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President's Column**By: Kayla Sapkota**

Happy Holidays to everyone and may you have a promising start to the new year! Let's make this one even better than the last. Take a moment to think about what you want to see happen this year in your personal, professional, and (of course) caving lives. For me, I would like to increase my running mileage (you're seeing it here in print, so hold me to it!) and draft more cave maps (off to a good start so far).

In November, the CRF Board of Directors met and discussed various organizational business including finances, area/project reports, working agreements, our annual report, and recognition of some all-star members (stay tuned for updates on that). In a public meeting the next day, a series of fantastic presenters shared reports on various cave-related topics spanning from geology to mapping to biology to projects with local agencies to even caves in outer space!

Next year's annual meeting with accompanying expedition will occur surrounding the weekend of November 9th at the Hamilton Valley Research Station in Kentucky with more details coming soon. We are thankful for our gracious CRF family there for offering to host.

Happy 2024 to each of you, and I hope to see you underground sooner rather than later.

Muddy Smiles,

Kayla Sapkota, President

**On the Cover**

Keith Thompson in a Missouri Department of Conservation cave in Shannon County. Photo by Kirsten Alvey.

70th Anniversary of the NSS C-3 Expedition

By: Roger W. Brucker, NSS #1999 HLF

The big caving event of 1954 was the Society's 64-caver, week-long expedition to Floyd Collins' Crystal Cave in Kentucky. In 1953, Bill Austin had invited Joe Lawrence Jr. and his friends to check out a vast and baffling cave. Lawrence returned in 1954 with an "army" of NSS cavers. Crystal Cave was a private in-holding in Mammoth Cave National Park. The Thomas estate, owners of Crystal, thought a big expedition with lots of publicity would show that Crystal was no "outlier" cave. And that its true value was more than what the U.S. Government was willing to pay to buy the property. Planning started at the 1953 NSS Convention in Louisville.

True magazine agreed to cover the story. Associated Press wire service covered it, and William Burke Miller (Skeets), winner of the Pulitzer Prize for his first-person reporting of Floyd Collins entrapment in Sand Cave in 1925, would attend **and** report live on radio and TV.

Jim Dyer, a former manager of Crystal, Bill Austin, and Lawrence decided to create a Camp 1 in Floyd's Lost Passage, a mile-long trunk passage, from which exploration would fan out. Cavers in the cave would be supported by extra-fit suppliers carrying in food and equipment in Gurnee Cans, sheet metal containers designed for cargo transport and fabricated by Russ Gurnee. Phil Smith and Roger McClure were porters, and later CRF founders. Phone lines would be run from the cave office to Lost Passage and to any subsequent camps for real-time communication.

The NSS had accepted a publisher's advance royalty payment for a book that would tell the story of the expedition. *The Caves Beyond*, by Joe Lawrence, Jr. and Roger W. Brucker was the resulting book (available from Cave Books, Speleobooks, and NSS Bookstore.) It described the adventure, surveying, mapping, and science projects -- weather, geology, biology, and physiology.

What did the cavers do? Cooked food underground, slept in sleeping bags, surveyed several miles of the cave, established a second underground camp, and gathered cave earth samples, hoping to find new bacteria. Late in the expedition, Earl Thierry, chief surveyor, connected the NSS surveys to previous Crystal Cave surveys to create a map and eventually make an isometric drawing of most of the known cave.

The Outcome

Indirectly, the C-3 Expedition produced 144 miles of Mammoth Cave between 1954 and 1972, and 426 miles of cave by 2024, 70 years later. One after another the caves in Flint Ridge were connected by discoveries until the Flint Ridge Cave System was the longest cave in the

world. Initial discoveries immediately after the C-3 Expedition, yielded an extension of Bogardus Waterfall Trail and B-Trail, to a large vertical shaft and Eyeless Fish Trail. Connections to Unknown Cave, Colossal Cave, and Salts Cave led to the other connections -- Mammoth Cave, Proctor Cave, Morrison Cave, and Roppel Cave.

The NSS C-3 Expedition launched the modern era of cave exploring. Veterans of that event presented a paper on lessons learned: Don't camp in the cave, Survey first and draw maps, Train party leaders, Require trip reports, Skip all publicity distractions, phones. Use single rope technique (not cable ladders), Feed the cavers good food and provide good beds. Recruit women cavers.

The founding of the Cave Research Foundation in 1957 codified many of the lessons in a *CRF Expedition Manual*, a handbook on project caving. CRF became an Institutional Member of the NSS and built a headquarters on land near the National Park from which it conducts Eastern operations. A significant scholarship and grant program supported university cave science students, and CRF personnel taught many courses. Various other cave investigation project groups joined CRF, partly to avail their expertise in dealing with government park officials. Some of these projects included Carlsbad Caverns, Lilburn Cave, Buffalo River, Cumberland Gap, and Lava Beds. Expeditions to Costa Rica and China took place.

Modern Era Caving

It may be hard to pinpoint the exact beginning of the Modern Era of Caving starting in the 1950s. Equipment was developed gradually. Static kernmantle rope replaced twisty and stretchy Goldline braided rope, racks and ascenders replaced body rappels and prusik hitches. Electric lights replaced carbide lamps. Electronic survey instruments are replacing compasses and clinometers. Clothing improved with polypropylene undergarments, wet suits, and specialized cave coveralls. Most of all, management and record-keeping improved. The *NSS News*, numerous books, thousands of lectures and presentations spread cave information far and wide. Technical and scientific information became available at NSS conventions and in journals.

The old days of knocking off three caves on Saturday and one on Sunday are gone, replaced by systematic, organized "project caving".

Tom Brucker, in cooperation with NPS and CRF, has put together a C-3 celebration to commemorate the event that hardly anybody alive remembers, with talks at Crystal Cave by Roger McClure and Roger Brucker, and any other sur-

vivors that can be recruited. An archaeology trip may visit the Lost Passage to see if any 70+ year-old antiques or artifacts survive. We salute those men and women lured into caving by read-

ing *The Caves Beyond*, and returned to Crystal long after the C-3 Expedition.

The C-3 celebration will be February 14-16. Contact Tom Brucker: nakdoc77@gmail.com.

2023 Cave Research Foundation Involvement in Missouri Cave Meteorology Studies

By: Dr. Russell Myers

Cave Hollow Cave

Under the supervision of staff Biologist Nathan Patterson, Mark Twain National Forest replaced the entrance gate at Cave Hollow in July 2023 to better protect the Indiana bat hibernaculum there. To see if the new gate affected air-flow at the cave entrance, floor and ceiling climate sensors were installed in June and removed in August. Analysis of the data by CRF member Dr. Russell Myers showed that the new gate did not change the entrance airflow. However, the data did show that the cave was colder than predicted for the region. At the suggestion of Dr. Myers, the original climate sensors, together with a water-temperature sensor in the cave stream, were reinstalled in the cave in October 2023. The objective of this study is to understand how the cave has become refrigerated.

Pilot Knob National Wildlife Refuge

Under the supervision of US Fish & Wildlife Service manager Corey Kudrna, CRF member Dr. Russell Myers has continued to maintain a suite of climate sensors at the Pilot Knob Indiana Bat hibernaculum. The study, ongoing since 2019, has been designed to understand the refrigeration mechanics of the abandoned iron mine which now serves as the hibernaculum. The study has shown that refrigeration is the result of chimney-like airflow between entrances at different elevations. It has also shown that, in terms of airflow, the uppermost workings are isolated from the Indiana bat hibernaculum. The ongoing study is providing insights into how fast the hibernaculum heats and cools over the year. Vandalism of sensors has been an ongoing problem, however, with the introduction of cellphone-connected security cameras in

2023 the probability of getting uninterrupted data from five mine entrances has increased.

Lime Kiln Mine, Sodalis Nature Preserve, Hannibal Missouri

Under the supervision of US Fish and Wildlife biologist Iwona Kuczynska, CRF member Dr. Russell Myers, has been investigating the meteorology of the Lime Kiln Mine Indiana bat hibernaculum to better understand the refrigeration and microclimates of the hibernaculum. In 2019 climate sensors were installed at two locations in the mine by Missouri Department of Conservation biologist Jeanette Bailey. CRF involvement in the study started in February 2021 with the installation of floor and ceiling temperature sensors at ten of the thirty-four mine entrances. A study of mine pillar temperatures in the spring and fall of 2021 showed that a part of the mine known as "the Everglades" was permanently refrigerated, with September pillar temperatures as low as 49°F, compared to deep mine pillar temperatures of 55 °F and entrance pillar temperatures of up to 69 °F. Based on these findings a network of 14 underground climate stations measuring floor and ceiling temperature and humidity have been added, together with 5 water-temperature stations and two water-level stations in the underground lakes. Roost loggers, which continuously monitor bat echolocation calls, were first installed at two climate station locations in 2020. In 2021 roost loggers were installed at five climate stations and in 2022 and 2023 roost loggers were installed at 6 climate stations. To date, the data show that cold winter winds penetrate deep into the hibernaculum, and throughout the winter, bats respond to these temperature variations.



Ozarks: Left: Rhyolite boulders in the ceiling of Wildcat Cave 2. Photo by Tony Schmitt. Right: Cave harvestman in Fastness Pit. Photo by Claty Barnett.

REGIONAL EXPEDITION REPORTS

Ozark Operations Activities, September-December 2023

By: Scott House, with Kayla Sapkota

Summer was a busy time again for us despite the heat. A number of trips were taken in geographically dispersed areas. Many of these trips involved folks from our cooperating agencies. The first weekend of December is a stellar example, with nearly 40 people working in four different areas over the weekend. This is how CRF Ozarks works.

OZARK NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAYS

CRF Ozarks works with the Ozark National Scenic Riverways (NPS) under a cooperative cave management agreement. Trips usually originate from the NPS/USFS shared field office at Winona.

November 5, 2023:

Chad McCain, Shelby Proctor, Isaac Smith and Logan Dowd comprised a crack team to complete the survey of Big Rock Bluff Cave and another cave, both well above the Jacks Fork River. Vertical gear is necessary to reach these intriguing caves. One more cave on the bluff remains to be surveyed.

December 5, 2023:

Kirsten Alvey and Kevin Tarbet took along MDC biologist Katherine Bouska to a series of caves along a side hollow of the upper Jacks Fork River. Some of the caves were on NPS land and the others on MDC.

December 6, 2023:

Kirsten and Kevin monitored a bunch of caves in a sensitive area off of the Jacks Fork. No new human disturbance was noted.

December 7, 2023:

Kirsten Alvey, Kevin Tarbet and Keith Thompson monitored Lynch Cave near Alley Spring. Everyone should climb this bluff sometime to enjoy the view from the cave.

December 11, 2023:

Kirsten and Kevin were joined by Scott House to survey one new cave near Rimer Landing and then traveled to Blue Spring where K & K monitored another one while Scott truck-sat (dicey visitors caused \ and discreet).

December 12, 2023:

Scott and Kevin monitored two NPS caves in the upper Current district. One of the caves had seen a lot of bad traffic in the past. The present superintendent, to his credit, caused the offending illegal trace to be closed off and now the cave is well on its way to a natural restoration. Later the two monitored two more caves near

Alley which are on MDC property but within the boundaries of the park.

December 13, 2023

See below for trip to MDC caves within the park authorized boundaries.

December 14, 2023

Scott monitored one cave and did a gate check on another cave near Big Spring.

BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER

CRF work at Buffalo National River (NPS) is facilitated through a cooperative cave management, survey, and bat monitoring agreement.

Reports by Kayla Sapkota

September 15, 2023:

Laura Baumann, Claty Barnett, Aaron Thompson, and Mike Slay bio-inventoried Willis Cave and Mud Cave with a focus on invertebrates.

September 16, 2023:

Claty Barnett, Kayla Sapkota, and Aaron Thompson mapped Fastness Pit, Crumble Cave, and Stare Well Pit. Christine Saw, Kevin Liow, Riannon Colton, Eliezer Ugarte, and Kayleen Lemen mapped Broken Point Shelter and Scavenger Shelter, as well as bio-monitored Squirrel Pit, finding both an angry rattlesnake and a bunch of equally upset yellow jackets. Mike Slay and Nathan Windel bio-monitored Len House Cave and Earl's Cave, with a focus on invertebrates. Max White, Heather Pyle, and Nathan Burton mapped Clark Creek Cave #1, netting 301 ft of cave but needing a return trip. Meghan Gallo, Derek Thompson, Novinha Thompson, and Keaton Thompson bio-monitored Eden Falls Cave and Cobb Cave.

September 28, 2023:

Claty Barnett, Aaron Thompson, and Mike Slay bio-monitored Forest Trail Ridge Cave, Forest Trail Pit, and Overlooked Cave with a focus on invertebrates.

September 29, 2023:

Claty Barnett, Aaron Thompson, and Mike Slay bio-monitored Square Cave and Salt Peter Cave with a focus on invertebrates.

October 21, 2023:

Claty Barnett and Aaron Thompson monitored Temple Cave and Duck's Neck Cave. They also searched unsuccessfully for Dragon Cave and Broken Ladder Pit.

Withrow Spring State Park

October 14, 2023:

A group continued the mapping of War Eagle Spring Cave, hoping to finish it but finding more leads. Kayla Sapkota, Claty Barnett, and Aaron Thompson continued the muddy N series crawls before being stopped at a drop-off to the stream. Laying flagging and pushing at the stream level allowed a future tie-in to be made. Dillon Freiburger, Treavor Bussard, and Jessica Shew picked up and finished the X series lead.

November 11, 2023:

Kayla Sapkota, Claty Barnett, and Aaron Thompson continued mapping from the upper-level tie-in left on last trip in efforts to push the cave deeper into the hillside before surface construction begins; the passage continued with two leads remaining, including an east-trending side lead that the team put a few shots into before calling it a day. Meghan Gallo and Derek Thompson checked out a tight lead and then mapped at the stream level toward the first team. 780.1 ft total was added to the map.

December 8, 2023:

Kayla Sapkota, Claty Barnett, and Aaron Thompson continued the east-trending side lead from November's trip and found that it went...and went...and went, adding two new leads to the map and netting 46 stations (630.3 ft). The cave now sits at over 1 mile in length.

Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

November 18, 2023:

Emily Roberts, Kayla Sapkota, Ashley Mitchell, and Dionne Springman visited the Garrett Hollow Natural Area and hiked in with a local landowner who allowed them to park on his land. The team did a good bit of hiking and mapped Garrett Hollow Cave before turning around with the lessening daylight.

MARK TWAIN NATIONAL FOREST

CRF work on Mark Twain National Forest (U.S. Forest Service) is performed through a cooperative agreement covering inventory, survey, monitoring, and gating. The Mark Twain covers 1.5 million acres, and the bulk of it contains caves. Much recent work has been focused on four forest districts: Ava, Houston/Rolla, Willow Springs, and Eleven Point.

September 26, 2023:

Jim Cooley, Julie Cooley, and Peter Schnegelberger monitored Porifera Cave in the Irish Wilderness. This trip began several days of work in the Wilderness, a great place to visit and do useful cave work.

September 27, 2023:

Jim and Peter monitored and surveyed two more caves in the Wilderness.

September 28, 2023:

Jim, Julie, and Peter monitored several more caves, surveying one, and discovering a gate problem during a routine cave gate check.

September 29, 2023:

Jim and Peter continued surveying in Amphitheatre Cave in the Wilderness.

September 30, 2023:

Jim, Julie, and Peter finished up their week's work by revisiting one cave to remove the remains of a campsite. Camping in caves is not allowed and the presence of a rat-eaten foam bed is evidence that not everyone is paying attention.

October 24, 2023:

Mick Sutton participated in an interagency conference on bat monitoring for the upcoming year. Mick pushed CRF Ozark's position that monitoring is done too often on the same caves to the exclusion of other potential sites.

November 11, 2023:

Marissa Schorr led a contingent to Onyx Cave in Pulaski for a long-delayed monitoring trip. Despite best efforts over years, wintering bats have not repopulated the cave to any degree. Then again, an actual winter might be required.

November 13, 2023:

Dennis Novicky and a FS employee made an emergency fix on a gate in the Irish Wilderness. Further repairs will be needed but are problematic with wilderness rules.

November 14, 2023:

Matt Beeson and Andrew Erickson finished the survey of Mosquito Squadron Pit in Barry County, Cassville district. The cave ends up at least 100 feet below the hollow outside.

November 23, 2023:

Jim Cooley, Andrew Erickson, and Nathan Taylor took FS biologist Andy Radomski into several caves in the Irish Wilderness for monitoring. This started a few more days of survey, monitoring, and ridgewalking while camping out.

November 24, 2023:

Jim and crew continued work in the Irish. A survey in one cave was terminated after the discovery of several *Myotis* bats in hibernation.

November 25, 2023:

The crew continued work in the Irish, finishing the map of one cave and monitoring others.

December 3, 2023:

Craig Williams led a crew of caver archaeologists to some likely sites in the Paddy Creek Wilderness, Texas County, Houston District. They inventoried two that they found, without being able to relocate the third. In addition to Craig, Michael Schoenewies, Jessie Schoenewies,

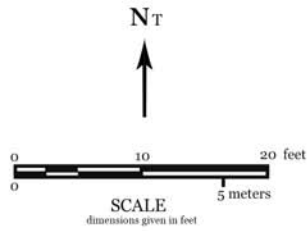
Two Story Spring Cave

Buffalo National River
Newton County, Arkansas

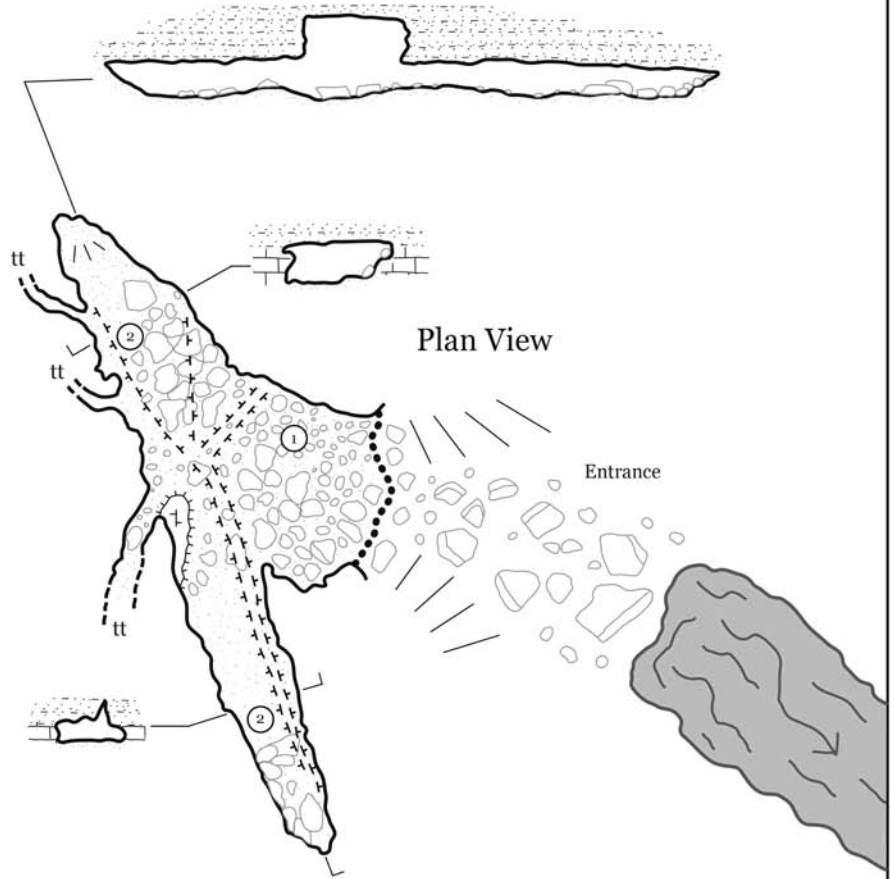
C-159

Surveyed December 21, 2018,
By Dillon Freiburger, Luke Zellner
and Aaron Thompson
Cave Research Foundation
Leica DistoX2

Survey length 64ft/19.5m
Cartography by Dillon Freiburger, 2023
Host Rock: Ordovician Everton



Profile

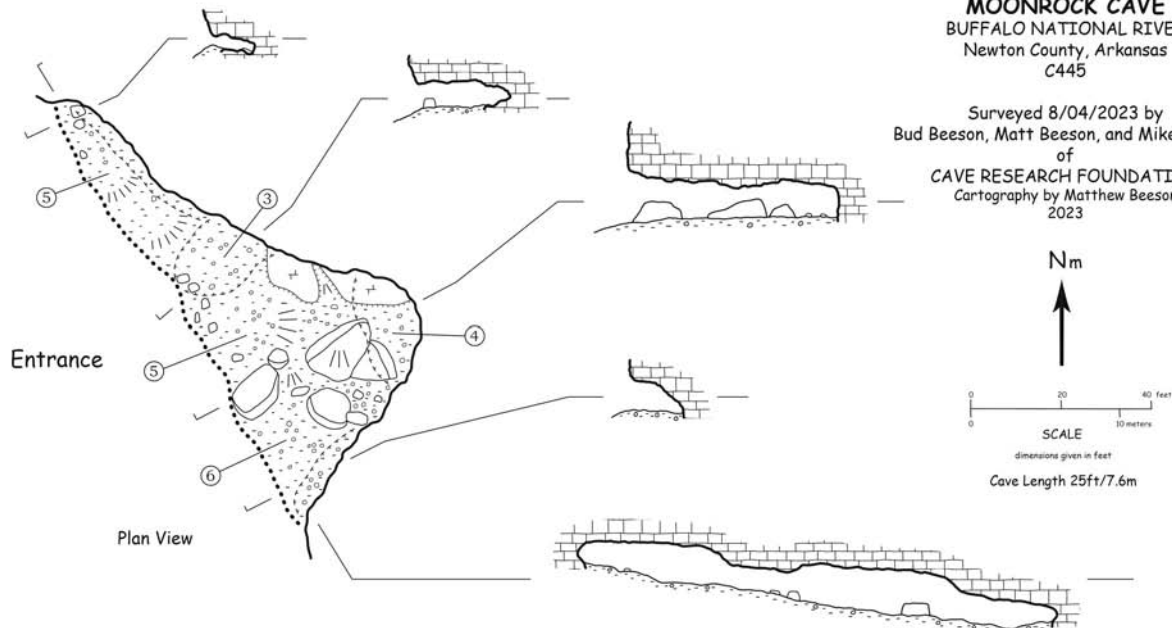


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MOONROCK CAVE

BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER
Newton County, Arkansas
C445

Surveyed 8/04/2023 by
Bud Beeson, Matt Beeson, and Mike Beeson
of
CAVE RESEARCH FOUNDATION
Cartography by Matthew Beeson
2023



(c) 2023 Cave Research Foundation

ies, Kat Krydynski, Bre Henderson, Chase Barber, and Amber Clarkson made up the team.

December 4, 2023:

Kirsten Alvey began a week of work by taking Kevin Tarbet to monitor several caves in the Eleven Point District, Oregon County. Owing to GPS difficulties, they did miss their primary target but vow to return this winter (always bring a compass and map, part 1).

December 9, 2023:

While enjoying a bike ride, Chad McCain monitored the entrance of a small cave on the Potosi District in Washington County.

December 16, 2023:

Jim Ruedin, Alicia Wallace, and Mike Wallace monitored three caves near Whitten Landing in Oregon County, Eleven Point District. Elsewhere in the same drainage, Mick Sutton, Sue Hagan, and Megan Harder had worse luck, having a non-functioning GPS keeping them from finding their target (always bring a compass and map, part 2).

L-A-D FOUNDATION

CRF works with L-A-D Foundation and their wholly-owned arm, Pioneer Forest, to help manage caves on their lands.

October 21, 2023:

Survey was done in Salamander Cave, Shannon County by teams consisting of Tony Schmitt, Joe Sikorski, Nathan Curran, Dan Lamping, Ben Miller, Bob Lerch, Isaac Smith, and Jen Sutherland. The cave is now over 4400 feet long.

December 16, 2023:

Dan Lamping, Tony Schmitt, Korey Hart, and Scott House relocated and started a survey of two caves exceedingly remote in the Blair Creek drainage. These are fascinating caves, formed in initial-dip sediments lying up against a Precambrian knob. (Note to self: use the tape for sketching.)

MISSOURI DEPT. OF CONSERVATION

CRF and MSS work under unfunded permits to collect survey data on MDC lands. Ancillary support comes from CRF and cooperating federal agencies.

November 27, 2023:

Ken Grush and Sam Grush attempted the inventory and survey of several caves in Franklin County, but were stymied by unusable routes down to the caves.

December 2, 2023:

Matt Beeson put together several teams to continue the survey of Mary Lawson Cave in Laclede County. In addition to Matt, crews consisted of Sarah Peterson, Joe Sikorski, Nathan

Curran, Nathan Burton, Marissa Schorr, Jessie Shew, Krista Bartel, Kirsten Alvey, Dennis Novicky, Kohl Mitchell, Skyler Vaughn, and Treavor Bussard. Thought to be almost finished, the four teams mapped over 1300 feet and found a major unknown passage estimated to be several hundred feet long at a minimum.

December 5, 2023:

See above for trip along the upper Jacks Fork River.

December 7, 2023:

Kirsten Alvey, Kevin Tarbet and Keith Thompson monitored two caves on MDC land near Jerktail Landing.

December 12, 2023:

See above for a trip near Alley Spring.

December 13, 2023:

Scott House and Kevin Tarbet took MDC biologists to two caves north of Van Buren. These are bat caves on MDC property but within the boundaries of Ozark Riverways.

MISSOURI DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

CRF and MSS work under a permit to collect survey data on MODOT rights-of-way.

October 15, 2023:

Karama Christofferson, James Watkins and Carl Watkins monitored one known cave while finding and monitoring another cave, all on Missouri Department of Transportation (MODOT) land along a highway in Jefferson County.

November 4, 2023:

Kohl Mitchell, JJ Huesling, and Jack Rufenner mapped and inventoried two MODOT caves, one in Pike County and the other in neighboring Lincoln County. Maps are already done.

December 9, 2023:

Karama Christofferson, James Watkins and Carl Watkins monitored another roadcut cave on MODOT right of way in Jefferson County. They found a fair amount of life in the cave despite it being December.

Ozarks: Next page, clockwise from upper left:

Claty Barnett, Aaron Thompson, Dillon Freiburger, Kayla Sapkota, Treavor Bussard, and Jessica Shew get ready to map a wet cave. a selfie; Kayla Sapkota, Aaron Thompson, and Claty Barnett at War Eagle Spring Cave. Photo by Kayla Sapkota; Matt Beeson ready to rappel into a cave in the Springfield area to look for Ozark cavefish. Photo by Nathan Burton; Looking out the entrance of Clark Creek Cave #1. Photo by Nathan Burton; Shelby Proctor looks out over the Jacks Fork River. Photo by Chad McCain.



ELSEWHERE

This includes trips done on US Army Corps of Engineers lands and private lands. Some of this work is funded and some is not. Some of the protection efforts may be funded by CRF, MO Dept. of Transportation and other sources.

September 16, 2023:

Scott House led a nostalgic carbide-only trip into Berome Moore Cave. Participants included Tony and Mary Banta Schmitt, Lawrence Ireland, and Alex Litsch.

November 5, 2023:

Mark Brooks and a friend visited privately-owned Blue River Cave in Howell County to continue the survey of the cave.

December 2, 2023:

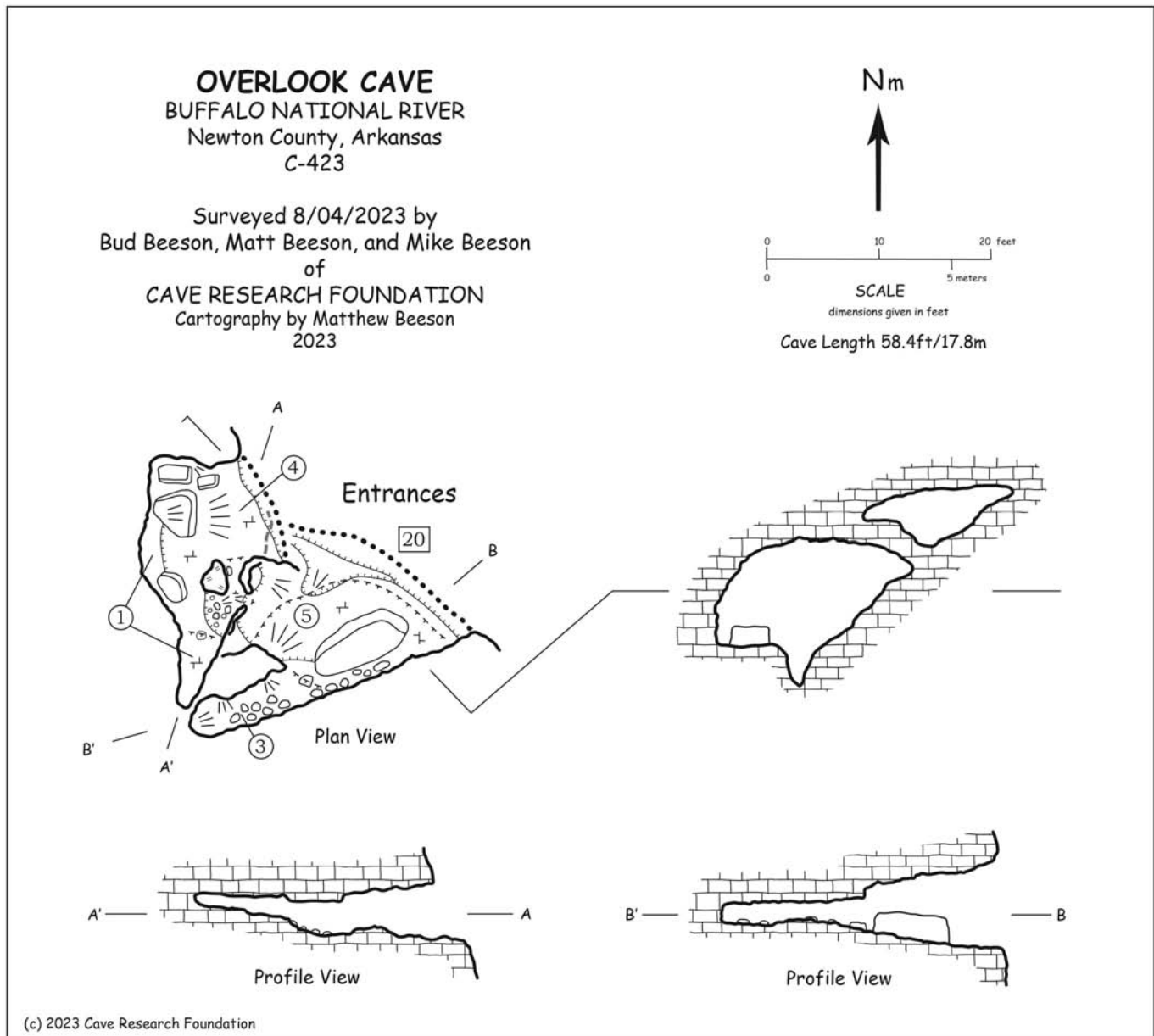
Mark Brooks, Heidi Asselmeier, and Brian Biggs pushed leads in the far upstream reaches

of Berome Moore Cave trying to effect a connection with another nearby cave.

Across the state from the Mary Lawson trip the same day, Dan Lamping led a large contingent into Nameless Cave, Crawford County, to continue the survey of this large cave. Crews were made up of Dan, Shawn Williams, Garrett Bell, Ben Geisert, Chad McCain, Logan Dowd, Melissa Meyer, Ben Miller, Jeff Fennell, Michael Freeman, Rita Worden, Bob Lerch, Jen Sutherland, Isaac Smith, and Rick Haley. The four teams added 2800 feet of survey.

December 15, 2023:

At the request of a couple of agencies, Matt Beeson and Nathan Burton visited a cave in Springfield MO on a tract of land about to be developed. Despite records of rare species, the duo found the cave almost devoid of life, perhaps a victim of poor water quality.





Ozarks, clockwise from upper left: *Claty Barnett, Aaron Thompson, and Mike Slay leave the trail-head to do bio-inventories. Selfie photo by Claty Barnett; Kevin Tarbet in an Ozark cave. Photo by Kirsten Alvey; Logan Dowd sketching in Big Rock Bluff Cave. Photo by Chad McCain; MDC biologist Katherine Bouska in a Texas County cave. Photo by Kirsten Alvey; Heidi Asselmeier in Berome Moore Cave. Photo by Mark Brooks.*

Mammoth Cave: October Expedition, October 6-9, 2023

By: Mary Schubert, Expedition Leader

This year's October expedition was relatively small. Family obligations and health issues prevented some folks from participating. Eleven participants ultimately attended.

On Saturday, 10 cavers, four teams, went into the field. One team of three cavers went to Great Onyx cave where there was a potential, previously unknown, lead. As it turned out, the first possible lead turned out to not be. However, further investigation down passage revealed a high ceiling lead that might be just right for another team on another day.

A team of four cavers went deep into New Discovery to resurvey the 'A' survey. Not only did they complete over 409.4 feet of resurvey but also completed 285.3 feet of new survey.

Two cavers headed through the woods to Natural Tunnel Cave in the hope of breaking through the debris plug at the entrance to search for the existence of 300 million year old shark fossils. They came so close, achieving over 19 feet down towards the entrance but progress was impeded by a large rock. They have already devised a plan to tackle that rock on a future trip.

One caver went ridge walking in hopes of finding some lesser caves that thus far have been elusive. There is no evidence of caves in the areas which were supposed to be there as indicated on an old data map.

On Sunday, two teams, eight cavers, went into the field. A team of five cavers went into Crystal Cave to survey what they believed to be Frenchman's Pit. Frenchman's Pit is a manmade pit, dug out in the hopes of getting to a lower level more easily. This pit the team went to was indeed a manmade pit, dug out in the hopes of an easier route to a lower level. It just wasn't "THE" Frenchman's Pit that the cartographer had wanted surveyed. However, this trip was a success in so many ways. Rick Olson thought up a way to measure the pit without putting anyone in danger. Because the pit was manmade and dug through mud, it was very likely to have unstable walls so sending someone down on rope could have proved very risky. Therefore, Rick went home and got his fishing pole, added some flagging tape and a laser target. They were able to drop the line to the bottom, with someone attached to a safety line leaning over

just enough, so that using a Disto-X she could see the bottom and read the dimensions. In addition to accomplishing the goal of surveying this pit, they observed an area in the cave that contains some 300 million-year-old shark fossils. This will be a great place for future parties to go for continued support of the Park's paleontological investigation.

A second team of three cavers entered Mammoth Cave through the Carmichael entrance. The goal was to continue resurvey beyond Jenny's Ice Box with hopes of getting some new survey as well. After a tiring trip they returned with 254.9 feet of resurvey and 209.7 feet of new survey.

A total of 1037.3 feet of cave was surveyed, of which 541.0 feet was new survey and 664.3 was resurvey. This expedition's activity equated to 128.9 volunteer hours.

Chuck Schubert served as camp manager, and we were all well fed!

Trips:

Bill Koerschner, James Wells, Laura Lexander, and Mike Conover went to New Discovery.

Dave West, Karen Willmes, and Joy Wilson went to Great Onyx.

Rick Olson and Tomislav Gracanin went to Natural Tunnel cave.

Bill Copeland went ridge-walking in Taylor Coates Holler.

Bill Koerschner, Mike Conover, and Joy Wilson went into Mammoth Cave, Carmichael entrance.

Rick Olson, James Wells, Laura Lexander, Bill Copeland, and Tomislav Gracanin went into Crystal Cave.

Attendees:

Mary Schubert - EL
 Chuck Schubert - CM
 Laura Lexander
 Karen Willmes
 Dave West
 Bill Koerschner
 Joy Wilson
 Tomislav Gracanin
 Rick Olson
 Bill Copeland
 James Wells
 Mike Conover



Mammoth Cave, clockwise from upper left: Tomislav Gracanin, James Wells, Rick Olson, and Bill Copeland outside Floyd Collins' home with the repurposed fishing pole-measuring device; James Wells, Bill Koerschner, and Mike Conover surveying in New Discovery; James Wells and Bill Koerschner surveying in New Discovery; Gypsum Flower in a passage from the New Discovery entrance. Photos by Laura Lexander.