



The TAGLine

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

Chattanooga Grotto of the NSS

August 2007

New Meeting Place!

The Grotto is now meeting at the Chattanooga Nature Center! Our next meeting is Monday, September 10, at 7pm, with the EC Meeting at 6pm. Directions are in this newsletter! See you there!



This Month's Program

We are pleased to announce that our own Buddy Lane will be presenting this month's program! Come on out and give him your support!

Volunteers Needed

The Chattanooga Nature Center is needing some volunteers for a work week-end in September! Our grotto has promised to help with certain events throughout the year in lieu of a fee to use their center as a meeting place. We are in need of some "vertical" window washers, and others, to help get their Treehouse in tip-top shape for their upcoming fall programs! Please see Marty Abercrombie, Mike Hills, or Hollie Baranick if you are willing to help out!



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!

2007 NSS Convention Awards Addendum

In his write-up of the 2007 NSS Convention last month, Jim Wilbanks neglected to mention another of our Grotto members who was honored with an award from the Society. Carolina Shrewsbury was presented with the 2007 Spelean Arts & Letters Award. This award is given annually to an NSS member who has made outstanding contributions in the arts as they relate to caving and speleology. Carolina received the award for her work in developing the NSS Fine Arts Salon, first presented in 1998, overseeing it's continued progress through the intervening years, and for introducing the appreciation of speleological art to a wider audience. The

NSS FAS is now an established salon at Convention with dozens of artists participating from the US and around the world. Congratulations to Carolina for this much deserved and long overdue recognition.



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



Bible Springs & Catacombs

by Jon Mnich

One afternoon some cavers got together to take a quick trip to some neat caves. Wetsuit and flotation device were gathered. Salamanders were found in the entrance, including an old still? Beautiful sculpted passageways were encountered instead of the cobble crawls explored the week before. Entering a large room a chasm over twenty feet deep was spied. What? No water? Down we went. Was there a way to get down without rope? Someone decided to chimney over the chasm on the slick rock. Very scary. Lots of twigs were falling everywhere as they were stuck in all kinds of unlikely places. Eventually there was a nice ledge to sit on, and a small ledge looked like an unlikely way down. Ivan was ready. An etrier was handed down and he skillfully traveled to a place where he could rig and drop down. Weird room. Really weird. Almost circular with silted passages all around. One of those we couldn't get too, looks like a possible continuation? Soon we started getting a little cold and headed out to Bible Springs.

Bible Springs feels like home now. I love it! Cool water, the waterfall, the swim, and the big room. Taking the girls was soo much fun! And our friend David was there with his camera. It was great.

Chattanooga Grotto Photographic Free-For-All: Last Call for Submissions

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 meeting on September 10th, so get your best shots together 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 CD (no DVD's) and either mailed to me before September 10th, or brought to the meeting on that date. Shots on disc can be full sized 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!

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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.