

Minutes of the Fall 2007 VAR Meeting

September 21, 2007

Dailey, WV

Meeting was called to order at 9:16

Reports

The Secretary - Carol Tiderman

A motion was made by BATS to accept the minutes as published in the Region Record. Blue Ridge seconded. Motion passed.

The Treasurer - John Fox

A financial report was presented. 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

Letters were read regarding the Mark Zemanski issue that arose at the Durbin, WV VAR. The passing of Lyall Steger (owner on Madison's Cave, also the owner of Jones Quarry Cave were mentioned as well as the passing of cavers Ken Horning & Don Shofstall.

Conservation Co-Chair - Meredith Hall Johnson

Dixie Caverns Cleanup - algae abatement & graffiti removal was performed. Also a wall was built to prevent access to the newly cleaned rimstone flow.

A Cave Conservation Cafe will be held at the USDA - in attendance will be representatives from the BLM, NSS, Nature Conservancy & US Fish & wildlife - Oct. 23 from 13:30 to 12:30

Goodwin's Cave Management - Al Stewardy

Nothing new since the last meeting. A cleanup was done after the Dixie Caverns Cleanup

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

Award was presented to Christine & John Shifflett - owners of Glade Cave

There is a form online to use for submitting nominations.

Landowner Legal Support Committee - Carol Tiderman for Bob Hoke

No news is good news

Region Record - Carol Tiderman for Bob Hoke

Send articles - Deadline Dec. 15th

VAR List Server - Walt Pirie

No report

VAR Web site - Jim McConkey

Thanks to everyone who submitted changes & updates early. Please check you grotto's contact information for correctness.

If you have an event of region-wide interest, please send it in for the calendar.

A major site update is planned, primarily to make it easier to maintain & update. Suggestions are welcome for new things to include, old things to drop or any other suggestions you may have. Send to Webmaster@VARRegion.org.

Cave Bucks - JC Fisher

The conservancies need your dollars. The program is voluntary. To Date Tri-State has donated over \$4K.

VSS - Rick Lambert

No report

WVASS - George Dasher

No report

WVCC - Meredith Hall Johnsony

Current they are not looking for new acquisitions, but they are always willing to accept more.

The annual Banquet will be on Nov. 10. The cost is \$30. A maximum of 80. Location the theater in Lewisburg

New Dixie - Al Stewart

The survey is complete but the map is not.

Cave Management Forum - Joey Fagan

It has been very busy this year. A delineation of the conservation site boundaries to be completed in about a month.

Dye tracing materials are available

Rocky Hollow Cave will be gated

The Kelley Cave gate has been repaired

The Arbogast Saltpetre Cave gate was installed

Virginia Karst Program - Joey Fagan

Virginia Cave owners newsletters have been distributed.

Cave Week has been moved to April in conjunction with Earth Day

Cave Board wants to become involved with your cave project.

SCCI - Walt Pirie

No report

Grand Caverns/Cave Hill - Carol Tideman for Jim McConkey

A new passage has been found in Grand, but we have not had access to the cave due to post lightning strike repairs.

The Fountain Cave dig continues

The weather & foliage as changing so we are returning to ridgewalking & digging projects

The drought gave us an opportunity to survey Hopkins Cave at the "other" Cave Hill in McGaheysville - nearly a year after the landowner asked us to investigate his cave after hearing about our work at Grand. A map should be forthcoming & the current length of the cave is at least twice what was reported - but it still does not go to Endless Caverns!

We need additional volunteers in the coming months to help with pavilion roofing & drainage ditch clean out.

Cave Board - Dave Socky

No report

Wilderness Proposal - Bob Handley

Report was not received before the meeting

Virginia Karst Trail - Joey Fagan

About a year ago input for VA outdoors plan was submitted. VA Karst trail is mentioned in the plan. VAR is mentioned in the plan.

May be asking for help/education on the near future..

CCV - Joey Fagan

Nov. 3 - Richmond - deadline for submitting grant requests.

Today is the deadline for elections

TRA Grotto requested membership in the VAR - passed

Host Grotto Report - Triangle Trogs

There were about 280 attendees. Thanks for coming. Bubble Cave moved to thank Triangle Trogs & Philly Grotto, BATS seconded - passed

Old Business

The Spring 2008 VAR will be held in Bristol TN - there will be lots of caving available. There will have recycling bins. Registration forms are being sent to the VAR web site.

John Pearson announced as a NSS affiliate we can get event insurance coverage. Bubble is considering hosting a VAR & needs such coverage. The cost will be \$150 flat rate.

New Business

Fall 2008 - Blue Ridge Grotto is investigating the possibility

Spring 2009 - Ti State is offering to host

Bats moves to reinstate Mark Zemanski - Triangle Trigs seconded - passed

New River moved to add a \$300 line item to the budget for JUS. Bubble Cave seconded - passed

Spring 2010 - Bubble Cave offered to host

It was asked that the minutes be posted on the list serve about 2 weeks before a meeting.

Front Royal Grotto Cave gate repair to be scheduled

The possibility exists of three gates to be installed in WV.

Grand Requests

None received

Elections

New River made a motion to elect the same slate of candidates. BATS seconded - passed

Announcements

Oct. 27 - There will be a sinkhole cleanup - no major equipment is needed, only bodies. Will feed.

Grand Caverns - rerouting [ed: reroofing?] pavilions will be done one per month.

May 7-10 - the Appalachian Karst Symposium will be held in E. Tennessee University - Scientific papers will be presented

Craig will write a letter to Mark Zemanski

Adjournment

Blue Ridge moved to adjourn, BATS seconded

Meeting Adjourned 10:50/p>

Respectfully submitted:

Carol Tiderman