



The TAGLine

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

Chattanooga Grotto of the NSS

November 2007

New Meeting Place!

The Grotto is now meeting at the Chattanooga Nature Center! Our next meeting is Monday, November 12, at 7pm, with the EC Meeting at 6pm. Directions are in this newsletter! See you there!

REMINDER, DUES ARE DUE

As a reminder to new and old members alike, the Grotto's annual dues for 2008 are due and payable as of January 1, 2008. Enclosed (or attached if you get your Tagline electronically) is a copy of our new membership application/renewal form. Please check your data on the list, update it if needed on the form, and send in your form and appropriate payment, or give them to the treasurer, within a respectable proximity to the January 1 deadline. (Right now, while you are thinking about it, would be a good time.) If there are no changes to your data, just put your name on the form and write "no changes" in the area for the data. Also, you may want to think about having your newsletter sent to you by email-it saves the grotto about \$10 per member! Please note that our dues schedule has not changed; it is shown on the back of the form, along with definitions and instructions.

We usually have a 90 day grace period on getting in the dues and, after that, unpaid members are dropped. So thanks in advance for your promptness, and happy holidays!



Thank You From the Nature Center!

We had such a great festival! I cannot thank you enough for all your help with the festival. I know it was hot and the crowds never seemed to end. We are still cleaning up all the decorations and other things that were put out for the day. And I am still exhausted. Each member of your team was so helpful and willing to do anything we asked.

The parking lot was well organized and perfectly orchestrated to keep up with all the guests. We are so thankful that you all were there!! Last year was very helter skelter!! You guys were awesome!! It is also so nice to go to the Treehouse and see how clean it looks! We are grateful that that job was done before the festival started, too. We are gearing up for more parties in the next few weeks.

See you in November.

Susan Russell



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

Trip Report: Marge's Bat Cave

If I got this story right, before Marge got involved with the grotto she knew some folks that owned some property in Northern GA (I'm not allowed to say exactly where at the moment) with a very nice quiet area for camping and fishing. Along side the creek there's several cave openings. Turns out this is really one cave with several openings. Marge has taken a couple of grotto folks to this particular one. I'm thinking it has another name but she doesn't know it and neither do I. Some research is warranted here to be sure. But for now I'll call it Marge's Bat Cave. This is an interesting but small hydrodynamically formed cave. The main trunk still takes vast amounts of water and sumps some 100 feet past the drip-line of one of the entrances. I got to thinking that if the water level goes down then maybe it's passable enough for further exploration... but right now it's totally sumped to the roof line. Marge calls this Bat Cave because it seems that it's a summer roost for a fairly large colony of bats (yet unidentified) that she estimates number to about a 1000 individuals. Unfortunately to her disappointment when we went there were no bats to be found at all. I'm guessing that it's a summer's roost with the colony moving on to a winter hibernaculum elsewhere. Aside from the large volume of water taken on one side, the dry section (where we entered) was of smallish size but still could provide about 4-500 feet of survey or more. There's still yet another smaller entrance that would've required crawling through a tight passage to gain entry to the main room... not today but who knows, if it gets surveyed it'll be an interesting one to do. No real formations to speak of other than a small room off to one side and even those formations were smallish in size. We found a millipede casing that got me thinking about John B. and his love for that sort of stuff. Photographically the really interesting areas would have to be the "river" passage where

you can look out from inside to the "third" entrance which would make a nice long exposure type photo. Since I'm still using those (excellent) FujiFilm one timers I'm not going to get this type of photo outta those. The area where the cave is, is a nice quiet spot with a wide creek on privately owned property.

By Ralph Powers

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.

Contact List

Chair: Marty Abercrombie
9869 Highway 11
Trenton, GA 30752
H - 706.657.7160
abercrombie_mart@hotmail.com

Vice Chair: Mike Hills
5485 Tallant View Terrace
Ooltewah, TN 37363
H - 423.987.3993
mhills@southern.edu

Treasurer/Membership: Butch Feldhouse
5416 Hunter Village Drive
Ooltewah, TN 37363-7004
H - 423.238.7009
bfeldhaus@centurytel.net

Secretary/TAGline Editor: Hollie Baranick
116 30th St. NE
Cleveland, TN 37312
H - 423.280.8223
hollie@nldc.com

Librarian: Racoon MountainCaverns

Gear Guru/Cave Key Holder: Buddy Lane
40 Hidden Brook Lane
Signal Mountain, TN 37377
C - 423.580.0624, W - 423.867.2846
blane@scci.org

Conservation Officer: Jim Wilbanks
Post Office Box 34
Rising Fawn, GA 30738-0034
H - 706.462.2316
jjimgail69@earthlink.net

chattanooga.org Webmasters:
Mike Harrison
H - 423.886.4335
meuon@geeklabs.com
Jonny Prouty
H - 571.251.6160
dormat@gmail.com



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.