



The TAGLine

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<http://www.chattanoogagrotto.org>

Chattanooga Grotto of the NSS

April 2008

February Meeting!

The Chattanooga Grotto currently meets at the Chattanooga Nature Center! Our next meeting is Monday, April 14, at 7pm, with the EC Meeting at 6pm. Directions are in this newsletter! See you there!



This Month's Program

The program for this coming meeting should highlight the new projection system. The primary program is "The Jewels of the Dark." The program notes are: "Philippe Axell and a video team set out to document Europe's finest caves on high-definition video - particularly those caves and passages which are never accessible except on very special occasions. A unique opportunity to visit the best of the best. Exquisite photography!"

If time permits I also have a short but poignant piece called "Solo": "Within the earth, within the mind - a journey of discovery and obsession. What drives a person to risk their life deep underground, and alone, in an unexplored cave? Solo explores the innermost thoughts and fears of a lone caver as he ventures into uncharted caverns, culminating in a tense and dramatic struggle for survival."

Calendar of Events

May 3 – 10, 2008: NCRC Cave Rescue Operations and Management Seminar in Mentone, Alabama. Contact Jane Morgan at caverjanpet@comcast.net or www.caves.org/io/ncrc for more information.

June 9, 2008: (Tentative) Chattanooga Grotto trip to Nickajack Cave to watch the bat flight. This will take the place of our monthly meeting. More information later.

July 26, 2008: Grotto Summer Splash at Sinking Cove Cave. More information later.

August 11 – 15, 2008: NSS Convention in Lake City, Florida. Contact Buford Pruitt at bp Pruitt5@cox.net or (352)271-3203. Or visit www.nss2008.com.

Karst Cleanup and Reward

Location: Russell Cave Watershed, Orme Mountain Rd, Marion County, TN. Meet at the huge cell towers in the parking lot next to them at the intersection of Orme Mt Rd and SR 156 Date and Time: April 12th Meet at 9 AM to help rig or 10 AM for general volunteering. Details: This will be both a vertical haul and a roadside cleanup in continuation with previous efforts at cleaning up the Russell Cave Watershed, hosted by the SKTF and the Sewanee Mountain Grotto. Secret Details: To spice this cleanup up (is that an oxymoron?) the Sewanee Mountain Grotto is pledging a \$50 donation to the SKTF to use for a donation to the SCCI in the name of "The Volunteer of the Day Award". You don't get the cash so to speak, but you do get the honorary plot of land, tshirt or just plain donation in your

name to the SCCI. Yes, one lucky hard working caver will benefit 2 different but closely related organizations in one day.

Talk about double-dipping! The SKTF Committee decides who this shall be, so don't suck up to me LOL. Come and be a part why don't ya? Oh, and the Sewanee Mountain Grotto will be supplying pizza after the cleanup at the Orme Volunteer Fire Station for all volunteers followed by our grotto's monthly meeting if yall care to attend.

Mudpuppy

Chairman Sewanee Mountain Grotto

PS Feel free to come and camp where I live on the mountain afterwards.

I will have a bunch of California cavers here.

Come and chat with our brothers from across the plains.



The Spring MVOR is “Going Green”

You're invited to Southern Illinois to the beautiful 280,000 acre Shawnee National Forest for the 101st MVOR. As we begin the 2nd 50-years of the Mississippi Valley - Ozark Region, we take a moment to reflect on how our organization and the world have changed since cavers started coming to-gether for the MVOR, and take note of the things we can do up here in the sunny world to help protect the above-ground environment, which will have direct impact on the subterranean world we know and love.

Hosted by The Meramec Valley Grotto

When: April 25th - 27th

Where: Bear Branch Campground, Pope County, Illinois

More info: www.mvor.org, or email: Spring2008MVOR@yahoo.com

All the usual activities will be here. We have trips, the banquet, Friday night Howdy Party, Saturday bonfire, all your favorite vendors, the MCKC Auction, the Conservation meeting, and lots of camaraderie and staying up all night with old and new friends. We also have Jim Kennedy from BCI to speak on Saturday, an on-site restaurant, and a LOT of good stuff to do around the area like hiking and wineries. The door prize

extravaganza has been pared down to just a few, but better, prizes. And don't forget the reason we come together twice a year. The MVOR business meeting will be held on Sunday at 10:00 AM in front of the restaurant. Come by and have your voice heard.

Sign up for the cave trips will begin on Saturday morning to accommodate those who traveled late into the night to be here. The trips are being lead by the Illinois Speleological Society and the Little Egypt Grotto, and will be conservation oriented/work trips.

We have both long and short-sleeved tees printed on organic cotton, with a great design located elsewhere in this flyer.

The banquet will be on site, and provided by the campground restaurant by pre-registration only. There is a vegetarian option for the banquet at no additional cost. The restaurant will be open all weekend for your dining pleasure. Please support our campground hosts.

The Friday night Howdy Party is hosted by Club 69. Come by and socialize.

Carpoolers (3 or more unrelated cavers per car) eligible for special door prize, until they're gone.

VERY IMPORTANT NOTE: Registration **ENDS** on April 11th. Any registration forms that are not **postmarked** by that date will be brought to the MVOR, and you'll be required to pay gate prices. We have a lot of stuff to order, and can not go beyond that date with pre-registrations.

SEND YOUR REGISTRATION TODAY!



Grotto trip to War Eagle

The Grotto will be taking a trip to War eagle on April 20th. This cave has a 130 foot entrance pit and two plus miles of passage. If you are interested in going please contact Marty Abercrombie.

“If April Showers bring May Flowers, what do May Flowers bring? Pilgrims!”

GSS Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Georgia Speleological Survey (GSS) has been scheduled for Saturday April 19th, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at the Southeastern Cave Conservancy's Frick's Cave Preserve near LaFayette, Georgia. The GSS meeting will include officer elections, an update on recent finds in Georgia, distribution of the 2007 "Bulletin", and updated cave listings will be available to members in either printed or electronic format. Due to its sensitive nature, access to Frick's Cave will NOT be allowed. Participants should note that area residents have a "no dogs" policy so please leave your pets at home.

The meeting's location is between Lafayette and Trenton about three miles southwest from the intersection of Georgia Highways 136 and 193. Drive south on 193 from the 193/136 intersection for 2.2 miles, turn right on Harold Stephens Road and then turn left at the three-way intersection onto Frick's Gap Road and following the road south till it deadends at the preserve. GSS members may consult their listing for the Frick's coordinates. Please contact Nancy Aulenbach at (770) 279-7674 or Brian Willilamson at (678) 574-9264 or the GSS Website: www.caves.org/survey/gss/ for further information.

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.

2008 Karst Studies Program

Western Kentucky University, through the Center for Cave and Karst Studies and in cooperation with Mammoth Cave National Park, offers a series of one week summer courses/workshops focusing on caves, karst, and cave exploring. While some require previous subject knowledge, some are designed for those with merely an interest in caves. These intense courses combine formal lectures with field observations and techniques. Many of the courses involve strenuous trips into rarely visited portions of Mammoth Cave. However, a few courses are more surface-oriented and less physically demanding. Most of the courses last for seven days at Mammoth Cave and may be taken for three semester hours of undergraduate or graduate credit or as a workshop. Credit students are required to complete an independent research project after returning home. Workshop status eliminates the independent research project. Students must be high school graduates and in good physical condition. Enrollments are restricted in order to ensure small classes. Since some courses fill early, students are encouraged to register as soon as possible. Students from various parts of the U.S. and several foreign countries have participated in the program. Participants have included undergraduate and graduate students, geologists, hydrologists, engineers, college professors, and individuals desiring an educational and exciting vacation experience. Environmental consulting firms, state agencies, commercial cave owners, the National Park Service, and universities have paid tuition for employees enrolling in these courses.

<http://caveandkarst.wku.edu>

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"As a 1996 April Fools Joke, Taco Bell ran a full-page ad in various newspapers, including The New York Times, claiming the fast-food chain had just bought the Liberty Bell for one million dollars. The joke went further to say there were plans to rename it the "Taco Liberty Bell." For a Full Day, it was not recognized as a joke, but a legitimate news event."

www.uselessknowledge.com

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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.

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