



# PASSAGES

The monthly newsletter of  
Springfield Plateau Grotto of the NSS

Volume 3, number 1 January, 2008

*Edited by Jason L. Hardinger*

**Membership contact information:** Please visit [spgcavers.org](http://spgcavers.org) for membership packet download or contact our treasurer, Roy Gold - [rgold@centurytel.net](mailto:rgold@centurytel.net).

**Minutes of the January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Business Meeting:**

Respectfully submitted by Jason L. Hardinger, NSS #50170RE

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by President Jonathan B. Beard. There were 24 members and 3 guests present.

Officers and guests were introduced by Jon Beard.

**Secretary's report** - Jon asked for a motion to accept the minutes as printed in the December issue of "Passages". Bill Heim made the motion, Bonnie Heim seconded, motion passed.

**Treasurer's report** - Roy Gold reported the balance of the General Fund is \$1110.17. The balance of the Speleothem Restoration Fund is \$980.89. The balance of the L-A-D Grant Fund is \$5000.00. Further detail provided in the report below. Roy reminded everyone that dues are due and when you pay your dues, you will receive a membership card and a bat sticker.

**MSS report** - Bob Taylor stated that the next MSS meeting will be held on Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup> 2008 at 10:00am at the DNR Building in Rolla.

**Subterranean Journeys** Jon Beard reported that the next issue should be out soon and that it may be a combined edition including number 3 and 4 of 2007 to get caught up. He said if you have articles, descriptions of caves, photos, etc., please send them to Ron Kittle for the next issue.

**Passages** - Jason Hardinger asked if everyone had received their copy of "Passages".

**Website report** - Diane Kelsay-Harvey reported that Bob is in Yellowstone. He should be back on January 20<sup>th</sup> to work on the website.

**SPG Library** - Jon Beard said that if you have anything to donate to, or check out from the library to get with Melvin Johnson.

### **Future Cave Trips**

**Crystal Caverns** - Jack Rosenkoetter reported that there would be a trip this Saturday to continue the trail work, photography, and do some mapping. Some of Ron Kittle's co-workers from Morgan-Chase will be joining us to see and help with our conservation efforts in the cave, which will enable the grotto to receive a \$500.00 grant from Morgan-Chase. Meet at the Wal-Mart at the West Bypass and Sunshine at 9:30am.

**Fitton Cave** - There will be a Fitton trip on January 19<sup>th</sup> but there are no more openings on the permit. Jon said there would be another trip later. Those going should meet at the Ozark Wal-Mart at 8:00am.

**Busiek Cave** - Eric Hertzler said he might lead a survey trip this Saturday if anyone was interested.

- Bill Heim mentioned that a Boy Scout Troop in Ozark would like to do some project caving. Jack Rosenkoetter suggested Ash Grove Cave. He said there is always trash and graffiti removal to be done there.
- Jon Beard said that on February 2<sup>nd</sup> he would be taking two Kansas high school groups through Breakdown Cave at 10am and 2pm. If anyone is interested in helping, contact Jon.

### **Old Business**

**SPG logo items** - Jon said he has SPG business cards if anyone needs them. Roy has SPG patches for \$4.00 each. Jon said that if anyone was interested in ordering more SPG t-shirts to contact Charley Rey.

**MCKC "The Cave State" license plates** - Bill Heim said that we still need a few more people to apply for the plates. There is a link to the forms on the website.

**Display Board** - Charity Hertzler said she still needs people to send her photos of project work, critters, and speleothems so she can get the board completed.

**"Caring for your Karst"** - Jon reported that he has received a couple of edited manuscripts from authors who are working on the "Caring for your Karst" publication. The sooner everyone who has volunteered to help can get their edited copy to Jon, the sooner we can get the final edition to the publisher.

**SPG Annual Awards Banquet and Benefit Auction** - Bonnie Heim stated that Charity, Jack and Jon have volunteered to help with the banquet. Please email Bonnie with a list of items you plan on donating to the auction and what food you plan to bring. She said we should invite landowners and other local cavers to the event. The Banquet will be held at the Executive Conference Center on West Battlefield Road west of Burger King on January 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. She will send out an email later with an invitation including the exact address. Jon will be handing out certificates of appreciation for work accomplished in 2007. Please bring your spouse and children.

**CBC Cave** - Jon said we need to set a date to start mapping CBC Cave. Bob Taylor said he could go anytime.

### **New Business**

- Jon Beard reported that there is a traveling display entitled "Caves in Crisis" at the MDC's Springfield Nature Center. On Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> from 7pm to 8:30pm, he and Bill Elliott will be giving a slide presentation.
- Jon asked if anyone would be interested in helping clean up a sinkhole near Halltown. This sinkhole is in the recharge area of Turnback Creek and Cave, a cavefish site. Many were interested. He will work to set up a date. Bonnie Heim asked if we could invite OHG, everyone agreed that the more help the better.
- Jerry Vineyard presented a book titled: "The Last Illusion", a fictional story about a magician who gets lost in a cave under St. Louis. The book was written by Don Dunham who has written fictional caving stories, which are published in the MMV newsletter for some time. The book can be purchased for \$15.00.

### **Who Went Where**

- On December 24<sup>th</sup>, Jon Beard, Bob Taylor, Bob's son, and Roy Gold went to Fitzpatrick Cave for a photo trip. The next day, Roy took his son to the cave.
- On December 29<sup>th</sup>, Eric Hertzler, Jon Beard, Evan Christiansen, Zach Copeland, and Jason Hardinger of SPG joined members of LOG and KCAG at Kiesewetter Cave to continue the survey there. There were 13 people in attendance from the three grottos. All 13 helped with the survey. About 700ft was completed that day. The cave now stands at 2500ft with about 1000ft to go. Eric said it would take a couple more trips to complete. The next day, Eric, Evan, Jon and Bill Gee from KCAG did some ridge walking on the property.
- On January 5<sup>th</sup>, Eric Hertzler, Jon Beard, Roy Gold, and Evan Christiansen surveyed 220ft in two of four openings of Busiek Caves. Eric said the map could be completed in one more trip.

- On January 6<sup>th</sup>, Jon Beard, Roy Gold, and Bob Taylor surveyed in Dripstone Hall of Ash Grove Cave. While Bob was sketching, Jon and Roy did some speleothem re-attachments. Jack Rosenkoetter asked if anyone would like to go see the cave and its waterfalls while it is flooded. Many were interested and the trip was set for this Saturday at 9:30. Meet at the Wal-Mart at Kansas Expressway and I44 in the NE corner of the parking lot.
- On January 5<sup>th</sup>, Zach Copeland, Max White, and Charley Young went on a photo trip to Shop Hollow Cave in Shannon County.

#### Announcements

- The next SPG business meeting will be on Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm at the Library Station on North Kansas Expressway.

#### Evening Program

- Dr David Ashley gave a presentation on Ozark Cave Biology. Dr. Ashley began the presentation by telling how and why he got interested in caves, he then gave an overview of the science, and ended with a very gracious *Thank You* to Springfield Cavers for all there help and support of him over the years. Everyone enjoyed the very interesting program.

Meeting adjourned.

Everyone is invited to the "After-the-meeting meeting" at IHOP just a few doors to the north of the library for a bite to eat and incredible caving stories!

Detail of the Treasurer's Report:

Springfield Plateau Grotto  
December 12, 2007 to January 9, 2008

Balance December 12, 2007  
General Fund and  
Speleothem Restoration Fund \$6991.06

General Fund

Balance December 12, 2007 \$1010.17

Income

Membership \$88.00  
Patches 12.00

Total Income \$100.00

Expenses 0.00

Total Expenses \$0.00

Balance January 9, 2008 \$1110.17

Speleothem Restoration Fund

Balance December 12, 2007 \$980.89

Balance January 9, 2008 \$980.89

L-A-D Foundation Grant

Balance January 9, 2008 \$5000.00

Balance January 9, 2008  
General Fund And  
Speleothem Restoration Fund \$7091.06

## 2007 Income/Expense Summary:

### INCOME

Ad for Passages	20.00
Auction Proceeds	640.55
Donations	6160.00
Grotto Conservation Award	100.00
Membership Dues	849.00
NSS Book Sale Payments	280.30
Patches Sale	126.00
Prepayment	220.00
Subscription	10.00
T-Shirt Sales	280.00

TOTAL INCOME 8685.85

### EXPENSES

Advance Payment	180.00
Bank Charge	33.05
Breakdown Cave Electric Bill	90.00
Business Cards	53.25
Canoe Rental	110.75
Cave Gate	13.23
Cristian Lizman	162.99
Disto A3	539.00
Equipment	612.50
Final Payment	639.05
Map and Mailing Tube	10.12
NSS Book Sale	409.80
Office Supplies	28.23
Postage	2.95
Public Outreach	187.59
Reimbursement	40.48
Room Rent	53.30

TOTAL EXPENSES 3166.23

OVERALL TOTAL 5519.56

## Who Went Underground in November: Compiled by Bob Taylor

**December 1<sup>st</sup>**—Zach Copeland helped in the clean-up of the entrance of Lawrence County's **Stinson Cave** for the landowners, then also helped clean the path to the cave of downed trees left over from last January's ice storm.

**December 1<sup>st</sup>**—SPG cavers Jon Beard, Evan Christiansen, Jason Hardinger, Kasi Johnson, Nick Newman, Gabe Rodgers, Max White and Charley Young teamed with Scott House and Joel Laws in the restoration of three caves in Carter County. Jon, Kasi, Gabe and Joel removed profuse etched graffiti from the face and interior of **Big Spring Anastomosis Cave**, the small set of cave openings immediately behind Big Spring. They later joined the others who were refilling large illegal digs in **Granite Quarry Cave**. They removed some minor amounts of recent graffiti, then photographed old historical names. After this was done, the group visited **Little Granite Quarry Cave** to remove selected recent graffiti (saving the historical stuff). Afterwards, they briefly visited Blue Spring and the entrance to **Powder Mill Creek Cave**.

**December 2<sup>nd</sup>**—Jon Beard, Evan Christiansen, Jason Hardinger, Nick Newman along with Scott House and Joel Laws refilled four large illegal digs in **Bear Cave** of Texas County. After this, old rotten remnants of boards were removed plus glass fragments.

**December 8<sup>th</sup>**--Max White, Charley Young and Evan Christiansen joined Eric Hertzler in his efforts to update the survey map of **Rattlesnake Cave**. Max and Charley took pictures, while Eric and Evan surveyed. They surveyed about 200 feet before quitting for the day and doing some exploring, finding more cave than Eric previously knew existed.

**December 12<sup>th</sup>**—SPG held its business and election meeting in the Auditorium Room of **Fantastic Caverns** of Greene County. Afterwards, the 24 members and four guests participating took a casual stroll through the show cave section, taking several photos.

**December 15<sup>th</sup>**—Jon Beard, Evan Christiansen, Zach Copeland, Kasi Johnson and Gabe Rodgers hosted a small group of Kasi's friends in an educational trip to **Breakdown Cave** of Christian County. Afterwards, the five hosts saw additional sections of the cave and did some macro photography of cave spiders as well as some speleothems in a seldom seen passage. Evan counted 83 pipistrelles in the sections of cave visited.

**December 16<sup>th</sup>**--Charity and Eric Hertzler traveled the Glade Top Trail in Taney County and discovered two new caves, Buttram Hollow cave and Bench Cave. Both are small and are likely less than 40 feet in length.

**December 24<sup>th</sup>**—Jon Beard, Bob Taylor and son Matthew spent some time attempting to contact the landowner of **Shelf Cave** in Christian County without avail. A hastily assembled Plan B was nearby **Fitzpatrick Cave** where the three spent some time photographing speleothems. An informal bio survey was conducted as well, revealing 16 pipistrelles, two northern bats and five little brown bats and multitudes of cave crickets. Before calling it a day, Jon entered and photographed nearby

**Nevatt Cave #2**, discovered earlier in the year. It contains an estimated 13 feet of passage, up to nine feet tall and three feet wide with lots of cave crickets.

**December 25<sup>th</sup>**—Roy and son Duncan Gold visited **Fitzpatrick Cave** of Christian County.

**December 26<sup>th</sup>**—Roy and Duncan Gold, Bob Taylor and Charley Young traversed most of Webster County's 1,097-foot **Goss Cave**. They took many photos, some of which they were happy with.

**December 29<sup>th</sup>**—SPG members included on this trip to continue the survey of **Kiesewetter Cave** (Pulaski County) were Jon Beard, Evan Christiansen, Zach Copeland, Jason Hardinger, and Eric Hertzler. Members from KCAG included Jim Cooley, Bill Gee, and Laurie Schultz. LOG members included Brian Cook, Christen Easter, Ron and Lorely Lather, and Ken Long. The group was also blessed with the cheerful presence of the Brazilian Marcelo Kramer. The cavers split into three groups. Ron Lather finished up his survey of the Formation Passage with the assistance of Ken Long. Jon Beard was assisted by Zach Copeland, and Bill Gee in his survey of the "Squeeze Room" and the adjoining stream passage. Christen Hasty was joined by two other very skinny cavers, Marcello Kramer and Bryan Cook in the initial survey beyond the Kiesewetter Squeeze. Eric Hertzler was assisted by Evan Christianson, Jim Cooley, Jason Hardinger, and Lori Schultz in the stream passage beyond the "87 Room." With the Beard, Hertzler, and Lather teams all completing their survey's, a milestone in the project was accomplished with all the main passage minus the squeeze being completed. Total surveyed footage for the day was 873.9 feet. Some groups were in the cave as long as 10 hours but exited to find excellent hot chili waiting at the base camp.

**December 30<sup>th</sup>**—Jon Beard, Evan Christiansen, Eric Hertzler and KCAG's Bill Gee spent the morning ridgewalking the Gasconade River bluffs near the Kiesewetter area for additional caves. **Broken Knife Cave** was revisited (mapped months ago by Eric), and its biology was investigated. Stygobitic flatworms and isopods were found in the 60-foot cave. Later, Eric found a 10-foot solution tube in the same bluff, but it was debatable whether to add the crawlway cavelet to the files.

By Robert L. Taylor (thanks to Jon Beard, Zach Copeland, Eric Hertzler, Charley Young and Bob Taylor for their contributions)

### Upcoming SPG Schedule:

**Jan. 19**      **Fitton Cave** photo trip. The permit is full for this trip. There will be another trip later this year.

**Jan. 26**      **MSS** meeting at 10:00 in Rolla at the DNR building. Contact Bob Taylor at [rltcaver@juno.com](mailto:rltcaver@juno.com).

**Jan. 26**      **SPG** Benefit Auction and Awards Banquet. Executive Conference Center on Battlefield Road, 6-10:30pm. Contact Bonnie Heim at [mbahow@earthlink.net](mailto:mbahow@earthlink.net) or Jon Beard at [jonbeard@spgcavers.org](mailto:jonbeard@spgcavers.org).

**Feb. 2**      Kansas high school tours of **Breakdown Cave** will be at 10am and 2pm. Contact Jon Beard at [jonbeard@spgcavers.org](mailto:jonbeard@spgcavers.org) if you wish to help.

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