary Bush, current webmaster.

Masons request

- Last month Jimmie Hampton & Jason Rudder requested consideration of the idea that GSP would sponsor a new Masonic Lodge in the Rockcastle area, with meetings to be held quarterly/monthly in the Cave. This is only in initial considerations.
 - Ensuing discussion revealed that Fred is willing to sponsor them for an annual meeting, but not any more frequently than that. He further thinks that a quarterly or monthly meeting in the Cave would detract from the annual event.
 - Jason Rudder sent a fb message directly to Werner saying that he is a BGG and GCG member and life member of RKC, and as such would be able to be the sponsor. Werner did not respond to that message but did confirm that he is a member of RKC. David Lindemuth stated that Jason has not paid BGG dues since 2022. The status of his membership in GCG is unknown. A sponsor would be required to open the front gate, let the folks in, be around to monitor the use of the Cave, be fully aware of things and let them out afterwards.

- Questions were asked about the use of the Cave in the past. For example, when Lyla asks to use it. Lyla is a special case since she owns the back half of the Cave, and we want to maintain excellent relations with her in hopes of acquiring her part of the Cave in the future. School field trips and Youth caving trips are part of the outdoor and educational outreach of the grottos and thus of GSP. Occasional weddings occur in the Cave, but they have been limited to Grotto members and members of Lyla's family. All others we turn away saying we are not a conference center or commercial venue.
- In conclusion, all agreed to decline the request. Having another venue would be in their best interest. Fred will wait until they ask him again and persuade them as we discussed.

KET Filming

- This will be handled mostly by Chelsea Parada of BGG. Thanks go to David for asking her to respond.

TV Show Concept

- Nothing has been heard back.

Long-term garbage collection considerations

- This topic is tabled until later in the year. Werner is hoping that someone else would take the lead on this.

Project List – minimally discussed, listed here to track.

Task	Priority	Budget	Assigned To	Comments
Quickbooks software upgrade			Werner Jud	sharing the load - delegating
Bridge (or Modify Spillway Access) to the Point			Scott Pavey Pat Hutson	They will come back when more information
Shower house roof vents install	low		James Clements	He is looking for time to do this
Leopold bench by Ellie's Plaque			Werner Jud	On hold
Entry drive repair		\$52,030	Neena Jud	No word until June
Ticket house walls			Jerry Brandenburg	Next, after KOR
Ticket house memorial plaques	low		Neena Jud	
Security Cameras		\$1,300	Patrick Gibson	In his court
Water line upgrade – Submeter & shut-off for CR		No cost	Werner Jud	This weekend
Kitchen electrical panel replacement	lower			All these items require a deep dive to attack, it will be intensive work
Kitchen exterior conduit repair	lower			
Repair and seal walls against rodents	lower			
Waterproofing kitchen walls	lower			

GSP Committee Grotto Composition

- Partially due to the late hour, Debi suggested tabling the discussion of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to a separate, special meeting including Patrick Gibson, chair of RKC and Kyle Kreutz, chair of GCG who represent the current signatories of the MOU. Agreement to that suggestion was voiced, so Debi will contact them to set something up.

New Business

None.

Next Meeting

Next meeting to be Thursday May 8, 2025, at 7:00 pm at Jerry Brandenburg's, and virtually.

Adjourned: 9:21pm

Dates to Remember (please check the calendar on the GSP website):

Next meeting – 5/8/2025, 7:00 pm at Jerry Brandenburg's

Pulaski Co. Homeschool Field Trip – 4/24/2025

Lincoln Co. Mennonite School Field Trip – 4/25/2025

Open House Work Weekend – 5/3-4/2025

Open House – 5/17-18/2025

Lyla "Mullins" Powell Memorial Day Gathering – 5/24/2025

KOR – 6/6-8/2025

Vertical Class – 6/12-15/2025

NSS Convention in New York – 6/23-27/2025

Ralph & Lyla "Powell" (Descendants of Bertha Ramsey) Reunion – 6/28/2025

Camp & Cave with Vets (Scout Shelter) - 6/28-29/2025

Gibson Group – 7/11-13/2025

Everything but the Squeal 2 – 7/18-20/2025

Lyla's Friend's Church – 7/26/2025

OCR class – 8/23-24/2025

Caver Appreciation Weekend – 9/19-21/2025

KSS annual meeting – 9/27-28/2025

Wolfe-Thornton Wedding – 10/4/2025

Mason Cave Degree Ceremony – 10/11/2025

Halloween Party - 10/31-11/2/2025

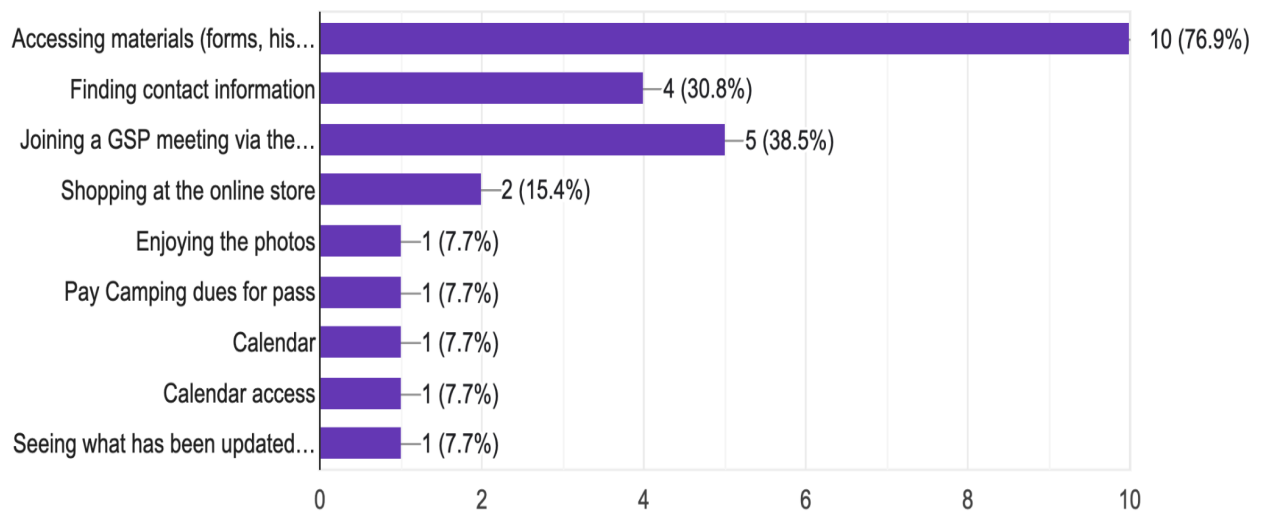
GSP Committee Website Report - 10 April 2025

There were 13 respondents to our survey, and they provided a lot of suggestions for website improvements. In general, the website is currently used to access reference materials and forms (that makes sense, as it's a mostly static informational website). Respondents also use the site to find contact information or join the monthly meeting. In addition, there were many small tweaks suggested and some errors found to address. The overarching sentiment was that the site was good for providing a repository of useful information, but that information was not easy to access.

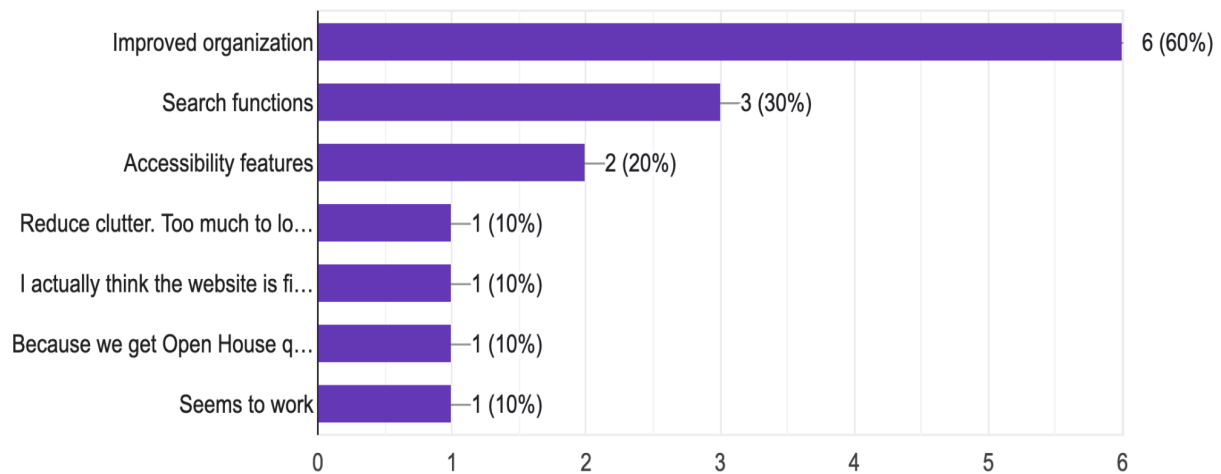
Summary of suggestions for improvements:

- General look and feel:
 - “Looks a little bit dated”
 - Text heavy / Cluttered (many commented on this aspect)
 - Difficult to find things presented “all at once”
- Improved organization:
 - “It’s too hard to find some of the key functions”
 - “Sometimes hard to find things, but all working”
 - “Hard to find things”
- The ability to search for information:
 - A few respondents asked specifically for a search function of some kind
- Accessibility features (mobile friendly, scalable text size, etc.)
 - “The website is not device-accessible, nor mobile friendly. Font size is too small, in general. The area of the web pages should expand to the size of the device (resolution and screen size).”
 - *See results of accessibility audit* (basically, the site is outdated)
- Missing Functions:
 - Easier ways to donate, pay for passes, etc.
 - This is a big one. There should be no barriers of any kind to receiving donations or sales.
 - Dedicated section for camping
 - Easier said than done, but ties into tailoring experience on the website to the different kinds of users we have.
 - Quick access to forms
 - Mobile optimized access (multiple requests)

Why have you visited the GSP website in the past year?



How can the website help you (or others) find information more easily?



What is not currently functioning on the website (if anything)?

- I am not finding anything that is not working.
- It's too hard to find some of the key functions and there is a lot of outdated wasted space
- Sometimes hard to find things, but all working
- The website is not device, accessible, nor mobile friendly. Font size is too small, in general. The area of the web pages should expand to the size of device (resolution and screen size).
- hard to find things

What functions on the website are lacking that you would like to see added?

- Easy way to donate
- It seems to be very challenging to find exact steps on paying for a camping pass. A section dedicated to camping would be nice which then would have everything for cost vs single night, in mondo or camping pass and then have the instructions for paying for each along with the PayPal link on that page
- I think it's great. The website should not and really won't replace Facebook for photos, trip reports, etc. So the site is really best for just a repository of useful information. Anything beyond that will probably not get looked at much.
- Quick buttons in the main page to key forms and calendar and meeting minutes
- mobile friendly site functions
- Easy navigation to pertinent info is lacking. "Contact us" should be easily found. A better menu would be good. A search function would be good.
- mobile friendly

Are there redundant materials on the website, or materials that are no longer relevant?

- I don't find anything redundant.
- There is too much info on the website. There are multiple pages for photos, FAQs, liability waiver, etc. Quite a bit could be reduced or eliminated.
- Please update the DUG Grotto chair as I have have not been chair in some time. Jared is our current chair.

Please tell us anything else that you feel could help us improve the GSP website and make it more useful to you and others.

- The "Preserve Rules" page still says it costs \$8 /person /night to camp, plus \$8 /night if using an electric site. These went up to \$10 as of 1-1-2025.
- REDUCE CLUTTER. Space is important as information. Details are important but don't drench the reader with everything all at once. Provide clear signposts (links) to allow the reader to find and absorb the information at their own pace. Clutter makes everything stressful and difficult to find.

- I can't really think of any improvements. I've never had any trouble finding what I want/need.
- The Home Screen and most screens are very text heavy. For at least the landing page, it would be nice to be less text heavy and more introduction and a nice bouncing point to reach other pages that can have the info that the Home Screen provides
- The website looks a bit dated. The buttons could be rounded and separated; the links could be in hyperlink blue to make them more obvious. Having said that, it's fine for what it is.

Note: There is also a lot more detailed information available (thank you Neena for archiving) from exploring this question back in 2009.

Accessibility Audit (stuff Jared found that needs attention):

Organization:

- Titles should have a consistent hierarchy
- Interactive elements should be navigable using the keyboard
- Every page should include hidden links that allow skipping blocks

Menus:

- Menus should be tagged for assistive technology
- Menu dropdowns should be tagged for assistive technology
- Dropdown expanded/collapsed state should be represented in the code

Graphics/Images:

- Objects and embedded text of images should be described for assistive technology
- Alt text for images
- Figure elements should have text or be excluded from assistive technology

Language:

- The HTML element should include a proper "lang" attribute

Color/Contrast:

- Foreground and background color contrast

Carousels:

- Carousel pagination buttons should be labeled accordingly

Table Structure:

- Tables used for building layouts should be tagged as presentation
- Headless tables should have fallback rows for assistive technology