

GSP Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 12, 2026 – 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	Mike Wolf BGG Rep

Sub-Committee Members

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

Additional Attendees

Jared Embree	Sean Cain	Pete Stow	Matt Sumner
Stephanie Suen	Matt Sumner		

Announcements

Reminder to all Grottos: If you have Scouts that ask you directly to sponsor and guide on wild cave trips – it is pertinent to check the GSP calendar to review preserve activities **AND** send in a scout request noting that the sponsor and guide are already lined up.

Happy Birthday to Scott Pavey!

Secretary's Report

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

Treasurer's Report

Expenses exceeded Income in the month of January 2026. *Full Report available upon request.*

Camping Passes – So far for 2026, Werner has sold 4 family and 4 individual passes. He does check Grotto memberships before sending them out.

Mark Swelstad moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, FB 2nd.

Caretaker's Report

- Kristen reported that there has been quite a bit of snow and ice at the Preserve and in the area in the last couple of weeks. It finally went away yesterday. No leaks have been observed. The kitchen is closed down correctly every time she has checked it. The dumpster is only one quarter full. The Bridge to the Point is clear today/passable.
- It's been quiet. Max Fancher visited a couple of times as well as Darryl and his minions.

Status Reports

Sub-committee Reports

KOR – Matt Sumner

- Matt shared that planning for KOR 2026 is going well. The next meeting will be February 17th – the third Tuesday of the month.

- Debi Pavey volunteered to be Treasurer for KOR this year, but since she is an employee of Fifth/Third Bank and the KOR account is held there, she needs approval from the ethics and conflict of interest team. She doesn't think it will be a problem, she is just waiting for the official approval.
- The Ice and Food trucks are arranged. The Theme will be "Fantasy". The banquet and non-caving events will be discussed at the next meeting. Pieces are falling together – smooth sailing so far.

OPEN HOUSE – Kevin Lorms, Kelly McNamara, & Mike Wolf

- 94 days until Open House 2026. They are using a lot of last year's volunteer recruitment system, and something will be sent out shortly to ask folks to sign up for their preferred roles.
- Before the meeting Kelly sent an email explaining that they want to encourage volunteering for Open House. Specifically they would like a point person in each grotto to be an Encourager for their members to get involved. Kelly will be putting out a challenge to all the grottos to see who can muster up the most volunteers.
- Discussion about the QR Code handouts - In addition to a way to donate, Kevin suggested that the QR Code could be a link to the website if they have any questions, give us their thoughts, and say here's where to contact if they have a cave on their property that you want checked out. Neena suggested improving the verbiage on the QR Code handout – to give a bit more information about GSP so it does not come across as just asking for donations. Neena will work with Kevin and Kelly to improve what we pass out.
- Kevin thought it would be great to have a way to answer questions more than just Mary Gratsch at the RKC & GSP Information Booth. If all the volunteers had a 3 x 5 card in their back pocket with answers to common questions, they could help with that in a personal, interactive way – and with more confidence. We can also have QR codes on several posters around the Preserve for those who want a quick, more automated answer. Come back next month with a list of questions you have been asked by visitors.
- Since many people ask about other opportunities to visit, Kevin thought that those 3 x 5 cards (or another one) could also have questions to ask the visitor to better ascertain what they are looking for. We would prefer to tailor such visits to Church/Civic Group/School groups with at least semi-educational or conservation purposes. Let's all consider some pre-qualifiers – such as suggesting a donation of like \$10 per person (note Schools are being asked for a \$3 per person donation), no overnight camping, no family reunions, a reasonably large sized group. We also need volunteers to step up and meet these groups, lead them on tours, and generally sponsor them. Everyone - be ready to address the pre-qualifiers and your availability to sponsor visitor groups next month.
- Kevin reiterated that we want everyone – volunteers AND guests to have a good time, and hope the donations follow suit.
- Suggestion: On the backside of the 3 x 5 cards, put a full color photo of Mike Wolf dancing and jumping around joyously while directing parking saying "Be Like Mike". Could make posters like that for our pep rallies in the mornings.
- Volunteer shirts – We have a limited number of a few sizes left. Kevin talked with Gary Bush about the ability to use the heat transfer process to print more volunteer shirts with the GSP logo in greater sizes – on an as-needed basis. Debi suggested it could also say "Got Questions?" on the back to encourage interactions with visitors.
- To improve the information tour guides can share on tours, and give them more confidence, Neena reminded folks that last year we talked about a review tour, maybe the Friday night before Open House, to let volunteers hear what a variety of tour guides say during their tours with solid information. It is important that each guide put their own spin, their only personality to the tours – because the visitors appreciate that. Also there could be a 10-15 minute program given to each grotto in the months before Open House so they can prepare on their own.

- Some visitors just want to look around on a Cave tour. Other visitors are keenly interested in what the guide has to share. There was an idea about special interest tours of the Cave. But with all the problems that would bring, thoughts turned to having a Presentation elsewhere. This would be to give a more enriched visitor experience without taking up time on the tour. We could do something like the V-vat and gunpowder display during the 2012 Open House. The discussion gravitated to preferring a shaded location near the Creek. Possibly provide square hay bales for seating, along with our ten or so metal chairs. We could hang signs stating “Our next Presentation will be...” There might be one or two history presentations, one or two geology presentations, and one or two chemistry presentations – if we can get volunteers to present. Suggest reconstructing a V-vat.
- Do not add anything to the responsibilities of the front gate. They are busy enough keeping traffic flowing in & out and closing the gate at the pre-determined time.
- If anyone comes across a Golf Cart that someone wants to get rid of – even if it needs work, let us know. Scott would be willing to fix one up – preferably a gasoline powered one. It would be better than renting one, and it can be used for more than just Open House.

Action items

- Tractor Barn culvert – waiting for weather to break – skipped discussion.
- MOU (Patrick Gibson) –All Grottos have agreed. Patrick is setting up a signing date.
- Septic tank locating – Scott plans to do it this weekend.
- Long term garbage collection – Werner wants to visit Waste Connections on a weekday, but it cannot be Friday as thought last month. He will send out another email in a week or so in hopes of getting someone else to accompany him.
- Flags – Kevin Lorms reports that Gary Bush has ordered a two sided vertical hanging flag with logo as a test from an online vendor. It has not arrived yet.
- Debris clean up on Point – tabled until Spring.
- Concealment of Hot Tub, Filter Rack & Sauna – tabled until Spring.
- Shelter Cleanliness/usage write-up – Debi will do this by end of Spring.
- CR crawlspace plumbing repairs/replacements – Werner plans to do this while Kristen is out of town.
- GCG Committee Reps listing in Electric Caver – Now only Jerry is listed, even though Debi asked for all four of us. She sent another email to the entire Board this time. No confirmation yet.
- Google Maps update – not discussed with Darryl. Something at the initial landing page still needs to be added.
- Year in Review for RKC - Debi will be contacting Neena and Darryl for numbers on outreach, scouts and field trips. She will check her own notes for Caver Appreciation and Halloween.

Miscellaneous Property Maintenance

- Sauna Construction – Jared Embree – Rescheduling the cedar installation for the beginning of March due to weather and lack of volunteers. Scott may be able to get to some part of the work this weekend.
- Property clean-up of stuff laying around – Everyone is responsible for cleaning up after themselves and putting things away that they see out of place. This is ongoing.

Miscellaneous Projects

- Search for new Treasurer (in line for Sept. 2026) – Werner shared that a very good candidate has been identified. It is a big job and requires commitment, but it looks like a good future for the Treasury of GSP.

- Search for Scouts coordinator - Darryl shared that he has been coordinating with Mike Wolf for this. He will still prepare a written description of the responsibilities of the position and send it out to Mike and the rest of the Committee. This is specifically an assistant position; Darryl will still be here and involved. Mike is glad for the opportunity to get involved and learn more about the Scouting Program and how it supports GSP.

Project List

- Leopold bench – Waiting for delivery.
- Ticket House projects – waiting until Spring.
- GSP website – Jared Embree/Kelly McNamara – A new GSP website skeleton has been started. They have no idea how long it will take to build, but they are putting in a couple of nights each week. As soon as they have something a little nicer, they will share it with the Committee.
- Entry Drive Repair grant – no word yet on the second try for the Bolger Grant.
- Bridge to the Point – Neena is investigating possible grant sources for this. Nothing really to report yet.
- NSS Promotional Video request from Anna Blanton with the Creekers from Bloomington, Indiana – Neena was in communication with Anna Blanton who requested some weekday times rather than weekends. Mike Wolf is willing to sponsor them, so he will contact Anna to work out a date.
- Property Boundary issues – Several of us will be headed to GSP this weekend to address these issues. Werner set a meeting with Jerry Gilbert with Coy, Gilbert, Shepherd and Willson in Richmond, Ky for Friday afternoon. We will be hiking to the back property boundary and spray painting some boundary trees where Neena identified a difference with Josh Blanton’s surveying for our new neighbor, Malach. Critically we will be marking the “Stone in Drain with Poplar pointer” with green survey tape. Full report next month.
- Smaller tasks and lower priority tasks are listed on the next page:

Task	Priority	Budget	Assigned To	Comments
Quickbooks software upgrade	low		Werner Jud	Out in the distance
Bridge (or Modify Spillway Access) to the Point	high	???	Scott Pavey Pat Hutson	They will come back when more information
Showerhouse roof ridge caps	Spring	none	Werner Jud	Install remaining 6' to 8'
Shower house roof vents install	low		James C.	
Outside shower enclosure walls		\$75	Scott & Jared	Paint after one year
Showerhouse isolation valves		\$80	Werner Jud	Zone off sections for maintenance
Entry drive repair		\$52,030	Neena Jud	Searching for grants
Ticket House Flashing	Spring		Scott Pavey	
Ticket House re-hang Gutters	Spring	none	Scott Pavey	
Ticket house walls	After the above	\$500	Jerry B. & Scott Pavey, Neena J	glass faced gypsum board
Ticket house memorial plaques	low	?	Neena Jud	
CR Septic tank location	high	none	Scott Pavey	Scheduled this weekend
CR Septic Tank inspection	soon		Werner Jud	After Scott locates tank
Website redesign	Winter		Jared Embree	
Atlas Pillar Electric panel replacement	lower		Werner Jud	
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			

Preserve Calendar

Field Trips – Neena Jud/Mark Swelstad

- Two have already been scheduled for the Richmond Police Department Summer Camp. They will be Thursday July 2 and Monday July 20. Mark has begun contacting schools and teachers to offer field trips in the Spring starting in April. Dates identified as good for field trips will be added to the Calendar, and Mark will email volunteers asking them to sign up for when they can be available.

Scouts and Outreach – Darryl Marsh

- Darryl keeps the Scout trips listed on the Calendar.
 - We already have 12 youth groups signed up for trips this year. The beginning of the calendar year always brings high interest in scheduling wild caving trips.
 - Adult outreach trips will be starting in April as in past years.
 - Darryl decided they will start following up with groups post-trip to confirm that they paid their camping donations and in what form, just to pro-actively make sure no money has fallen through the cracks.
 - He will send the statistics about last years activities to Debi shortly for her use in preparing the Year In Review report for RKC.

Lyla Requests – Debi Pavey

- Nothing yet.

New Business

- Wilderness First Aid Class – Stephanie Suen requested permission to hold a class with 15 students. It will include projector & cave use. There will be no litter movement as part of the activities. She is hoping to have people camp. She can build the cost of camping in to the course pricing and will send the camping monies to GSP. A smaller class of this size will give her better control of issues like this. Possible dates were discussed and the preferred dates: July 25-26 was selected and approved.
- Clear Creek Women’s Circle Retreat – We already reviewed this by email but made no actual decision – thus it is still listed on the calendar as “Tentative”. No objections were raised, so Neena will contact Darryl to let him know and remove the “Tentative” from the calendar listing.
- Neena added a GCG Conservation Trip on the Calendar for March 7. Some folks from GCG will likely be camping at GSP. Thomas Gott is the Conservation Chair and is the best person to contact with any questions.

Dates to Remember

- GCG Conservation Trip – March 7, 2026
- RKC Meeting – March 15, 2026 @ 2:00 pm at the Deer Park Public Library on Galbraith
- DUG/BGG Wormfest Weekend (WaterWorm) - March 20-22, 2026
- *Creakers video for NSS Convention – April 1, 2026*
- Terri Wolf & Friends picnic – April 4, 2026
- Open House Work Weekend – May 2-3, 2026
- Open House – May 16-17, 2026
- KOR 2026 – June 12-14, 2026
- Ruddells & Martins Stations Hist. Assoc. (RAMSHA) – June 18, 2026, Jon Hagee sponsor w/ Mike Wolf
- Pre-Convention Camp – July 3-5, 2026, Meg Gaskin sponsor
- NSS Convention – July 6-10, 2026 in Corydon, Indiana
- Wilderness First Aid Class – July 25/26, 2026, Stephanie Suen sponsor
- Masons Cave Degree Ceremony – October 10, 2026, Fred Ball sponsor

Please check the Events Calendar. pw is niter1798

Next Meeting

Next meeting to be Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 7 pm, virtually.

Motion to adjourn: Mark Swelstad, Second: Kevin Lorms

Meeting Adjourned: 9:10 pm