



# The Region Record

Vol. XV No. 2 Spring 2002

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## Chairman's Column

In preparation for writing this column, I contacted George Dasher and Phil Lucas, asking them to touch on some points I could raise regarding how the VAR members could help the Surveys' (VSS & WVSS) in accomplishing their mission. I also asked them to let us know what agencies they interact with, in the process of attempting to save caves.

After reading Phil's response, I decided that lifting points from it would do a disservice to the information contained within. Therefore I have chosen to publish it in its entirety.

"The databases of our state surveys contain those things we have discovered or learned about caves. They are our collective memory. This knowledge is used for many things, the most frequent use being conservation. Our state surveys are only as effective as the support we give them.

- Here are some ways for VAR cavers to support the VSS and WVSS:
- **Send in reports** of new cave discoveries, interesting observations, cave owner information, activities that may threaten, descriptions of existing caves (many don't have descriptions).
- **Participate in county surveys or survey projects.**
- **\*Organize a project.** This can be a cave survey, an area to search thoroughly for new caves,

visiting caves to make careful observations, making notes used to prepare a description.

- For those who have been caving for some years, **send to either VSS or WVSS copies of cave logs or memories** of interesting observations, copies of survey notes even though the maps have been drawn, and cave photos; these will become a visual part of our history in the years to come.
- **Help a friend** to do the item above, some of us have more inertia than others.
- **Submit articles** to the VSS for publication in the *Virginia Cavers* or other caving publications.

Here are some ways for VAR grottos to support the VSS and WVSS:

- **Organize a grotto project** that will add in some way to our knowledge of caves. We are all involved in conservation projects but other kinds of projects are also important. Officers, put on your thinking caps and come up with a list of project candidates. It is easier than you think. If you want help contact one of the surveys.
- Make it part of your grotto's culture to **submit data to the VSS and WVSS** and recognize those who do.

Here are some of the ways the VSS uses the database but please remember there is no release of any data without safeguards and restrictions.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation of Virginia (DCR) receives projects for review under the Natural Heritage Program. The DCR sends projects that fall within karst areas or otherwise may impact caves, to the VSS for further review. Under this arrangement, the VSS has reviewed over 1,500 projects and has identified many caves that could be impacted. In most cases, any impact to the cave is minimized or eliminated in the planning, a quiet but successful process. Wil Orndorff and Joey Fagan are State employees of the Virginia Karst Program and are one of the main ingredients that makes this process successful.

The VSS also works with the Virginia Cave Board, supplying, when needed, information on cave issues.

The Virginia Dept. of Transportation (VDOT) is a major owner of caves (entrances) in Virginia. Many highway projects involve caves and the VSS works with VDOT to help protect these entrances. The recent gating of By The Road Cave is one example.

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and US Fish and Wildlife, is responsible to enforce the Threatened and Endangered Species Act. The VSS has a working relationship with these departments as they have activities that involve caves.

Virginia has two national parks, a national forest, and state parks that

(continued on page 3)

## 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 the previous *Region Record* or contact Pauline Apling at (301)604-0764 or papling@ereols.com for info.
- Apr. 26-28 **Spring VAR meeting** to be hosted by the WVCC at Grand Caverns, VA. See article in this issue and enclosed flyer for more info. **Note that the deadline for the preregistration discount is April 1.**
- Apr. 27 **Grand Caverns Restoration Project.** Help maintain this interesting commercial cave. Run in conjunction with the Spring VAR. See flyer in the previous *Region Record* for more info or contact Andy Reeder at (434)392-7452 or andrew.reeder@lynchburgva.gov.
- May 11-12 **Orientation to Cave Rescue seminar** in Franklin, WV. Sponsored by PSC & DCG. Highly recommended for any active caver. Contact John Hoover at (301)890-6932 or jbhooover@erols.com for info

- June 1 **Open House at the (vertical) Lightners Entrance to McClungs Cave** in Greenbrier County, WV. See article in this issue for info.
- June 1 **Deadline** for submitting material for the Summer issue of the *Region Record*.
- 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.

## Chairman's Column

(continued from page 1)

have caves and the VSS has worked with all of these entities on cave related issues.

Private firms from the Nature Conservancy to environmental consultants seek our advice, information and consultation."

Thanks Phil for all your thoughts and a quick response with material for this column.

As VAR members, we should help in collecting this information and save the data for future use."

*Craig*

## Open House Event at Lightners Entrance to McClungs Cave

by Tim Brown, WVCC Director

The West Virginia Cave Conservancy Board of Directors wishes to invite all cavers to our special open cave event for the Lightners Entrance to McClungs Cave, Preserve.

This event is being held on Saturday, June 1st, 2002, from 12 noon until 5 pm at the Lightners Entrance Preserve property located just off of Vago Road, 2 miles east of S.R.219 in Greenbrier County West Virginia.

If traveling on Interstate 64, exit at the 219/Lewisburg exit and turn North on 219. Go approximately 3 miles and turn right onto Vago Road. Go approximately 1.5 miles and we will have a sign posted at the left-hand turn into the cave preserve road.

The Open Cave Event will start at 12 noon and will consist of tours of the property as well as views of the

Cave entrance. Persons wishing to access the Cave's vertical entrance should contact the WVCC before the event to be placed on the schedule. No ropes will be provided or rigged by the WVCC. Food and caver beverages will be provided by the Board of Directors at the WVCC information booth that will be set up at the parking lot.

We look forward to seeing all of you at this event, please let us know by May 1 if you are planning to attend. To obtain additional information about the Lightners Entrance Cave Preserve, McClungs Cave or the West Virginia Cave Conservancy please visit our web site [www.wvcc.net](http://www.wvcc.net). You can also call Ed Swepston at (304)645-6984 or e-mail him at [eswepston@hotmail.com](mailto:eswepston@hotmail.com) (RSVPing through the Web site is preferred).

## 2002 Spring VAR

by J. C. Fisher

In just two short months it's time to head to Grottoes, VA for Spring VAR. April 26, 27, & 28 to be exact. The West Virginia Cave Conservancy will be your host and they have a great one planned. You will be able to camp, cave, help with important conservation projects, learn about cave photography, cave biology, buy new gear, be fed, entertained, engage in speleo politics, or just layback, all this without ever leaving the park. And for the caver, who just has to go elsewhere to cave, they have those too.

Registration opens Friday at noon. Register now and save a few bucks. Soft drinks and caver's milk will be available both nights. This is a Regional Park so be discreet, no exposed containers allowed.

Saturday is Conservation Day. VAR Conservation Chair Andy Reeder needs about a hundred (yes, I mean 100) cavers to help with moss eradication, gravel refurbishment, speleothem restoration, and trail work. For those with other desires: Andy Celmer is leading a Photo Trip, Dave Culver is doing a Cave Biology Trip; get naked and wet with John Pearson in Aqua Cave, Pat Cronin is setting up a Kid's Trip, and more Trips are in the works.

"Bob's Big Beef" will cater dinner. Bar-B-Que beef and pork, fried chicken, slaw, beans, potato salad, drinks, and brownies. Vegetarians will have Vegetable Lasagna available. Please pre-register so we have enough. After dinner Ed Sweptson will give a presentation on WVCC, followed by Dave Culver with a talk on Local Cave Biology.

Sunday morning Front Royal Grotto will have their very fine breakfast available. The VAR Business Meeting will begin 9:00 am sharp.

Now if all this isn't enough, they're working on even more activities. Check at registration for the latest. Pre-registration forms are in the Region Record and on WVCC Web site at [www.wvcc.net](http://www.wvcc.net).

For questions or additional information contact J.C. or Judy Fisher 304-258-1822 day, 304-258-4974 evenings.

See you in April!

## VSS Report Feb. 28, 2002

by Phil Lucas

New cave reports have been coming in from all over Virginia and, as of today, there are 3,998 caves recorded in the VSS database! The reporters who have contributed since last summer are; Don Anderson, Brad Blase, Russ Carter, Dave Collings, Doug Dalrymple, Paul Gaskins, Dave Hubbard, Bill Keith, Hoyt McKagen, Rick Lambert, Phil Lucas, Tom Malabad, Tanya McLaughlin, Josh Rubinstein, Ben Schwartz, Dave Socky, Bob Thren, and Jim West. Many thanks to all! We will reach the 4,000 milestone soon for sure and the person submitting the 4,000th new cave report will receive a four-issue subscription to the *Virginia Cellars*. So if you know of a "new" cave as yet unreported, send it in! See the fifth paragraph for a new way of reporting a cave.

There is a severe drought occurring in Virginia with springs and wells going dry. Unfortunate to be sure, but a window of opportunity nonetheless for us cavers. Several caves I have visited have very low water levels or none at all. There was a section surveyed in Helictite Cave that would have been under water not long ago. This might be the time to revisit a cave that normally ends in a siphon or a "too full" water crawl. There's virgin cave out there gang, wide open, waiting for the intrepid explorer. And don't just scoop it, take the survey gear. It may be a long time before this happens again.

By the way, Wil and Zena Orndorff helped with the survey of the new section in Helictite Cave. Wil, as most know, is the chief karst agent in the Virginia Karst Program. The VSS works closely with Wil and his assistant Joey Fagan with matters that involve caves and karst. It is important to have

someone of some karma in this position and I believe the photo I took of Wil in Helictite after an especially muddy crawl, shows the poise and meditation of which this man is capable.



Wil Orndorff in meditation after a particularly muddy crawl in Helictite Cave, Virginia. (The color version of the photo reveals that only Wil's face is not mud-colored). Photo by Phil Lucas.

Recently, during a Highland County Cave Survey weekend, Rick Lambert and Larry Baer were nearly finished with the survey of a cave on the Bullpasture Mountain when they came upon a bear who had backed up against the rear of the cave passage watching them intently. For some reason they decided to temporarily discontinue the survey and return another time. This is the first written account of cavers seeing a bear in a cave and it is now safely tucked away in the files. Accounts such as these are important records for our Virginia cave database and I would encourage everyone to take the time to write these stories, accounts, and observations.

Mentioned in the last *Region Record* was a situation where Wade Berdeaux was seeking prosecution of a person who deliberately killed a bat he snatched off the wall during a tour of Endless Caverns. Well, Wade was successful and a

fine was imposed upon the individual. Thanks Wade, for taking the time and effort to pursue this. Maybe the message will get around to those in that community that they can't do this no matter how much they hate bats. As mentioned before, a Virginia Cave Law sign is extremely helpful in getting a successful prosecution. These heavy duty aluminum signs are still available so if you know of a cave where a sign is needed, contact me about getting one.



The Virginia Cave Law sign. If you know of a cave that needs one of these metal signs in the entrance contact Phil Lucas. Photo by Phil Lucas.

The VSS now has a Web site with Brad Balse being the Web master. It is still being developed and additions are made weekly but it is up and running. Take a look and pass on your comments. [www.virginiacaves.org](http://www.virginiacaves.org). Thanks Brad and to those who have helped. We hope that it will enhance the flow of information into the VSS and help us accomplish our mission. BTW, it has a cave report form that can be filled out and delivered with the push of a button.

The Virginia Division of Mines, Minerals and Energy, Division of Mineral Resources (VDMR) has just published *Selected Karst Features of the Southern Valley and Ridge Province, Virginia*, Publication 167, by David A. Hubbard, Jr. This is the culmination of a ten year project that Dave has been working. It is an important compilation of field investigations where 31,239 sinkholes are illustrated and karst

areas are mapped. There is much explanation as to the hazards' of construction on karst, how ground water quality is easily threaten on karst land forms as well as general description of the geology, hydrology, and cave resources. The map has a scale of 1:250,000 and encompasses roughly the lower third of the state. At this scale, the map can't be used to locate small features in the field. This is the third and the final mapping of karst features that Dave has done. I believe the publication costs \$8.00 (tax and shipping not included?) and is available through VDMR in Charlottesville.

Volume 7 Number 1, of the *Virginia Cellars* has been recently published. It's a great issue having maps of the Caves of Cave Run, Rust Caves and others. We fully expect to publish often and would encourage you to subscribe if you do not already. Subscriptions are \$10 for four issues or \$25 for 12. Send checks made payable to VSS to Phil Lucas, HCR 3 Box 104, Burnsville, VA 24487.

## Fall 2001 VAR Awards

By Meredith Hall Johnson

Background: I got "volunteered" to head up the VAR Awards while in a weak moment at the 2001 NSS Convention. Of course I agreed. Thankfully Carol Tideman volunteered herself and JC Fisher to round out the committee. From what I was told, no VAR Awards had been given out in quite some time. I put out a plea for submissions and got many replies; there sure are a lot of dedicated cavers in our Region who got nominated. Thanks to all who submitted names. These are the folks we decided deserved the Fall 2001

VAR Outstanding Member Recognition Award:

**Jim Hixson:** If you've been around VAR at any time in the past 30 years or more, you've probably run into Jim Hixson. He's one of the fixtures. He has been active in exploring and surveying many of West Virginia's major caves, such as Acme, Hunt, Jewell, and Windy Mouth. From what I've heard, he's been in Windy Mouth a zillion times and knows the cave better than anyone. (Note: thanks to Bill Balfour)

**Evelyn Bradshaw:** Evelyn too has been a fixture of the Region. Among her most visible contributions has been being the keeper of the VAR Mailing List. She has also been in charge of the Internal Organizations Committee for the NSS for just about ever. In this capacity, she has helped many new grottos in the Region get started. And helped many stay in operation! She started out caving with Girl Scouts and we're all glad she kept at it! (Note: thanks to Bob Hoke)

**Bob Handley:** Yet another fixture, Bob started caving in 1948. He's been a Fellow of the NSS since the mid-1970s and won the Lew Bicking Award in 1994. He discovered the Humphreys Entrance to Organ Cave, the Organ-Lipps connection, and Luthington's Cave. He helped explore and map these and many more, including Foxhole #1, McClung's, Patton, Buckeye Creek, Rapps, Culverson, and Grapevine. He helped form the West Virginia Association for Cave Studies (WVACS) and is a past president. (Note: thanks to George Dasher)

Luckily I did not have to give any speeches at the VAR meeting, but did get to present a very surprised Bob Handley with his award. Jim and Evelyn were not there and (hopefully) got their awards hand-delivered later. On behalf of the entire Region, I would like to say to all three, CONGRATULATIONS

and THANKS for all your hard work and dedication to the Virginia Region. Future VAR Awards: I learned a lot from this experience, and until kicked out or someone else volunteers, I'll keep collecting the information and handing out Awards. However, I need to change a couple of things. First, Nominations: When you nominate someone, please put in a decent paragraph as to why that person deserves recognition. (I had a heck of time getting information this time, as you can tell by the scant bios above.) If you really don't know that much, then send what you do know and also send names and e-mail addresses of anyone who might know more, say a caving partner or best friend. E-mail is a great way to get the information to me, or any of the Awards Committee members (whom I hope will also continue). My e-mail address is: [merecaver@wildmail.com](mailto:merecaver@wildmail.com).

Second, Deadline: The deadline for future VAR Award Nominations will be two months before the next Fall VAR. Nominations for the Fall 2002 VAR Awards are due to me by the end of July as the Fall VAR is September 27-29, 2002.

Thanks to all who participated this fall, especially Carol and JC.

*(Note: This article was originally supposed to appear in the previous Region Record. However, I accidentally misfiled it and then forgot about it. My apologies to Meredith and the three Award recipients. Bob Hoke).*

## VAR History, Part II

By Meredith Hall Johnson

In another moment of weakness, this time at OTR last year, Mary Sue Socky coerced me to help edit the History of the Region, Part II. (Actually, she just asked me and I said yes.) As some of you may recall Part I came out in 1979 and covered the first 20 years of the Virginia Region. This second part will cover from 1971 through 2000, nearly 30 years.

At some point in the near future, we will be e-mailing or mailing all the grottos in the Region a questionnaire. This will have questions such as your grotto's history since 1971, prominent or outrageous members (past or present), amusing anecdotes, significant explorations, surveys, and projects, etc. We will also ask about former members and ask for obituaries where appropriate. All in all, we will ask for everything and hope to get it!

Tom Spina began this project a decade ago. Even if you or your grotto filled out his questionnaire, please fill out ours as well. We still have whatever he collected and will sift through it all. Plus we have 10 more years behind us.

You may also send photographs, slides, or electronic photos. Mary Sue promises to get them back to you as soon as possible. If you want, bring your photos to Spring VAR and give them to us then.

We both thank you in advance for your replies. And even if you are not a member of a grotto, if you know of something that you think should be included in this edition, by all means, e-mail us your story. My e-mail address is [merecaver@wildmail.com](mailto:merecaver@wildmail.com) and Mary Sue's is [sockymss@cox.net](mailto:sockymss@cox.net).

## The VAR Landowner Recognition Award

by Bob Hoke

The VAR Landowner Recognition Award is given to those cave owners who have done an exceptional job of balancing the protection of their cave with allowing responsible access to their cave by the caving community. It is a way for the caving community to express its appreciation to those special folks.

The list below shows the Award recipients to date, but there are certainly lots more deserving landowners in the Region. If you know of a landowner who is deserving of the award, write a brief letter explaining why and send it to Don Anderson, P.O. Box 966, Dublin, VA 24084.

### LANDOWNER RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENTS

- 1992 Buddy Penley  
(Penleys, access to Newberry's VA)
- 1993 Rhoda Paxton  
(Paxtons Cave, VA)
- 1993 Ruth Propst  
(Sinnett/Thorn Mountain, WV)
- 1994 George & Lee Sively  
(Organ Cave, WV)
- 1994 Robert E. Bright  
(Simmons Mingo Cave, WV)
- 1994 Gene Turner  
(Buckeye Creek Cave, WV)
- 1995 Charles E. Simmons  
(Porters Cave, VA)
- 1995 Mothes Family  
(Friars Hole Cave System, WV)
- 1995 John Knutti  
(Bowden Cave, WV)
- 1995 Pricilla Teter  
(Mystic Cave, WV)
- 1996 Bill, Mildred, & Judy Showalter  
(Cave Hollow Arbogast Sys., WV)
- 1996 Dr. & Mrs. J. T. Rogers  
(Norman Cave, WV)
- 1997 Connie Houseman  
(Dixie Caverns, VA)

- 1997 Mrs. Clark  
(Clarks Cave, VA)
- 1997 Geraldine Freeman  
(McClungs Cave, WV)
- 1998 Cecil Porterfield  
(Pig Hole Cave, VA)
- 1998 Kent Ford  
(Witheros Cave, VA)
- 1998 Joe Lockridge  
(Breathing Cave, VA)
- 1998 Bob Brooks  
(Crossroads Cave, VA)
- 1998 Ted Monger  
(Jones Quarry Cave, WV)
- 1998 Andy Graham  
(Grahams Cave, VA)
- 1999 Barry Price  
(Starnes Caverns, VA)
- 1999 Richard & Frances Latterell  
(Molars Cave, WV)
- 2000 The Ferrell Family  
(James Cave, et al, VA)
- 2001 The Combs family  
(Dyers Cave, WV)
- 2001 Mike & Pat Dore  
(Scott Hollow Cave, VA)
- 2001 Robert Wyly  
(Silers Cave, WV)

## Moving? Please Let Us Know

Meredith Hall Johnson does an outstanding job of maintaining the mailing list for the *Region Record*. However, if you are moving you can make her life a lot easier if you tell her your new address as soon as you know it. In addition, the Region will not have to pay the 60-cent fee to have the *Region Record* forwarded to you (and you will be assured that it does not get lost somewhere in the Post Office). Send address changes to Meredith Hall Johnson 8061 Kittiwake CT, Springfield, VA 22153. You can e-mail her at [merecaver@wildmail.com](mailto:merecaver@wildmail.com).

## Host Group Sought for 2009 International Congress of Speleology

by Tom Lera

The International Congress of Speleology is held every four years. An informal NSS committee is polling various NSS organizations to determine any interest in hosting the 2009 International here in the United States. The last UIS Congress in the United States was in 1981 in Bowling Green, KY.

If a positive response is received, further discussions will follow to formulate a detailed plan and letter of intent for submission to the NSS and then the UIS for consideration.

A New Business item is on the agenda for the Spring VAR meeting to see if there is any interest in having the Region, or a consortium of VAR organizations, host the International.

## Minutes of the Fall VAR Region Meet

September 30, 2001  
RASS Field Station, VA

9:15 - the meeting was called order

### Reports

**Secretary** - Carol Tiderman  
Minutes were accepted as read

The order of the meeting was suspended.

New Membership Request: Bubble Cave Ltd. Requested membership in the VAR. The motion was passed

The order of the meeting was resumed.

**Treasurer** - John Fox  
A financial report was presented. VPI Grotto moved to accept, FUN Grotto seconded. passed

**Vice Chair** - Judy Fisher  
No report.

**Chairman** - Craig Hindman  
No report

**Conservation Chair** - Andy Reeder  
No report

**Bowden Cave** -  
Fall - BATS  
Spring - DC & Tri-State on 4/13

**Island Ford Cave** -  
Fall - Front Royal  
Spring - New River

Grand Caverns cleanup is scheduled for Easter weekend

New River Trail wants a gate installed. We are waiting for a management plan. VPI Grotto moved: Andy Reeder manages the project and issued a call for help when needed. BATS seconded - motion passed

Tri-State stated the Karst Waters Module will be held on Earth Day in Shippensburg, PA. They will be setting up a display at the Apple Butter Festival weekend in Berkeley Springs

**Goodwin's Cave**  
They have been contacted by Scouts for a trip but they didn't show up. All has been quiet. There has been no report of vandalism. The cave is available for trips.

**Staunton Cave** - Ted Andrus  
No report.

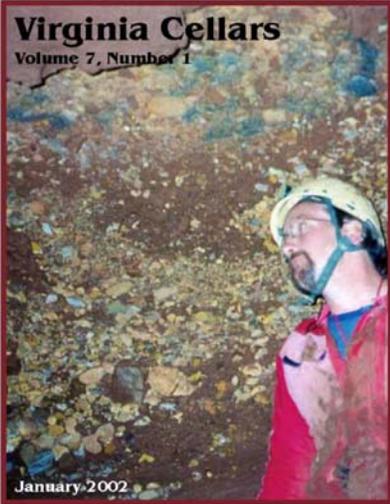
**Landowner Recognition Awards** - Don Anderson  
Dave Mallow of Mill Run Cave was nominated by the Baltimore Grotto

The Dore's - Scott Hollow Cave - were nominated by Baltimore Grotto

**VAR Outstanding Service Award** - Meredith Hall Johnson  
Awards were presented to Evelyn Bradshaw, Jim Hixson, and Bob Handley

**Landowner Legal Support Committee** - Bob Hoke  
No report

**Region Record** - Bob Hoke  
Needs material. Deadline for submissions December 15th. The printing presses have been retired.



**Virginia Cellars**  
Volume 7, Number 1  
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Virginia Cellars

A quarterly publication of the Virginia Speleological Survey (VSS)

The newsletter for serious Virginia cavers interested in exploration, surveying, digging, and science.

1 year (4 issues) for \$10.00,  
3 years (12 issues) for \$25.00 - pre-paid only

Send subscriptions to:  
Virginia Speleological Survey  
HCR 3 Box104  
Burnsville, VA 24487

The *Region Record* will now be laser printed

**Patch Committee** - Ernst Kastning  
No report

**VAR List Server** - Walt Pirie  
It was reported that there are 130 members. There was discussion on taking the *Region Record* electronic but the editor is resisting this change.

**VAR Web site** - Vitus Eiduekivicius  
The site is up and running. Approximately 2,800 visits last month. Need material, need help.

**Cave Bucks** - Judy Fisher  
Is alive and well

**VSS** - Phil Lucas  
3,947 caves are recorded in the database. There are 432 miles of recorded and surveyed passage. Project caving is an integral part of protecting the caves and their information needs to go to the VSS. Corkscrew Cave has a 340 foot free fall pit and is currently 3 miles long. It has the largest passage in the state and is still growing. The new Augusta County Survey is being coordinated by Josh Rubenstein. VSS currently reviews projects submitted by VDOT, power companies etc. There were 400-500 reviews done in the last year to determine if caves would be impacted. Regarding the Federal Cave Protection Act, the George Washington National Forest has not inventoried their caves. VSS is encouraging they perform this inventory. The VSS is interested in developing a history of how caves were explored.

**WVASS** - George Dasher  
No report.

**History of the Region** - Mary Sue Socky  
Slides and photo's have been returned 1970-2000 questionnaires are going out looking for stories, projects, events.

**West Virginia Cave Conservancy**

Lightner's Cave is within \$7,500 of payoff based on the donations and pledges. Site improvements are planned. Island Ford Cave was donated and there were only \$17 in associated fees. A management plan is being developed. November 10 will be the annual banquet at the Brier Inn in Lewisburg, WV. Bob Handly will lead trips to owned caves Please make us aware of any caves that need protection to keep them open.

**Power Lines** - Will Orndorff  
Site has been determined and will be removed from the Agenda.

**New Dixie**  
No activity until Dave Socky is back in shape.

**Project Underground** - Carol Zokietes  
A Karst Education workshop will be held November 3 in Blacksburg VA. There will be 4 2-hour classes.

**Host Grotto Report**  
260 people were in attendance - 128 pre-registered,

#### Old Business

**Host for Spring 02** - WVCC - possibly at Natural Chimney's the last weekend in April. They will not commit until after January 1st The first 200 registered will receive a souvenir koozie. Pre-registration forms will be available in January. There will be a program on Saturday night. Cost will be approximately \$20. The Grand Caverns Cleanup will be held in conjunction with the VAR Field Meet

#### New Business

**Host for Fall 2002** - BATS  
Host needed for Spring 2003

**Membership Request**  
Moved to the beginning of the meeting

**Grant Requests**  
Charlottesville moved: \$500 be donated to MAKC for the purchase

of Billy Clay Pit. DC seconded. Motioned passed.

VPI Grotto moved to donate \$500 to the WVCC for the purpose of building a road to the Lightners entrance to McClungs Cave. Blue Ridge seconded - unanimous

All who receive grants are required to report back with information on how the funds were used.

#### **Elections**

The current slate of officers was re-elected.

#### Announcements

Emily invited all to attend the 2002 Convention in Camden Maine.

There will be a week long NCRC at Schoharie NY 2 weeks after the convention.

New River Grotto moved to thank RASS. Baltimore seconded. Passed

CCV meeting will be held following the VAR meeting.

WVCC meeting will be held after the CCV meeting.

Dave Socky reported Dixie Caverns will be holding the Haunted Cave

BATS moved to adjourn. Frederick Grotto seconded. Passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:30

Respectfully submitted:  
*Carol Tideman*

## **Next Region Record Deadline is June 1**

The deadline for submitting material for the Summer issue of the *Region Record* is June 1, 2002. Please send any material that is of regional interest to the address shown on page 2.

Spring 2002 VAR MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, April 27, 2002 9:00 AM

- I. CALL TO ORDER
  - II. DELEGATE REGISTRATION
  - III. DISTRIBUTION OF AGENDA
  - IV. CALL FOR INDEPENDENTS
  - V. OFFICERS REPORTS:
    - A. SECRETARY - CAROL TIDERMAN
      - 1. Motion to accept Fall minutes
      - 2. Other
    - B. TREASURER - JOHN FOX
      - 1. Current Financial Report
      - 2. Other
    - C. VICE-CHAIR - JUDY FISHER
    - D. CHAIRMAN - CRAIG HINDMAN
  - VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS
    - A. CONSERVATION CHAIR \_ ANDY REEDER
      - 1. Report on activities
      - 2. Call for volunteers:
        - Bowden Cave -
          - Summer \_\_\_\_\_
          - Winter \_\_\_\_\_
        - Island Ford Cave -
          - Summer \_\_\_\_\_
          - Winter \_\_\_\_\_
      - 3. Grand Caverns
      - 4. Other
    - B. GOODWIN'S CAVE MANAGEMENT - BLUE RIDGE GROTTO
    - C. STAUNTON CAVE - TED ANDRUS
    - D. VAR OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD - MEREDITH HALL JOHNSON
    - E. LANDOWNER RECOGNITION AWARD - DON ANDERSON
    - F. LANDOWNER LEGAL SUPPORT COMMITTEE - BOB HOKE
    - G. THE REGION RECORD - BOB HOKE, PAULINE APLING, BARRY CHUTE
  - H. PATCH COMMITTEE - KAREN KASTNING
  - I. VAR LIST SERVER - WALT PIRIE
  - J. WEB PAGE - VITUS EIDUKEVICIUS
  - K. CAVE BUCKS - J.C. FISHER
  - L. VSS - PHIL LUCAS
  - M. WVASS - GEORGE DASHER
  - N. HISTORY OF THE REGION - MARY SUE SOCKY & MEREDITH HALL JOHNSON
  - O. WVCC - DAVE COWAN
  - P. NEW DIXIE - BLUE RIDGE GROTTO
  - Q. OTHER
- VII. HOST GROTTO REPORT - WVCC
- VIII. OLD BUSINESS
  - A. HOST GROTTO FOR THE FALL 02 MEETING - BATS
  - B. Other
    - \_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_
- IX. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. HOST GROTTO FOR THE SPRING 03 MEETING
  - B. HOST GROTTO FOR FALL 03 MEETING
  - C. 2009 INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
  - D. OTHER \_\_\_\_\_
- XI. GRANT REQUESTS - SUBMITTED TO CHAIR
- XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS
- XIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

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## Spring 2002 Regional News

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### 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

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

Please make checks payable to VAR and send to: <b>Meredith Hall Johnson, 8061 Kittiwake Ct., Springfield VA 22153</b>
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