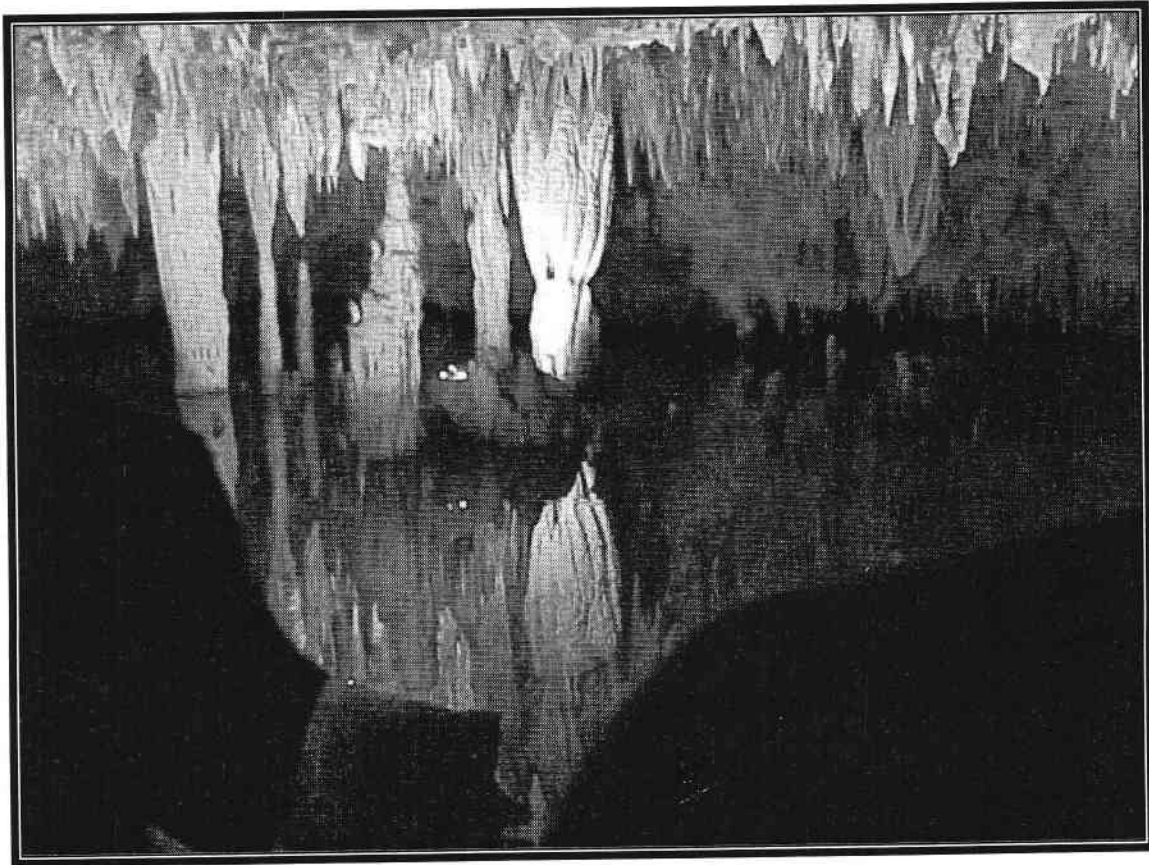




COG SQUEAKS

October 1999



Meremac Reflection

By Andy Franklin

GROTTO INFORMATION PAGE

THE CENTRAL OHIO GROTTO

The Central Ohio Grotto of the national Speleological Society meets at 8:00 p.m. at the Worthington Presbyterian Church the second Friday of most months. The church is on the northwest corner of the square in Worthington. Parking is available behind the church. Enter the parking lot from the first side street off State Route 161. Please contact a grotto officer to confirm meeting time and place.

Grotto Officers

Chairman	Steve Aspery	38931	614-841-1846
Vice Chair	Doug Davis	44171	614-792-8270
Secretary	Lacie Braley	44099	614-895-1732
Treasurer	Karen Walden	15678	740-965-2942

Executive Committee Members Officers plus:

Don Conover	20386	937-372-7581
George Hagen	36266	614-263-7581
Doug Burke	41817	614-983-9336

Squeaks Editor

Bill Walden 740-965-2942
bwalden@infinet.com

Grotto Address

C/O Bill Walden, 1672 South Galena Road, Galena, Ohio 43021
740-965-2942. E-mail dz716@cleveland.freenet.edu

List server

Cog@ontosystems.com

Please join by sending e-mail to cog@onosystems.com with the subject **subscribe**.

Dues \$15 per individual or \$20 per family.

The C.O.G. Squeaks

The C.O.G. Squeaks is the official newsletter of the Central Ohio Grotto. Articles on cave exploration and study, cave trips reports, cave fiction, cave poetry, cave-related cartoons, cave-related art or photographs are encouraged. Please send material to Bill Walden via mail, e-mail, disk, fax, or even dictation. Bill usually has disks available at meetings. NSS organizations may reprint information from the C.O.G. Squeaks so long as the author and Squeaks are given credit unless stated otherwise.

Contents

Page

Karst Calendar & Grotto Information	1
Restoration in Sloans Valley	1
Redbud in Brief by Lacie Braley	2
Antioch Cave by Andy Franklin	2
Cave Rescue Seminar	3
OTR SAUNA SET UP by Don Conover	4
Labor Day Weekend at Redmond Creek by Bill Walden	5
Kick 66 by Lee Florea and Hilary Hopper	6
Editorial by Bill Walden	7

KARST CALENDAR

Oct. 7 – 10	TAG Fall Cave-In, Sequoyah Caverns, Valley Head, AL
Oct. 8	COG Meeting
Oct. 9	Halloween-O-Roast??
Oct. 10 – 17	Earth Science Week (American Geologic Institute.) (The NSS is a member organization. The COG should consider doing something.)
Oct. 15	COG Cave Trip
Oct. 23	Restoration in Sloans Valley - Oasis formations Bring pressure sprayers and nylon brushes Speleothem restoration and clean up. Camping at Crockets.
Oct. 19 – 23	National Cave and Karst Management Symposium, Chattanooga, TN. Board of Governors meeting On the 23 in Chattanooga.
Oct. 22 – 24	Fall MVOR. Location TBA.
Nov. 6 & 7	Central Region NCRC Seminar in Bloomington, IN See article on page 3. For information contact Anmar Mirza at 812-339-1506 or e-mail amirza@indiana.edu .
Nov. 12	COG Meeting
Nov. 19	COG Cave trip
Nov. 25 – 28	Thanksgiving in Kentucky. Go caving!
Dec. 11	COG Christmas Party and Meeting. This Saturday.
June 26 – 30 2000	NSS Convention, Elkins, WV
July 23 – 27, 2001	2001: a Cave Odyssey. The NSS Convention at Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve.

The 2000 and 2001 NSS conventions are very close to home. All COG members should consider attending. The Greater Cincinnati Grotto is hosting the 2001 convention and we COG members should offer our assistance.

Restoration in Sloans Valley - Oasis formations

Saturday, October 23, 1999 there will be a project to restore and clean the speleothems in the Oasis area of the Sloans Valley Cave System.

We hope that the COG will have a good turn out for this project.

Workers are welcome to camp in the fields around the Garbage Pit entrance – there is plenty of room! Please bring equipment to help. We need spray cleaners and water containers. It will take lots of water to clean years of muddy footprints from the rimstone dams and formations.

Please do help. Do come.

REDBUD, IN BRIEF

By Lacie Braley

You can forget about wide, strolling borehole or rooms so immense you can't see the walls when you enter Redbud Cave at Blackhouse Mountain. Instead, hope that your knees and elbows are well padded. A round trip to the current "back" of the cave requires crawling over 3/4 of a mile. Redbud, it's said, is a cave sorely in need of a back door. A recent trip through Redbud inspired the following:

TOP TEN REASONS I LOVE CAVING IN REDBUD

10. I'm never more than an arm length from the floor.
9. Gorilla arms crawling
8. I don't have to worry about being too short to reach on climbs.
7. The X Survey (Not to be confused with the X-Files)
6. The "rear view" of the cavers in front of me.
5. The Hallelujah Chorus of belching from too much crawling.
4. U29
3. Not having to worry about getting lost in huge rooms.
2. Never having to say "Down in Front!"
1. When I come out of Redbud covered from head to toe with sand, I can pretend I've spent the day on a sunny, tropical beach!

[For those who have come in late, Blackhouse Mountain is in Fentress County, Tennessee. — Ed]

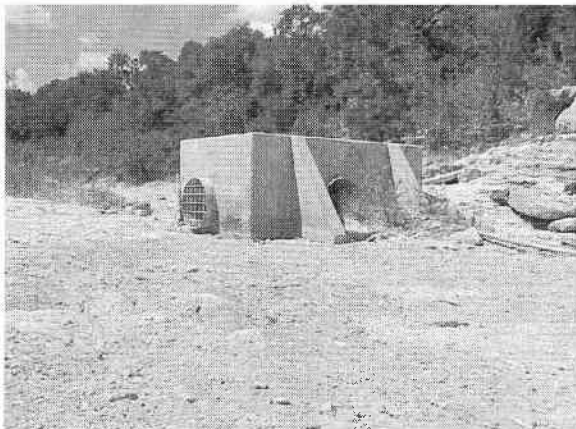


Figure 1

Antioch Cave

Where Technology Meets the Aquifer

Hays County, Texas

By Andy Franklin

This past summer I had the opportunity to visit Antioch Cave, located in the middle of Onion Creek near Buda, Texas. It is a rather unique use of technology to fill a vital role in the growth and sustenance of the area south of Austin.

Texas, due to the very limited rainfall it experiences, relies solely on underground water. The huge St. Edwards aquifer feeds the Hill Country. This area of Texas is experiencing tremendous growth and the need for water grows daily. Since water is such a vital commodity, it is tightly regulated, and the Aquifer District is a powerful political entity. My dad was elected as a commissioner, a post he held for several years before his death last January. My mom was appointed to fill the remainder of his term.

Because of the growth of the area, and the drought conditions that have plagued Texas the past several years, the water level in St. Edwards has been slowly dropping. The problem (since stopping the growth has not been a viable option) has been to figure out how to capture the maximum amount of rainfall to replenish the aquifer.

The entrance to Antioch Cave sits in the middle of Onion Creek. It leads directly into the aquifer. However, the river only flows a few days of the year, and that flow is very fast, approaching flash-flood behavior. Consequently, it carries a lot of debris which has historically clogged the cave. This, in turn, blocked the water from entering.

Texas-Lehigh Cement Company's quarry is next to the riverbed, and their property included the entrance to the cave. They discovered a clerical error, which meant that they had pumped twice as much water from the aquifer than they were permitted to remove over two years. In an act of good citizenship, they admitted their error to the District, and after several months of negotiations, deeded 38 acres to the District (including the entrance of the cave) as restitution.

The District cleaned out the entrance and built a structure to capture as much water as possible. This >pillbox= (Fig. 1 on the left.) sits on top of the entrance. The water enters via two 30" pipes.

One of the goals of this structure is to allow as clean as water as possible to enter the aquifer. The inlets are both gridded with rebar to keep out the debris (Fig.2 next page) and have a valve that keeps the pipe closed until after the initial flow clears away the dirt and other junk and the water runs clear. You can see the remains of the controls for this process above the rocks at the edge of the forest above the structure. It is hard to tell from the picture, but there is about 15 vertical feet from the structure to the control.

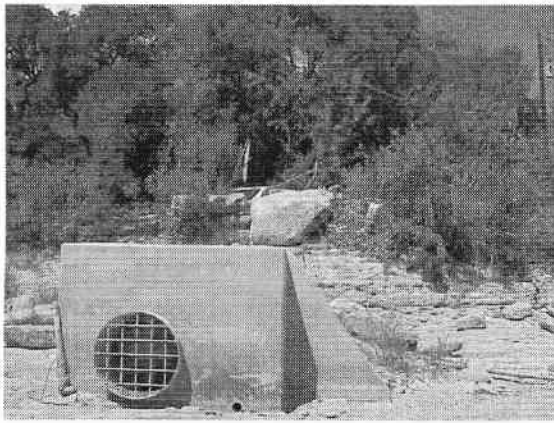


Figure 2 Gridded Inlet

Unfortunately, even the experts forget the basics. They placed the controls within the 100-year floodplain, and the flooding last October swept it away. You can see the force of the water in Figure 3. The bent poles are 5" steel pipe embedded into the rock!. They are debating where to install the new controls. The current procedure is to truck in a generator and air compressor and manually run the gates.

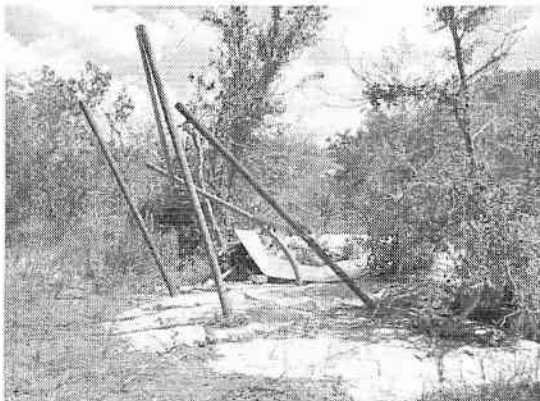


Figure 3 Flood Damage

This was a test project for the District, so the question was to determine how effective this has been. The technical person for the District has calculated that the two times water has flowed that they have captured more water than all the commercial users COMBINED have used over a year. It has been a resounding success, and they are looking for other similar entrances to capture. A further enhancement to this property is a possible low dam downstream to pond even more water for capture. This will probably require additional land acquisition.

Obviously, this has eliminated the use of the cave for sport and/or exploration. To me, this structure provides for the Agreater good@ of society.

I would like to thank Roy Dalton, president of the St Edwards Aquifer District for taking me on a tour of this structure, and for providing much of the information.



Figure 4 Andy Franklin in front of the Inlet

Cave Rescue Seminar

The Central Region of the National Cave Rescue Commission of the National Speleological Society, Inc. presents a weekend cave rescue operations and management seminar at Bloomington, Indiana November 6 and 7, 1999. This is an introduction to cave rescue. Topics covered include management, logistics, medical, communications, media interaction, search, initial response, and psychological considerations. Additionally, hands on experience with moving a patient in a litter. Students will conduct a full-scale mock rescue on Sunday.

Cost is \$30.00.

Applications will be available at the October COG meeting.

For more information please contact Anmar Mirza at 812-339-1506 or e-mail him at amirza@indiana.edu.

OTR SAUNA SET UP

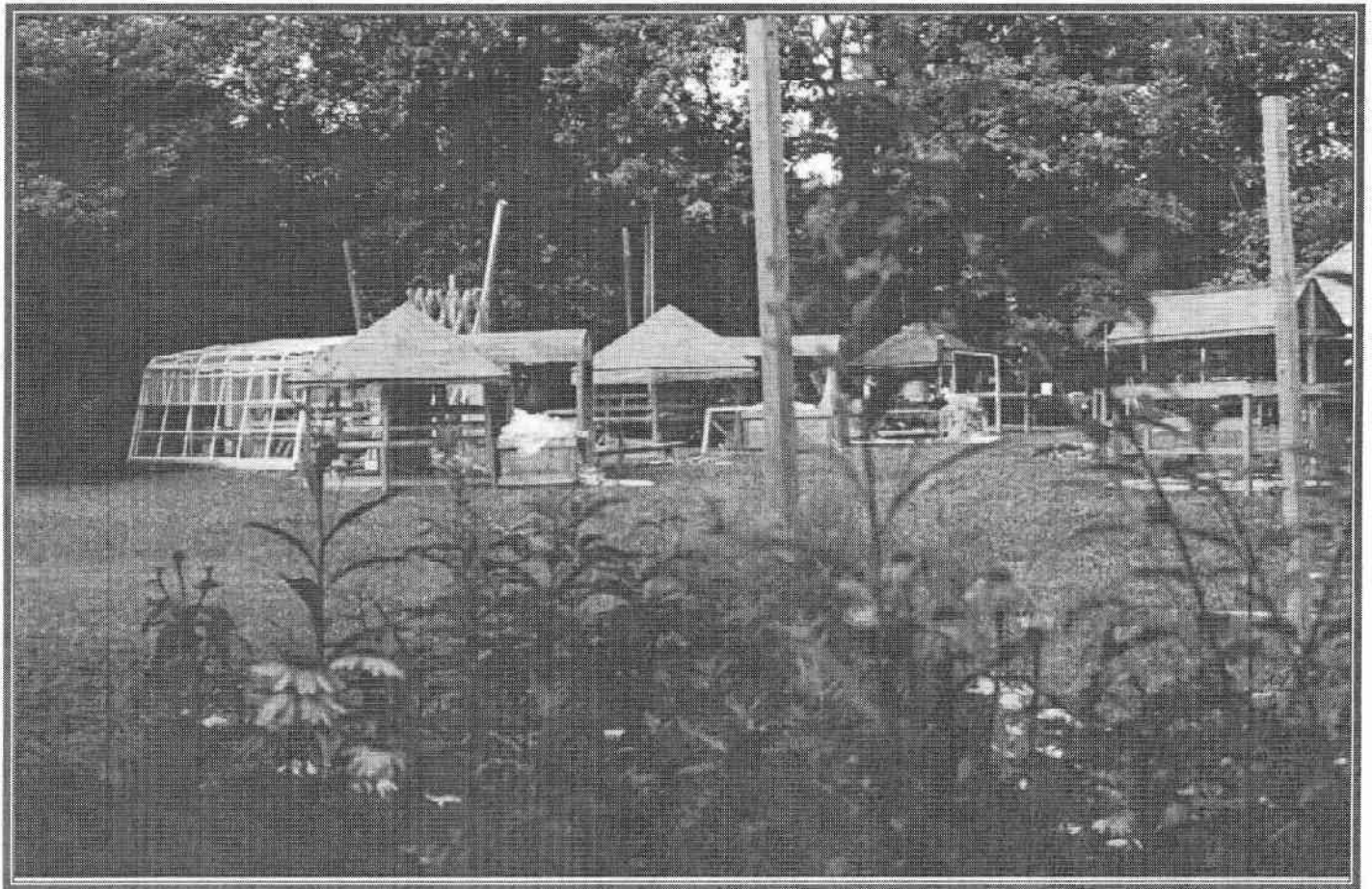
By Don Conover

For those of you that have never seen the sauna area at the OTR (Old Timers Reunion) site, here it is. This was taken over a week after OTR. Those of you that have been there have probably never seen it like this either. The plastic is off the saunas, the hot tub walls have been taken down so the winter floods do not destroy them.

The white frame is the new Long House Sauna. It is a (16'x24 foot) wet sauna. The next two buildings (one on each side of the Long House entrance) are the dry saunas. The closest one has a better stove and gets warmer than the other. The darker roofed building in back is the other wet sauna, the one with the volcano. The hot tubs are located between the volcano and the milder of the dry saunas. There is a large footbath in front of the tubs, making it so that both feet get in the footbath before you get to

the ladders to get in the tubs. The buildings to the right are where people put their clothes. The posts in the foreground held up the privacy screen. The flowers in the foreground lined the path back to the sauna. Immediately to the left of this picture is where the stage is (so bands can play). A little bit of the volleyball court can be seen on the left side of the picture. The brown boxes next to the entrance of each sauna are for the firewood that heats the saunas. The remnants of the bonfire can be seen between the saunas and the changing area.

I thought you might like a rare look at the sauna area sans people. Kind of looks like a little village or a little park, doesn't it. The grass does look pretty green, considering the drought we had this year. One thing about it, the people at OTR take their saunas seriously!



Labor Day Weekend at Redmond Creek

By Bill Walden

Background

I joined the Sunbury Lions Club when we moved from Columbus to Galena, Ohio. Every Labor Day the Club puts on an ox roast and flea market. This activity raises about 20 to 24,000 dollars. 100% of the money is used to support various charities and community activities. None of it is used to support the club. Anyhow for 11 years I helped with that project. Last year someone else in the club volunteered to do the database which I had maintained for 10 years on my Tandy Color computer running a Unix like operating system (OS-9). Don't laugh, it beats Access running on my Pentium, Winows98 system!!! Besides I haven't had an Intel based machine running that long yet!

To get to the point, I decided to start caving Labor Day weekends again!

This Labor Day weekend I picked up Kevin Toepke on my way down to Kentucky from my office. He's on the way. We stopped at a Mexican Restaurant, Jalepeños, in Florence. Mexicans run it. The food was good and plentiful. I recommend it. Exit at US route 42 east. It is on the left side.

The Fink out

Paul Unger was to help us survey one of the two caves along Redmond Creek that we had discovered earlier in the summer, a joint controlled cave and a stream cave. Unger was interested in the joint cave but he deferred to helping Greg Erisman with the cabin. His expertise really was needed at the cabin! I forgive him.

En Route

Saturday Kevin and I planned to drive Karen's Blazer to the cave entrance. As Kevin and I approached a hill en route I discovered that the 4 X 4 would not go into four wheel drive. It remained in one wheel drive. Since the terrain was exceedingly dry I attempted to drive up the hill in one wheel drive. Two thirds of the way up the one rear wheel just spun. I couldn't pull the hill so I backed down. I then discovered a big – big disadvantage of tinted windows in bright sun light with shadows. One can't see! Well, I managed to back into the one and only mud hole, one that measured maybe 3 by 5 feet off to the side to the trail. I got a front wheel into the mud. No go, No move. How embarrassing! The only mud hole anywhere! Kevin got out the manual. It read "If the 4 wheel drive will not engage, put the transmission into neutral and push the <4 low> button and the 4 wheel drive will engage. Take the vehicle to your dealer for adjustment." Well that did us a lot of good. We did that and all the 4 X 4 control did was flash lights at us and click. This is something that one absolutely must be able to take care of in the field. Shame on General Motors.

Jack time.

We got out the jack from the storage compartment in the back. The jack is a scissors type jack with a very short handle. Opps, the handle is too short to operate the jack once placed under the vehicle! Shame on General Motors. Well, we managed to set the jack on several flat rocks and ¼ turn at a time, with the jack pretty much submerged in mud, we jacked the vehicle high enough to get rocks under the left front wheel. The jack was fully extended so we screwed it down and moved it to the front bumper – not the plastic dressing in front that people call a bumper -- but the frame member that extends to the plastic dressing. From that location we managed to jack it even higher and place more rocks under the front wheel. We built a pretty nice limestone causeway across three feet of mud from the plentiful flat rocks. Even with all this rock the one wheel drive would not budge the Blazer. I showed Kevin how to push and lift the front of the vehicle by putting his buttocks against the bumper and pushing and lifting with his legs. The technique worked. We got out of the only mud hole in the Redmond Creek area. The inadequate black jack had turned brown and was dripping. I now know to carry a stout jack with a long handle.

On to the objective

We parked the car and walked to the cave.

There are two entrances at the resurgence, the one the creek flows into that we can't get into (Redmond Creek Cave) and a higher joint controlled cave. We started at the sandstone layer. Layers of sandstone and shale, which constitute the Hartsell Formation, are sandwiched between two layers of limestone. The lower layer of limestone is the Kidder and the upper layer is the Bangor. The stream enters Redmond Creek Cave in the Kidder Limestone. The joint controlled cave above is in the Bangor Limestone.

We surveyed from a point on the sandstone now marked with an R to the entrance of the joint controlled cave. Once in the cave we were able to take 100 foot shots. The cave is just wide enough to walk through. Once at the end, one can still see the entrance! It is a straight shot. We didn't find any place where the joint controlled cave collapsed through to the cave below and there are few side passages. There is one long parallel passage that we surveyed into but did not actually survey. There is a perpendicular passage that leads to a well-decorated room and another passage that is parallel with the entrance passage. Kevin thought it to tight to push without breaking formations so we didn't.

Next we surveyed from the "R" upstream to the stream cave with the dam in the entrance. The stream cave is a sizeable cave and was easy to survey. We stayed dry by surveying the upper level

until we were forced to the stream level. At that point the cave split into multiple passages. We quit for the day.

Sunday we returned to complete the survey of the stream cave. The cave passages became complex and low and I was forced to lie in the stream to shoot the survey stations. The water was warm and comfortable. We didn't add very many stations. We returned to the insurgence area and surveyed it noting where the water entered the cave.

Monday we helped Greg with the house.

Once home I plugged the survey data into Compass and plotted the results. I quickly noted that the joint controlled cave and the stream cave should connect. They are probably one cave. I also noted that the upstream end of the stream cave is coming close to Redmond Creek and probably has another entrance on the creek. The warm water that I was lying in on Sunday supports this.

Both need to be confirmed.

Want to help?

KICK 66 News, No. 6

9/30/99

Notes from Lee Florea

Time is rapidly approaching for the Transportation Cabinet to make their route choice. I think it is therefore prudent for KICK 66 to make the first move to gain the public attention. I have been mulling over the possibilities of courses of action and will now present the most plausible for you to think about. The key is that we must act rapidly on this so that we can maintain the upper hand.

We must have the involvement of the younger generation. The Pulaski/Laurel KICK 66 Committee has started calling schools and teachers to feel out the interest in the education systems. It would be great for school age children to sign on to our campaign. This action would also serve to deal a nasty blow to our opponents.

We must pressure our government to hear us. Continue to ask for meetings with Patton, Rogers, and others with clout. Investigate the interest of a presidential candidate in our cause. Though politics are annoying, we must use them to our advantage.

Take our case to mass media and forms of investigative news reporting. It would be a lightning stroke to our opponents' plans if our story were to be carried by a show like 60 minutes or 20/20. I repeat though, we must act fast on this.

KICK 66 has several planned activities for the next couple of weeks. These events will be very important to our cause. Please make a note of them. Also, please try to send in your petitions

and endorsements within the next week.

Blurbs From Hilary

Here is my report of my encounter with Gov Patton.

My son Oliver and I got to the Democratic party Fish Fry (apparently the VERY FIRST Democratic event ever hosted by the Lexington Black community --??!!) armed with a copy of KICK 66 major points, and a copy of the map that shows Wells Cave with the I-66 route over it.

To our amazement the first person we saw as we approached the building was Paul Patton, standing alone (bodyguards about ten feet away), waiting to shake our hands and welcome us. Kind of a jolt. So I introduced Oliver and myself and shook his hand. I said some complimentary things, and then added, "However, Governor, I do have something that I am very concerned about." He replied, "That's only reasonable!" I said that I was a representative of a group, KICK 66, and that we are concerned about the environmental impact of the proposed I66 route on the environment. He replied, "I am concerned about that, too." I said that we had been trying to schedule a meeting to see him, but that from what Billie Gabbard had told me, his attorneys had decided against us meeting with him, and that Secretary Caudell had been provided as a substitute. I said that we appreciated the chance to meet with Caudell but were disappointed that we could not get a time to meet with Patton. He replied, "That's because I have no part in this decision." He went on to elaborate, that this was a matter for engineers, and that there was a process with many steps, and that there were opportunities for us to provide inputs, and that he trusted that we would be heard sufficiently and paid attention to, if we went through this process. I replied that in fact we had already been participating in the process, and that we would be meeting with Secretary Caudell, but that I just wanted him to look at this map -- and I showed him the map of Wells Cave and I-66. I said, that this area on the map is the major, nationally known, beautiful Wells Cave, that this black line was the trajectory of the highway, and that this particular area was a potential interchange. I said that this was just one of the better known of the caves that would be impacted by this highway. (He was getting a good eyeful of the map, looking at it carefully).

I said that just by looking at the map, I was sure that he could see the terrible problems of trying to engineer a highway for this route, the potential expense, and the environmental impact. He said that between now and November, that all his time would be taken up with the re-election campaign. However, he said, afterwards, if we want to talk with him about it, he would be willing to try and set up a meeting.

I thanked him and said that we would continue to work with his scheduling office to try and set up a meeting [implying that we wanted to see him sooner than "after the election"]. Figured that was more time than I had expected to get and that I had better go away while he was still feeling pleasant towards me! (Oliver and I had a great time at the event, and the fish was excellent).

Editorial

By Bill Walden

We need to decide quickly who will be the most effective and impressive representatives of our concerns in the meeting with Secretary Codell. I feel that as many of you as possible should try to be there, although I understand that there may be limitations on your ability to attend. "You" are Jim Currens, Barb Graham (I think Barb is concerned with other things right now), Lee Florea, Larry Simpson (who has already said that he cannot come), Kentucky Resources Council, Martina Hines, Jerry Nichols, Lane Boldman, Ray Barry. Lee is looking into the possibility of the new Somerset-based Steering Committee sending a representative. I am sending a letter to our Luddite, Chris S. of Heartwood, letting her know about these upcoming events. I can be there, but am merely a facilitator. I also think that it would be good if we had the explicit support of the USFS, going into this meeting. Any ideas about contacts, or possibilities, in that direction?

A summary of events along the proposed route which raise eyebrows:

97-99 Industrial development South of London May 99 Permit for a rock quarry in Dabney, five miles north of Somerset.
August 99 Permit issued for asphalt plant in Somerset
98 Large tract of land clear-cut just north of Mt. Victory
June 99 Old Mt. Victory store bought by Somerset Developer and rebuilt much larger, manager is in support of I-66
August 99 Attempted logging near Theodore Meece's farm
Sept 99 Announcement of intent to mine coal over Wells Cave near proposed corridor.

-Lee Florea
KICK 66

As of Monday, September 26th I didn't have any material for this Squeaks. I express my sincere gratitude to the following for their contributions to this newsletter:

Lacie Braley
Andy Franklin
Don Conover
Lee Florea
Hilary Hooper
Joe Morgan

For a grotto to be successful it takes contributions from the membership in many ways.

Contributing to the newsletter is one way.

Volunteering to help with grotto or region projects is another. Please plan to help with the Oasis restoration project in Sloans Valley. Never been there, need a ride, talk to COG cavers at the next meeting or call an officer or me.

Participating in NSS sponsored events and learning special skills is yet another way to contribute. Attend the NCRC seminar on cave rescue November 6 and 7 in Bloomington, Indiana. It's not that far to travel.

We have grotto elections coming up soon. This is another way to contribute. Your leadership, time and efforts are required. Please help, volunteer to hold office or head a committee.

Help with a grotto survey project. We have several on going survey projects.

Offer your help and support to conservation oriented projects. Write government officials and politicians in support of conservation efforts.

Don't forget the meeting Friday, October 8th, 8:00 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church on the square in Worthington, Ohio. Pizza at Francos after the meeting.