



The Region Record

Vol. XV No. 1 Winter 2001-2002

Spring VAR Meeting Coming in April

by J. C. Fisher (and Bob Hoke)

Due to some miscommunication, the Spring 2002 VAR meeting that was originally planned for Natural Chimneys Park has been moved to Grand Caverns Park. Please disseminate this new location information widely.

The Spring VAR meeting will be held on April 26-28 at Grand Caverns Park, located south of Harrisonburg, Virginia. This site has easy access and excellent facilities. It is only 7 miles from I-81 Exit 235.

The meeting will feature a social gathering on Friday evening, cave trips (both led and self guided) during the day on Saturday, dinner on Saturday evening, a slide show on Saturday evening and an (optional) business meeting on Sunday morning. VAR meetings are good opportunities for new cavers, and cavers new to the Region, to meet fellow cavers and see some new caves.

Saturday night dinner is included in the registration fee and will be catered by Bob's Big Beef; Bar-B-Que Beef, Pork, Fried Chicken, Vegetarian Lasagna, sides, Brownies, and drinks. The usual caver beverages will be available.

Andy Reeder will be setting up several Conservation Projects at the Park (see the flyer in this issue for additional information on the Grand Caverns Restoration Project).

Front Royal Grotto is planning on serving breakfast Sunday morning – this will be an additional fee.

Registration will open 12:00 noon Friday.

See the VAR flyer in this issue for additional information.

Chairman's Column

Welcome to the 2002 caving season. There are many exciting things coming up, the Spring VAR is almost here, so plan early and come on down.

Last year saw many grotto's doing so much. The gating of Silers, the Grand Caverns, Island Ford & Bowden cleanup's and many other conservation projects, and the surveys throughout the region - Gangsta Mapper Projects, Germany Valley, GERPS, Highland County, Mercer County, Taylor Run, Tucker County. We recognized truly deserving land owners for putting up with us over the years. We also recognized a few of our own who have contributed to the VAR for many decades. None of this could have been done without the support and help of so many people. We had some outstanding people step up and fill some key slots and our thanks go out to them, they have brought our visions to reality, but we can do more. If you are thinking "what could I do," step forward and we'll direct you ...

Craig

Dyers Cave Cleanup & VAR Landowner Award

by J. C. Fisher

On Saturday, Nov. 17, 2001 Tri – State Grotto presented the Combs Family, Owners of Dyers Cave with the VAR Landowner Award and completed a cleanup of the Entrance Sinkhole. Years ago, Craig Stihler – DNR Non-Game Biologist and Tina Hall – then with The WV Chapter of The Nature Conservancy asked Judy and I to arrange a cleanup of Dyers. Dyers is an important Bat Hibernaculum in the Panhandle for Pips and Little Browns with occasional sightings of a pair of Long Ears. What most people don't know is the cave's importance as the home for three threatened and rare invertebrates. Dyers gets lots of visits from cavers, youth groups and others, not all of which make good impressions on the owner. In general the owners like visitors, but being awakened at 2 am or finding campers on the front lawn does get old.

After last winter's Bi-annual bat count, Judy and I were able to get all the owners permission to proceed with the cleanup. West Virginia Dept. of Environmental Protection became the major player in this endeavor and Tri-State assisted. I received a call from DEP just before a Grotto Meeting telling me the Contractor hired by

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The *Region Record*

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The *Region Record* is the quarterly publication of the Virginia Region of the National Speleological Society. Any articles, announcements, or other materials of general interest to cavers in the Region are welcome. **Send all material to Bob Hoke (6304 Kaybro St., Laurel, MD 20707 (301)725-5877, E-mail bobhoke@erols.com).** Electronic submissions (email or disk) are encouraged, but any form of input is welcome.

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Regional Calendar

- Apr. 13 **Bowden Cave Cleanup** sponsored by DC and Tri-State Grottos. Help clean this very popular (and abused) cave. See article in this issue for more info.
- Apr. 26-28 **Spring VAR meeting** to be hosted by the WVCC at Grand Caverns, VA. See article and flyer in this issue for more information. (Note, the location has changed from Natural Chimneys).
- Apr. 27 **Grand Caverns Restoration Project.** Help maintain this interesting commercial cave. Run in conjunction with the Spring VAR. See flyer in this issue for more info.
- May 11-12 **Orientation to Cave Rescue seminar** in Franklin, WV. Sponsored by PSC & DCG. Highly recommended for any active caver. See flyer in this issue for more info.
- June 24-28 **2002 NSS convention** in Camden, Maine.

- Sep. 27-29 **Fall VAR meeting.** Hosted by BATS at Endless Caverns, Virginia. More info later.
- Aug. 4-8, 2003 **2003 NSS Convention** in Porterville, CA.

LIST YOUR CLUB EVENTS HERE!

If your club is hosting events of regional interest, send a notice to the *Region Record* editors and have the event added to the next *Record's* calendar. There is no charge for this valuable service.

Dyers Cave

(continued from page 1)

DEP was ahead of schedule and was moving in the next day. Tri-State changed it's schedule and had the Cleanup set for the following Sat. The Grotto also set up the VAR Landowner Award presentation for Sat. Morning.

We arrived at the cave to find a huge pile of trash and a separate pile of tires awaiting transfer to the landfill. We first made the award presentation to the Combs Family and then started to do our part of the cleanup. Six bags of trash and forty more tires were added to the piles from the cave. Some graffiti was removed from the entrance. What a difference! A very successful day



Dyers Cave entrance before the cleanup. Photo by Gordon Birkhimer.



Dyers Cave Entrance after the cleanup. Photo by Art Hanson.

Mike & Pat Dore Receive VAR Landowner Recognition Award

by Carol Tiderman

On Nov. 11, members of the Baltimore Grotto gathered at Scott Hollow Cave under the premise of going on a grotto trip. Mike Dore volunteered to lead a trip, while several other groups went off into different sections of the cave.

After a day of amazing caving, a gourmet spaghetti feed, complete with appetizers and desert, was prepared. Pat and Mike were invited to join in on the festivities. Little did they know what we had up our collective sleeves. After all were fed and we were all settled around the warmth of the campfire, we surprised Pat and Mike with the presentation of the VAR Landowner Recognition Award. We actually caught them, they didn't have a clue. It was fun watching them accuse the other of knowing and not telling.

Pat went back to the house and immediately hung the plaque and proclamation on the kitchen wall, the room where everyone gathers at the Dore house.

It was a most enjoyable event and the recipients were obviously pleased.

West Virginia Cave Conservancy Update

by J. C. Fisher

This past November, WVCC held it's third Annual Banquet in Lewisburg. A good turnout, good food, and some fun made for an enjoyable evening. For those who didn't attend the following is an update on what we have accomplished.

One of our first endeavors was to purchase the Entrance Sink to Maxwelton Cave. This is a small part of a large tract of land next to the Lewisburg Airport. This large tract was and still is to be a major development. Once this deal is completed, then the Entrance Sink is to be purchased by WVCC. Our part is being held to last so as not to complicate the larger deal. Many times we have been led to believe that our purchase was imminent, only to have it evaporate. We have come to believe this purchase may be a long time in coming.

Loebilia Saltpeter is owned by SCCi and managed by WVCC. Access is open. This is a fun and easy cave.

Haynes Saltpeter is managed by WVCC. Access is open. WVCC has done roadwork and built a path to the entrance.

Rapps is leased by WVCC. Access is very limited. A major Archeology Study has just been completed.

The entrance is fenced to protect the site.

McClungs – Horizontal Entrance is managed by WVCC. Access is by permit only. Permits are free and available from WVCC. You will need this permit to exit this entrance from a through trip.

McClungs – Lightners Entrance is owned by WVCC. Access is open. This is a vertical entrance. McClungs is a 17 mile plus cave system. Route finding can be tricky, but otherwise a fun and sometimes challenging cave. A road is being built to the entrance. There is approximately seven thousand dollars yet to be raised of the fifty thousand-dollar plus purchase price.

Island Ford is owned by WVCC. Access is open. A fun and easy cave just off I-64.

WVCC is looking for more caves to lease, manage, or own. If you know of any available please contact WVCC or one of the directors. More information can be found on our website at www.wvcc.net.

Virginia Speleological Survey Report

by Phil Lucas

The Highland County Survey under the direction of Rick Lambert has the distinction of being the most active county survey in the state and new maps of old and new caves are rapidly accumulating. One example of their industry is Five Springs Cave that was dug into this past summer. This has turned out to be a remarkable cave not only for its beauty and strong air currents but because it intersects an igneous dike, the only known cave in Virginia to do so. More

about this cave will be described in an upcoming issue of the Virginia Cellars, a publication of the Va. Speleological Survey. Five Springs Cave was gated at the request of the owner and completed in Oct. The Cave Conservancy of the Virginia's (CCV) provided a grant for the gating material (a lot of concrete and a culvert). Thank you CCV. Your generosity came through quickly when we needed it. Many others also contributed to the costs and the tremendous labor that was required and many thanks go to you also. Perhaps Rick will provide a listing of all those participants in the Va. Cellars.

However in December someone using a cutting torch breached the gate. Just inside the entrance are some tight crawls and it is doubtful that the trespassers made it very far. If you hear some scuttlebutt about who may have done this please let Rick Lambert or the Highland County Sheriff Department know. The gate has been temporarily repaired.

Damaging a cave gate carries penalties under the Va. law and this is explained in the Va. Cave Protection Act sign. Getting a successful prosecution of someone who has vandalized a cave, broken a cave gate, or is killing bats is not easy. It is better accomplished when a cave protection sign is posted. There are a number of these cave signs available and I am requesting that each grotto or caving organization make it a point to install at least one sign. Please contact me (vss-lucas@msn.com) as to caves that need signs and other details.

Endless Caverns has had an incident of bats being killed during their tours. It is my understanding that the management has proceeded with prosecution. Hooray for that decision!

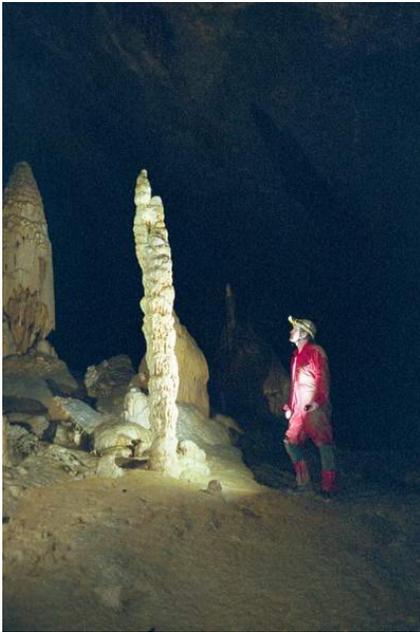
At the annual VSS meeting Mike Ficco was elected as Tazewell County Director. There are a lot of

new caves being discovered in Tazewell like Corkscrew Cave with its 340-foot deep pit. In the next issue of the Va. Cellars, there will be a description of another Tazewell Co. cave. Whitt Cave with its grand formations and small footprints of the Whitt kids from 1840's will be described. Expect to hear more from Tazewell and support Mike Ficco with his Tazewell endowers.

Jim West is also the new Lee County Coordinator (and you thought that Lee County was finished). That Pine Mountain Grotto knows how to push a cave and under Jim's leadership, we're going to hear about a lot of new Lee County caves.

The DOM (an annual event for hard core cavers who "survey as you go") was held again in Lebanon, Russell Co. during the Thanksgiving holidays. "Old" caves were pushed and "new" caves discovered and everyone came away with virgin cave under their belts. This area is rich in caves and karst lands that have not been examined very thoroughly in the past. This is a tough weekend to leave the family and go caving but if you're able and like to survey, join us next year.

We left the year 2001 with 3,967-recorded caves. Now I wonder, who will be the reporter for the 4000th cave in the Commonwealth? Should there be a prize awarded? Who will make this piece of history? Support your Va. cave survey. Get involved! We don't have members (just regional directors and such) but become an ex-officio member by subscribing to the *Virginia Cellars*. Should you like to subscribe, you can do so by sending \$10 for four issues to Phil Lucas, HCR 3 Box 104, Burnsville, VA 24487.



Dave Collings looking at a totem in Clifton Cave, Russell County, Virginia, during the 2001 DOM event. Photo by Phil Lucas.

DOM, 2001

By O Yellow Hat (Jim West)

It is that time of year again, and Turkey day has come and gone. And so has another great DOM. This year was a little special in that Pine Mountain Grotto was well attended, since overall attendance was down some over previous years. Also on my team we had the pleasure of finding Virgin cave to explore.

November 22, 2001

At the morning get together, nine people were present and three teams were formed. Our team comprised of Andy Messer, Kimberly Smith, and Jim West were assigned caves to try to map in the Banners Corner area. We were to try to get into the two caves by Banners corner cave, see what is the status of Indian pit, check and see if we could map a Boy Scout cave that Dave Hubbard had reported, and if that was not possible to go and check on Wolf cave's status.

We found the owner of the three caves of Banners corner and proceeded to check for these two other caves reported. We found where they were, but one was blocked with timber and brush and the other was filled with trash and fill. We felt that, due to the school being over Banners corner, that these were purposely closed for safety sake. The bigger of the two could be opened, but would have to get further owner mission and probably would have to reblock the entrance upon exiting the cave. Since we did not have a chain saw we felt getting that permission was futile at that point.

We headed for Indian Pit to check it's status and see about getting into Boy Scout cave. We found the scout landowners, Mr. And Mrs. Helen Bush Kiser, at home and had a nice conversation with them. It seems someone else had been there last year and went into map the Indian pit. These cavers are unknown, and Mr. Kiser said they were supposed to get him a map. They also had promised to leave someone on top of the ground to protect their ropes. Not doing this, he said that if he was a mean person, he would have pulled there ropes and left them in the pit. Mr. Kiser also told us of his near disastrous bulldozer accident, when riding on a yonder hillside, the ground fell out from under his right rear track. He had just enough track on the upper side to pull the bulldozer from the fallen in pit. The pit he said went down about thirty feet, at which two big rocks wedged across the pit, but blackness could be seen beyond. He said he took his million candle spot light and could not see bottom. He guessed it went all the way down to the Clinch River level. This was on a neighbors land and that they filled the hole with plastic and fill, some being supplied by the Highway Department from cleaning ditches. We were told and found that Indian pit accessible, by crawling under on side of the big metal barrow, which was half filled with water. But if

we wanted to clean the opening out and map the cave, we would have to install a gate. He pointed out the Boy Scout cave and we headed for our first survey of this DOM.

The cave we named Kiser's Boy Scout Cave. They're where cedar posts lined up across the entrance to keep out cows, for they had to rescue one from this cave in the past. But on one side you could slide by them and enter the cave. We started our survey off a rock in the entrance under these logs. The cave turned out to be 288 feet of passage, but it did have some nice old formations, relatively big pillars of which one was right around the first corner from the entrance. Anywhere in the cave you were no longer than two minutes from the entrance. I guess why this would be a popular Boy Scout cave. Really the cave had now little overburden and it lies near the top of the ridge overlooking the Clinch River valley. One can't really imagine from the big formations in the cave what must have been over this cave when it was forming. It just seemed odd for this cave to be where it was located. And by the way it is only about fifty feet from the road and vehicles, which also seems strange. We finished the cave and still had time to go for our next objective.

We went looking for Wolf cave. We found the fellow that oversees the property and he gave us permission to look for the entrance. It had been located on the topo, but had been reported as being filled up. We found three sinkholes, of which anyone could have held the entrance that was reported. But all three were filled and no pit entrance could be found. Digging out the sinks would be the only way of finding an entrance. By now the sun was setting so we ended day on of DOM.

November 23, 2001

Our teams headed out to find Grigsby's cave, a reported 1000-

foot cave. The cave was located on the topo, but when we got to the location, neither landowner on either side of the cave was at home. So we opted for plan B. Next we went looking for Cave Springs Cave that was on the topo with cave marked by USGS. It is located well off the surrounding roads, so we went looking for landowner in the area. We found Mr. Ferguson that said he owned land near the spring, but he didn't own the land the spring was located on. He told us to go back to the top of the ridge and turn left on the road that dropped down into the valley where the spring is located. We could park at the end of the road and then follow the holler down to the cave. He said you could tell when you got close for the roar of the spring water falling off some rocks. But he said that if we continued on past the spring to the next right hand holler, went up that half way to the ridge, and then up on the right hand flank we could find Coon Cave. We did as he said, parked in a field at the end of the road, and headed off down the holler. We had to cross several fences, so we did concerned that we might be not have permission to go, but hoped we could at least see if there was a cave there. We found the spring, but maybe since the near drought conditions existed, we heard no roar in approaching the spring. Andy tried to gain access, but after a half body length, could see that the low passage pinched off too narrow for entry into a cave. We then opted to continue down the holler and see if we could find this other cave. We got to the right hand holler, but found that it was well posted by the Rich Valley Hunt Club. Also there was a well-worn 4-wheel vehicle track just beyond the posted signs. We did walk up the holler a couple hundred yards, but seeing no apparent cave entrances on the right hand flank and coming upon a fresh gutting of a deer kill, we opted to head for the car. We felt that it was not forth upsetting some hunt club members. And to head off up the hill looking

for a cave, might put us in someone's rifle scope. As it was, when we arrived back at our vehicle, two hunters yelled at us and demanded to know who we were. We yelled back that we had talked to Mr. Ferguson, but that only brought back that he didn't own this holler and the game warden had been called. We loaded up and headed back to again look for the landowners next to Grigsby's cave.

This time around, we found the landowner home at the house past the cave. He said he thought that Mr. Roberts owned the cave. We told him the girls at the house back across the bridge said that if his brown truck was not there, he was not at home. He then told us his son, Sanford Roberts, was seen up off the main road yesterday. He gave us directions to his cabin. We proceed back toward highway 70, turn right, and then right into drive just before Citgo store on right. Taking the drive straight up the hill, and then sweeping to the right up to the very top of the hill. We could see someone at home, and when we approached were greeted by, "You fellows look like cavers". Come to find out, this is the same fellow that showed Dave and Caveboy a cave last year that they mapped. Sanford there with his son, Shane, said we could go to Grigsby cave. They asked us if we knew of the pit over on the ridge across from the cave and would we be interested in it. By all means yes was our reply. It was three p.m. by now, but Shane agreed to take us and show us this cave that really was on Mr. Jim McConnell's land. On the way back down to the pit we found Mr. McConnell filling a water tank out of the creek. Shane soon had us the landowner permission and the best way to drive to the pit. When we got almost to the pit, we found an old hunter there by the last gate. Shane asked him if he had seen a pit the area, for it had been several years since Shane had been to it. This fellow said he lived over, pointing, toward Nicholasville, had hunted this land for years, and

never saw a pit around here. Well we went through the gate and low and behold just fifty yards in a little sink, Shane again found the pit he was looking for. Guess the old man just hunted from his truck and really didn't walk this land. We looked over and could see bottom that looked to be about 25 to 30 feet deep. We rigged the pit and Andy, and I got our gear on. Shane had never been in the pit, and since it looked not but a small pit, we rigged him up in Kimberly's gear and he joined us in doing the pit. We found that it was about 20 some feet and it looked to be a dead bottom that sloped down to the pile of cow bones below. I counted least a half a dozen skulls there. We could see a couple of possible leads, but it looked to be only a pit. We had to get Shane back home, so we agreed to come here first tomorrow and map this pit and then go over to Grigsby's. While in the pit we found that somebody must have thrown a whole medicine cabinet of old drugs. For in the pit were some old bottles that looked to still having their drugs inside? Shane loaded up one of my packs full of bottles and such, to take to the house. We told him that since they were not native to this pit, he was welcome to pick them up. By the time we got Shane home it was well past dark thirty.

We headed for the Chinese buffet in Lebanon and complete stuffing of our gut.

November 24, 2001

Andy, Kim, and I headed for now named Shane's Pit. We felt we could easily map the pit with three or four shots, and then be off to Grigsby's cave for a day of mapping. Shane had said he might meet us at the cave, for he had wanted to ask a girl, and show her Grigsby cave. We welcomed in that he could show us around in the cave. I borrowed on helmet from Balfour, so we could at least offer one that protection. We arrived at Shane's Pit and started the survey.

After four shots we were at the bottom of the slope in the pit. Andy looked into a high lead up on the side of the pit, but it didn't go. At the bottom we could see up on the left side a hole that was not climbable, but maybe we could get to the one straight ahead at the bottom. If only Mike had showed up, he could have easily climbed it. I said I would give it a try to make sure it was just an alcove. I got up onto the small ledge about seven feet off the ground and proceeded to climb into the alcove. Low and behold it did go up and to the left. I yelled for Andy to hold on, while I checked it out. I could see it went up and to the left of a column there looked to be a hole beyond. By jolly when I looked out the hole, I was looking into a pit parallel to the one we had just come down. I yelled back to Andy that I didn't think we would be going to Grigsby cave this day after all. From what I could see, approximately down a slope of ten feet there was a ledge that dropped off. I threw a rock in and summarized it dropped at least 20 feet. I also could see what looked to be a lead off the far side of the pit. The alcove looked to be virgin, but somebody could have been here before me, but from what I could tell the pit had not been dropped before. The mud on the slope to the pit looked to be untouched.

Here I was now up in the alcove that would be fun climbing back down, and no rope to proceed further. Andy opted to go back out and get more equipment while I looked for tie off points to get him and Kim up to me, and then proceed to drop this new pit. Kim was just going to sit it out while Andy and I surveyed a dead bottom pit, but with this news she too got ready for the rest of the survey. Andy brought back in ropes and if needed a bolt kit. I tied off a short rope they could use for their ascent to the then named virgin roost. Kim and Andy soon joined me there. Since I had found the pit, and Kim not wanting to go first, Andy was

elected to do the virgin pit. Andy rigged the rope around the column beside the hole and we backed that up to the rope I had tied for their ascent to the roost. He then climbed out and down the mud slope to the lip. We shot the survey to the lip. It truly was virgin and he descended to the bottom of the pit. He looked at the lead off the far side and said it did go, so Kim and I prepared to follow him down into the pit. I tied off at the lip and we measured the drop to be 22 feet down. We then shot to the lead Andy was in off the back of the pit. I dropped down and Kim soon joined us at the bottom. Kim led off out the passage from this pit, thus Kimberly's virgin crawl. We continued on until we came into a sizable room. Off this room was a high lead into an alcove and a small hole off into what looked to be a canyon type passage that dropped down about five feet? It was decided that I would try to get through into the passage. I got through and down, thus Jim's virgin mud bottom room. I looked around to find the cave ended around a corner and up into a narrow low passage. Andy came down to help me map the final shots, but in doing so almost gutted himself coming down. His shirt got caught, a rock trying to pull his shirt off as he proceeded backward, while a sharp protrusion was working on his gut. The small room at the bottom was mud filled and kind of soft. You could see that water pooled and filled this room during a wet time for the walls and ceiling were covered in silt. The cave was surveyed and we proceeded out. In the side of the second pit there is a small lead off and down that a small person could check out, but it looks just to be a small room. But for someone that wants to check it out it, it could still give up more passage. Shane's Pit was now called Shane's Pit Cave, for we had surveyed about three hundred feet in the cave. We exited just before dark and headed back to Lebanon. Another DOM was coming to a close, but a glorious DOM for the three of us.

Next Bowden Cave Cleanup Scheduled for April 13

by Pauline Apling

Bowden Cave is a big cave about 10 miles east of Elkins West Virginia. Unfortunately, it is very popular with the local party animals and gets badly abused. The VAR tries to have two cleanup trips per year in Bowden in an attempt to limit the damage.

The next cleanup will be on Saturday, April 13, 2002. We will enter the cave at 10:30 AM. Just show up at the parking lot near the cave off Old Route 33. Wire brushes will be supplied.

Clean up teams will start from the Main Entrance and from the Third Entrance. Trip length will vary depending on when folks get fed up, but will probably last 2-4 hours.

The cave is located on Old Route 33, near the eastern end of the new Route 33 4-lane road about 10 miles east of Elkins.

The cleanup is being sponsored by DC Grotto and Tri-State Grotto. Anyone interested in helping clean this popular (and abused) cave is welcome to participate.

There is some camping in the National Forest near the cave. In addition, space has been reserved at the Alpine Motel, about 3 miles east of the cave on US Route 33, near the cave (directions below). There are a limited number of spaces so it will be first come first served. We will probably have the 3rd floor which has 4 or 6 rooms and one bathroom down the hall. It is like indoor camping. The charge will be approximately \$7.00 per person per night. The motel has a restaurant.

For more information contact Pauline Apling at 301-604-0764 or papling@erols.com.

Region Record Gets New Circulation Manager

by Bob Hoke

The last issue of the *Region Record* asked for a volunteer to replace Evelyn Bradshaw as the Record's Circulation Manager. Evelyn has been doing this unsung task for

many years and she decided it was time pass the torch.

Meredith Johnson is now the *Record's* Circulation Manager. If you have any questions about your subscription to the *Record* you can contact her at 8061 Kittiwake Ct., Springfield VA 22153.

One change you may notice is that the top line of your mailing label now shows the last *Region Record*

issue you will receive rather than the sometimes ambiguous date that your subscription expires. This is Volume 15, Number 1 so if your label says "15-1" you need to either attend the upcoming VAR meeting or pay for a subscription to keep receiving the *Region Record*.

VIRGINIA REGION of the National Speleological Society September 2000 to August 2001 Budget

		2000-2001 -----Actual-----	2000-2001 -----Budget-----	2001-2002 Proposed Budget
Income:	Fall 99 Meeting	657.00	600	600.00
	Spr 00 Meeting	357.00	600	600.00
	Bank Interest	111.46	60	100.00
	Independent Dues	160.00	130	160.00
	Landowner Fund	0.00	200	130.00
	Patch Sales	0.00	20	30.00
	Miscellaneous	0.00	0	50.00
		1,285.46	1,610.00	1,670.00
Expenses:	Grants	0.00	500	400.00
	Printing	626.15	600	600.00
	Landowner Fund	79.42	200	80.00
	VAR Award	180.00	0	180.00
	Conservation	315.89	200	300.00
	Membership	50.00	50	50.00
	WVA Corp	10.00	10	10.00
	Domain Name	70.00	35	0.00
	Miscellaneous	180.00	15	50.00
		1,511.45	1,610.00	1,670.00
Separate Balances:	Landowner Defense Fund	1,246.00		
Total Accounts:	Forward from 1999-2000 Year		4,489.42	
	Current Check Book Balance	4,263.42		
	Certificates of Deposit	2,671.75		
	National Speleological Foundation	3,582.00		

	Total Assets	10,517.17		

SPRING VAR 02

April 26, 27, 28

**GRAND CAVERNS
Grotto's, VA.**

PRE REGISTRATION: \$25.00 BY APRIL 1, 2002

ON SITE: \$28.00

HOSTED BY WVCC

**GUIDED CAVE TRIPS
INCLUDING A PHOTO TRIP**

GRAND CAVERNS CONSERVATION TRIP

SATURDAY DINNER: BARBECUE DINNER

SATURDAY NIGHT PROGRAM AND SLIDE SHOW

SUNDAY MEETING 9am

Join us for a weekend of caving, and socializing with friends.

DIRECTIONS: Exit 235 I-81 East to Grottos and follow signs

Pre Registration by April 1, 2002

Mail to Judy Fisher, PO Box 276, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411

Name _____

Address _____

Camping, Dinner, VAR Dues: \$25.00 _____

Youth Basic (under age 15) \$22.00 _____

Vegetarian meal _____

Make check payable to: WVCC

**CONTACT: J.C. or Judy Fisher 304-258-1822 Day
304-258-4974 Evenings**



Return to the scene of the crime....



The VIRGINIA REGION
of the
NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Presents the

Grand Caverns Spring VAR Restoration Project

Saturday, April 27, 2002

**“Get ready to BUST OUTA HERE,
the Virginia Region is back at Natural Chimney’s!”**

Spend a fun-filled weekend of frolic amid some of the most historic karst deposits in the Virginia’s. Enjoy an early PAROLE and join us for our annual gravel hauling express through beautiful Grand Caverns (and our equally exciting sinus plugging, epoxy FILLED escapades in NEARBY Fountain Cave!). SPRING VAR will also be at the Grand Caverns campground on Friday & Saturday. Repair broken formations. Eradicate moss. Improve cave-owner relations. A great way to kick those Old Man Winter Blues (and it beats making license plates)!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Andy Reeder, VAR Conservation Chair
840 Twin Lakes Rd., Green Bay, VA. 23492
(w) 434-847-1640 OR (h) 434-392-7452

or

andrew.reeder@lynchburgva.gov



Directions:

The Grand Caverns Restoration Project is being held in conjunction with the Spring meeting of the Virginia Region of the NSS, which will be in the Grand Caverns campground. You do not have to attend the VAR meeting to participate in the Restoration Project.

Grand Caverns: From I-81, Exit 235, East to Grottoes. Turn Right at small store passed ball fields. Follow signs and take right into Caverns. Phone (703) 249-5705.





May 11-12, 2002 Franklin, West Virginia

This orientation class, taught by instructors from the Eastern Region of the National Speleological Society's National Cave Rescue Commission, will bring together local emergency services personnel and cavers to foster a better understanding of the unique nature of cave rescues. Saturday will include classroom training in rescue organization, patient care, equipment demonstrations and practical exercises. Sunday will be devoted to a mock rescue in a nearby wild cave, where students will get hands-on experience in a simulated in-cave rescue situation. The class is sponsored by the DC Grotto and the Potomac Speleological Club.

Classes will be held at the Community Center in Franklin, WV. The Saturday classroom session will begin promptly at 8:00 AM and the mock rescue will conclude by 4:00 PM on Sunday. Registration will be \$35.00, which includes course handout materials, continental breakfast and lunch on Saturday and continental breakfast on Sunday. Cabins and tent camping are available at Thorn Springs Park, located a few miles south of Franklin. The cost of camping is not included in the class cost.

Cavers are not expected to have had rescue training and emergency services personnel are not expected to have had caving experience. Some caving helmets and lights will be available for non-caving participants. The in-cave mock rescue will not require vertical caving experience and will not involve any exceptionally tight or muddy areas.

This course is appropriate for anyone who may find themselves in a cave rescue situation, whether as a potential casualty, an associated caver or a member of a rescue team. Cavers will learn how to respond to a rescue situation and be a valuable part of the rescue effort rather than a hindrance. Emergency services personnel will learn about the cave environment and the special challenges it presents in a rescue. The topics covered will introduce the students to the complexities of cave rescue with an emphasis on providing practical knowledge of all aspects of cave rescue.

Class size will be limited and pre-registration is required. You will receive prompt confirmation of your registration and a detailed information package will be mailed to all registrants approximately two weeks prior to the class. To register, complete form below and send it, with a check for \$35.00 payable to "D.C. Grotto" to John Hoover, 14753 Wexhall Terr., Burtonsville, MD 20866. For further information, contact John Hoover at 301-890-6932 (evenings) or jbhoover@errols.com. Contact Thorn Springs Park at 304-358-7737 for information about cabins or camping.

Name (please print)		Affiliation (if any)
Address		
City	State	ZIP
Phone	e-mail	
Experience (fire, rescue, medical, caver, etc.)		

National Speleological Society
6304 Kaybro St.
Laurel, MD 20707-2621

Non Profit Org
U.S. Postage
P A I D
Annapolis Jct, MD
Permit #2530

Address Service Requested

Winter 2001-2002 Regional News

If you want to continue receiving the *Region Record*, please read this . . .

Individuals may receive the *Region Record*, the newsletter of the Virginia Region of the NSS, either by regularly attending Spring or Fall VAR (regional meetings) and paying registration fees; or through subscription. Subscriptions are \$3.00 per year and may be prepaid for up to three years. Checks should be made payable to VAR and sent to the circulation manager. You do not have to be an NSS member to receive the *Record*.

Complementary copies are sent to grottos in the Region and to other groups with which the Region exchanges newsletters. In addition, newcomers to the Region will receive one or two complementary copies. The last issue you will receive (Volume-Number) is indicated on the top line of your mailing label.

Please copy or send this entire page. The address label contains information we need to expedite processing. Thanks.

____ I want to continue receiving the *Region Record*. Enclosed, to maintain my subscription, are dues in the amount of:
(please circle one) \$3.00 for one year \$6.00 for two years \$9.00 for three years

Name _____ NSS Number _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Grotto (or other caving organization that I claim as my primary caving affiliation) _____

Note: Anyone who recently attended a VAR or mailed a membership check to Evelyn Bradshaw but the expiral date is not reflected on the mailing label should check with her about their membership status before making a new payment at this time. Some labels slipped through without that information.

Please make checks payable to VAR and send to:
Meredith Johnson, 8061 Kittiwake Ct., Springfield VA 22153