

Minutes of the Fall 2006 VAR Meeting

September 24, 2006

Glen Lyn, VA

Meeting was called to order at 9:10

Reports

The Secretary - Carol Tiderman

A motion was made by Bubble Cave to accept the minutes as published in the Region Record. VPI seconded. Motion passed.

The Treasurer - John Fox

A financial report was presented. The domain name has been renewed - we are good for 6 years. A motion was made by Bubble Cave to accept the financial report, BATS seconded - Motion passed

The Vice Chair - Judy Fisher

Nothing to report

The Chairman's - Craig Hindman

Reported on region members who received awards at the NSS Convention. Announced the Region was awarded the Certificate of Merit by the NSS at Convention

Conservation Co-Chair - Meredith Hall Johnson

The 2007 Easter weekend at Grand Caverns will be April 6-8

The Karst trail report is to be submitted

The Report from the 2006 Easter Weekend at Grand is to be submitted

Goodwin's Cave Management - Al Steward

The cave is open for trips today. The gate was breached - the locks were burned off. The owner repaired the gate. There was no vandalism

VAR Outstanding Service Award - Meredith Hall Johnson

Awards were presented to Alex Sproul, Janet Tinkham, Judy & JC Fisher

Nomination forms are on the web.

Landowner Recognition Awards - Janet Tinkham

There has been three awards - the owners of Glade Cave, VPI nominated the Bat Ranch, WVCC nominated the owner of Lost World.

There is a form online to use for submitting nominations.

Landowner Legal Support Committee - Bob Hoke

No report

Region Record - Bob Hoke

No report

VAR List Server - Walt Pirie

No report

VAR Web site - Jim McConkey

No report

Cave Bucks - Judy Fisher

Still going

VSS - Phil Lucas

No report. The next meeting will be on Oct. 7 at Phil's

WVASS - George Dasher

No report. The Culverson Creek Bulletin is in progress

WVCC - Bob Handley

Currently working on getting McClungs Historic Entrance.

New Dixie - Al Stewart

The map is almost complete

Cave Management Forum - Joey Fagan

A tentative date for the sinkhole cleanout at Ruth Caldwell Cave is Oct. 21

Augden's [Ed: Ogdens] acquisition is on track

Grisby Cave in Scott Co. Is gated

Educational materials are available from Carol Zokaites

WQ11 - cost sharing for sinkhole cleanups - up to \$25K - the landowner must contribute 25%, but this can be in-kind service (caver labor)

VA outdoors - conservation easement

Bland County & Tazwell County - 4300 acres of karst area with significant caves

SCCI - Walt Pirie

Tour to Lobelia Cave to evaluate preservation of saltpetre artifacts

Grand Caverns/Cave Hill - Carol Tideman for Jim McConkey

Still in progress - the 1st weekend of the month.

Cave Board - Joey Fagan

Effective Sept. 13 there are three new appointees - Dave Socky, Jessie Richardson, Babs (manager at Crystal Cave)

Next newsletter will focus on landowners. There are two new committees - Education & Technical

Next meeting the 3rd or 4th weekend in February

Wilderness Proposal - Bob Handley

Preliminary Proposal was released.

Write to delegates stating you desire wilderness status for Dolly Sods, Otter Creek & Seneca Creek

Bob was awarded Wilderness Man of the Year

Virginia Karst Trail

Covered in conservation report

CCV - Janet Tinkham

Elections in progress

Scholarships have been given out

Powell Mountain - gating project in progress

Quorum Committee

Deferred to the next meeting

Host Grotto Report - Triangle Trogs

VPI - thanks for attending - 180 were registered - 12 trips were led - 87 people went caving plus those on self led trips

Old Business

Front Royal Grotto will be hosting the Spring 07 meeting the last weekend in April in the Marlinton area

No report on the Fall 07 meeting

New Business

Endless Caverns has been sold. The corporation has requested VAR map the cave for them. They want ridge walking done and documentation of other caves on the hill. Bubble Cave moves the region is approved to get involved with the project. BATS seconded. Motion passed. Carol Tideman offered to be the point of contact between the cave management & the cavers.

Crystal Cave will be hosting activities every weekend during Va. cave month - topics will cover History, Bats, Cave & karst preservation

Grand Requests

None received

Elections

Blue Ridge moved to reelect the current slate. Bats seconded. motion passed

Announcements

2nd National; Cave & Karst Conservation Forum will be held in Lewisburg

The Australian Speleological Federation is to receive a Karst Water module. Their president was at the meeting

Mike Walsh from Texas Cave Conservation extended an invitation to come to Texas and visit their headquarters - you have a home in Texas - and access to 150 caves.

Handley announced on Oct. 20 there will be a special rappel off the New River Gorge Bridge - 3 generations of Handleys - his 14 year old granddaughter will be the youngest to rappel, his son & Bob - who will be the oldest to rappel.

Mt. Aetna Cave in MD is to be gated. The quarry is providing the steel & the VAR is providing the labor

Fleece hats are for sale \$5

The field guide to eastern bats is available - free - while they last.

Adjournment

Bubble Cave moved to adjourn, VPI seconded

Meeting Adjourned 10:20/p>

Respectfully submitted:

Carol Tideman