



The TAGLine

PO Box 11506 Chattanooga, TN 37401-2506
<http://www.chattnoogagrotto.org>

Chattanooga Grotto of the NSS

August 2007

New Meeting Place!

Starting with our August meeting, August 13, the Grotto will now be meeting at the Chattanooga Nature Center! The meeting will start at 7pm, with the EC Meeting at 6pm. Directions are in this newsletter! See you there!

Summer Splash!!

The annual Sinking Cove Summer Splash will happen on the weekend of August the 18th. The grotto will provide the meat and bread, we ask that you in return bring a covered dish or something for the table (drinks, plates, condiments etc...). If you are planning on coming please contact Marty Abercrombie 423.774.2935, Abercrombie_mart@hotmail.com, before the 18th for the gate combination, as well as a head count so we will know how much food to bring. We can camp at the site Friday and Saturday night, and will leave Sunday around noon.

Looking forward to seeing you all there! Directions are also in this newsletter! If you arrive late please be considerate of the Guess family while passing through the gate.

BE SURE AND READ THE SANITATION IN THE WOODS AND LIABILITY RELEASE BELOW AND COMPLY!



TAG Fall Cave-In!

Make your plans now to attend the TAG Fall Cave-In, the first week-end of October! Don't Miss It!

Jerry Wallace wins big!

At this year's NSS convention, one of our own hit the big time! Jerry Wallace, in his first entry in the NSS Print salon, won two merit awards. Very few of these are awarded and they are an honor. One of his pictures featured the enigmatic Marty Abercrombie as the main feature. The other merit award winner was a whimsical bit of photo shop that was the crowd's favorite. Hopefully, Jerry will show them off again at the grotto photo salon in December.

Way to go, Jerry! Best of show last year for your tee shirt, now two merit awards on your first try!

Jim Wilbanks

New Orleans may be America's Pompeii

Grotto Auction!



The Grotto will be holding our annual auction on September 22 this year! The auction will be held at the TAG Fall Cave-In site! As we are no longer doing the munchie stand, this is now our ONLY fundraiser! We are counting on all of you to help make this event successful! We are already collecting donations, and would love to have you all help out! Remember, we don't just auction off caving gear! The auction will be held at the TAG Fall Cave-In site on the last work week-end of September. We will give more details out as time gets closer!

Driving Directions to the Nature Center:

From Downtown:

1. Go south on Broad St, towards Lookout Mountain
2. When you get to signs for Ruby Falls/Rock City – follow signs to Ruby Falls.
3. Go under the railroad underpass.
4. Follow Cummings Hwy (the road you are now on) around the base of the mountain.
5. You will pass the sign to go up the mountain to Ruby Falls, continue around
6. After the Lookout Valley apartments, and Mountain View apartments you will take a left turn
7. Onto Old Wauhatchie
8. Take the next right from Old Wauhatchie, this is Garden Rd – follow to end and our parking lot.

From I-24:

1. Towards Lookout Mountain (usually they are traveling WEST), Take exit 175 (Brown's Ferry Rd) and turn left off the exit.
2. Go straight on Brown's Ferry until you come to a red light – this is the intersection for Cummings Hwy (41)
3. Turn left
4. Travel approx. 1 mile where you will see a sign on your right for CNC and Reflection Riding Arboretum and Botanical Gardens
5. Take the first right onto Old Wauhatchie
6. Take the next right onto Garden Rd – follow to end and our parking lot.



Looking for a Cave Trip?

Check out CaveChat! Our grotto has our own forum, complete with the latest announcements and cave trips!

www.cavechat.org

Chattanooga Grotto Photographic

Free-For-All:

Submissions Info

by Jerry Wallace

October's program will be a presentation of cave photography by you, the member's of the Chattanooga Grotto. This is not a competition, just a chance for the members of the grotto to show off some of the pictures you've been taking on your caving adventures. They can be anything from snapshots to multi-flash "art" shots as long as they're of caves or Chattanooga Grotto members caving. I need to get your submissions by the September meeting, or preferably before, so I'll have time to put it together, so start getting your best shots organized now. Pictures should be digital shots, no prints or slides, and submitted in Jpeg format. If you only have a couple, you can email them to me in a Zip file, reduced to approximately 10" x 16", and compressed to 800k or less. More than 2 or 3 shots should be burned to a disc and either mailed to me before September 10th, or brought to the meeting on that date. Shots on disc can be full size and uncompressed (like they are when they come off of your picture card). Write your name and contact info on the disc and include a list of the shots with:

- * Photographer's name
- * Title of the picture (if any)
- * Location (if desired)
- * Any other information you think is relevant, such as names of assistants or models in the picture.

Maximum number of submissions is 30, and be aware that not all of them may be used, depending on how many total are received.

There are no stipulations about subject matter, but I'd like to keep the number of posed "group shots" to a minimum, so we don't just have a bunch of pictures of people sitting around in front of a cave entrance

before or after a trip (unless they are exceptional).

E-mail submissions to: jerwal17@cs.com

Standard mail submissions to:

Jerry Wallace

1635 County Rd. 799

Flat Rock, AL 35966

If you have any questions, E-mail me or call at 706-657-3857.

The success of this program will depend on your participation, so start getting your shots together now!



Report from Convention 2007

I attended the NSS 2007 convention in Marengo Indiana last week. There were several other grotto members there and others who were represented. The convention was one of the best run I have attended in years. The camping area was large with a pavilion for outdoor fun. The high school was right across the road. It was large enough to house all the vendors and sessions. Except for a few glitches, everything was well planned and attended.

I attended the Congress of Grottos as a representative of the grotto. The congress is a resolution forming body of internal organizations. Chattanooga voted in favor of resolution asking the Board of Governors to encourage the naming of a conservation person in each grotto. Elections saw local caver Peter (Mudpuppy) Michaud railroaded into chairmanship. Peter wants to encourage more conservation activities among cavers. Wednesday night, I was honored to be the NSS auctioneer for the lucrative NSS Auction. This is an event which is really a way for well heeled cavers to give to the society and have some fun. We raised a record ten thousand seven hundred dollars. Best wishes for Kelley

Deem, the professional auctioneer who could not attend due to illness.

Thursday night highlighted the Photo Salon and the inevitable weather event. The photo salon as well as the banquet was held underground. A limestone quarry in the town of Marengo was the scene. This mine-like quarry has been paved inside and walled off into cold storage units. The buses just drove into the mountain face and delivered us to the scene. At the first break I heard my 20X20 canopy was in a tree, so I left to pick up. Just as we were leaving for the salon, thunderheads rolled in and struck the campground. Those on the scene reported strong wind gusts from three different directions. During those events, my canopy danced around the field dangling its stakes like ornaments before taking wings and flying fifty feet laterally and twenty feet vertically landing in a tree perched over Maureen Handler's tent. Mike Mosier's newly detailed Malibu SS didn't sustain a scratch.

As you would expect, this well run convention already had the Red Cross and rescue on the scene. They were running up lights and passing out dry blankets. Every EZ up in the campground was trashed. Sixty percent of the tents were flattened. Everyone suffered damage. Cecile had her entire canopy transported a hundred feet with all her goods strewn everywhere.

You will be happy to know that only one person sustained a laceration under the eye from a flying tent pole. The TAG contingent with me got the canopy out of the tree and began drinking. By the time the staff people with the light trucks rolled back to us, we had a party going on which lasted to the wee hours.

My canopy is repairable and will be at TAG with a few patches. I had a great time and encourage all of you to attend next year in our back yard, Florida.

Jim Wilbanks

IMPORTANT INFORMATIONM CONCERNING SINKING COVE!

SANITATION IN THE WOODS:

ALL VISITORS ACCESSING SINKING COVE UNDER AN SCCi ACCESS PERMIT are now required to pack out all solid waste under the sanitation plan. Several groups late last year and this winter have been using "Restop" products. See their website at: <http://www.restop.com/products/index.html>. Also, several caving vendors stock this product.

Use toilet paper sparingly and PACK IT OUT. Otherwise, burn in a very hot campfire, not with matches or a lighter. Tampons, etc. should also be packed out or "hot" burned. No paper is to be disposed of on the ground!

Urination: Not in or near the creek; on land exposed to the elements; rocks or sandy soil OK, at least 150 feet away from any water.

Avoid water sources, contact with insects or animals, social areas, i.e. trails, clearings.

This also applies to any pets you take on the preserve.

Failure to abide by these rules will result in future permits being denied!

YOU MUST READ AND UNDERSTAND THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS FOR YOUR VISIT:

Liability - SCCi is not responsible for your safety!

If you visit any cave, canyon, cliff, or karst area or feature, YOU DO SO ENTIRELY AT YOUR OWN RISK. Caving, cave diving, canyoning, single rope techniques, hiking, and other like activities may be dangerous and risky activities.

People have been injured and even killed while visiting or exploring caves - you could be too. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY. YOU CANNOT RELY ON THE SCCi FOR ANY GUIDANCE OR PROTECTION. Notwithstanding possession of this permit, The Southeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc., its servants, officers, members and agents SHALL NOT BE LIABLE for any of the following:

- (a) Any NEGLIGENCE in allowing access to SCCi properties;
- (b) Any loss, damage, injury, death, accident or other misadventure arising out of, sustained during or as a consequence of, or in any way relating to any act(s) or omission(s) occurring during or prior to any visit to any cave, canyon, cliff, or karst feature or area; or
- (c) Any consequence of any failure properly to have regard to and understand these important cautions.

If you do not completely understand these important cautions, you should postpone your visit to SCCi Preserves and seek your own INDEPENDENT LEGAL ADVICE.

By accepting this permit and utilizing the Sinking Cove Property, you and each and every member of your group hereby release the SCCi, Deep South Outdoors and the owners of the Sinking Cove property, as well as any of their agents and/or employees.

Thanks for your support of the SCCi,
Buddy Lane, CFO / BOD
Sinking Cove Management Committee
SCCi

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In order to get the Tagline out earlier we would like articles for all editions of the Tagline to be submitted by the 28th of the month before publication. Send in pictures, articles, announcements, or what you want posted. See contact page for info. All drawings are copyright protected and the editor has received special permission from the artist to use in the TAGLine. The gifted Rick Spears provided the drawing on the envelope. Thank you very much! The Chattanooga Grotto TAGLine is the monthly notice of The Chattanooga Grotto of the National Speleological Society, Inc. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity and space requirements. Exchanges are welcome and encouraged. Please submit trip report and other longer material to the TAGLine PO Box 11506, Chattanooga, TN 37401-2506 or the Grotto TAGLine Editor.