

**MINUTES OF THE
KANSAS CITY AREA GROTTO
APRIL 2019 BUSINESS MEETING
HELD TUESDAY, APRIL 16TH, 2019 – 6:30 P.M. TO 8:30 P.M.
ANITA B. GORMAN CONSERVATION DISCOVERY CENTER
4750 TROOST AVE, KCMO 64110**

The meeting was called to order by President Pic Walenta. The following members and guests were present: Melodie Armstrong, Jeff Bowman, Tierney Bowman, Kirsten Colston, Seth Colston, Jaclyn Dalby, Heidi Fletcher, David Foran, Bill Gee, Cliff Gill, Tom Grant, DJ Hall, Kay Hines, Rick Hines, Eddie Jackson, Laura Jaynes, Gary Johnson, Amelia Niles, Shannon Robinson, Pic Walenta, Joe Wynne, Terri Wynne, and Houmin Zhong.

Presentation: Dr. Tom Grant—The Rise and Fall of the Dinosaurs

Tom Grant gave a wonderful presentation sharing on paleontology, when and how dinosaurs rose and fell, some of his fieldwork, and stories.

While not necessarily cave related, there is some synergy between Speleology and Paleontology. There's the thrill of discovery, maybe finding something new, importance of stratigraphy, etc. There is also a difference between archeology and paleontology; archeology is the study of ancient cultures; paleontology is the study of extinct species.

Paleontology got a slow start; the concept of extinction was not exactly known. Mary Anning was a pioneer paleontologist. At age 12 she discovered significant fossils; scientists dismissed it. In 1823 she discovered a complete Plesiosaurus skeleton. The public loved it, but science was skeptical and called her a fraud. Many scientists published descriptions of fossils they purchased from her but neglected to give her recognition. A well-known tongue twister poem is derived from her: *she sells sea shells by the sea shore*.

The fossil record has grown immensely. When Tom was born, only about 100 dinosaur species were on record. Now there are over 900, a new species is found every week. There is a fossil wealth in China.

The general public might define a dinosaur as a big scaly lizard that went extinct millions of years ago; the scientific definition is a land-dwelling descendant of the archosaurs. Dinosaurs were endotherms (warm blooded), quite intelligent, had good eyesight (contrary to Jurassic Park's depiction), grew up fast, many had fur or feathers, many were colored, and they didn't all go extinct (crocodiles are still with us!).

How do you find a dinosaur fossil? They are in sedimentary rock of the Mesozoic era, formed under the right conditions. Stratigraphy is important— certain layers are known to have fossils. Look for float and follow it to the origin, then dig. Fossilization is a chemical process. Bone must be replaced with minerals and essentially become rock.

Tom distributed copies of the USGS geologic timescale and explained when dinosaurs were present: in the Mesozoic Era. The Mesozoic Era contains the Cretaceous, Jurassic, and Triassic periods. Dinosaurs rose because of extinction, and fell because of extinction. There are 5 major extinctions in earth's history, in the Permian Extinction, most (90%) plants, marine, and

land animals were wiped out, but the dinosaurs made it through. During the Triassic, dinosaurs were small, there wasn't a lot of food. Dinosaurs get BIG in the Jurassic, there was more food and vegetation.

In the Cretaceous, dinosaurs get enormous. The Hell Creek formation is an intensely studied Cretaceous dinosaur fossil site. The day the dinosaurs died... the Cretaceous extinction event (KT/KPG boundary, found all over the world) —the end? Chicxulub Crater on the edge of the Yucatan. Nothing greater than 50 pounds made it through. Modern birds are descendants of dinosaurs. Mammals were around during the dinosaur's reign too but laid low and could thrive once asteroid wiped out big things. Crocodiles continued on thanks largely to their shallow water hunting technique.

Tom brought tools he uses on digs. The tools get more delicate the closer to the bones you get, the bones are quite fragile and will sometimes disintegrate and fall apart if not careful. A common practice is to dig around a bone or bones to a certain point, then jacket it in plaster and take it to the lab to continue working on it. Tom showed picture examples of bones and teeth he has discovered on digs. Big bones are exciting, but difficult to process (harder to jacket and transport). Only one dinosaur has been found in Kansas (Western KS), a plant eater.

Tom works closely with KU and looks forward to another dig this summer. He highly recommends visiting the KU Natural History Museum, there are many neat things to see there.

Officer Reports

President: Pic Walenta brought a few pairs of gloves back from her last trip to Mammoth, they were free to anyone who needed them.

Vice President: Jeff Bowman shared that he had a blast at the rappelling event the previous weekend.

Secretary: Laura Jaynes emailed out the March minutes; there were no objections and a motion was made and passed to accept them.

Treasurer: Bill Gee shared the treasurers report, summarized below. If you have not paid your dues, you can pay via cash or check, or with PayPal through our website.

March beginning balance = \$3386.47 (Commerce Bank)

Activity:

Deposit = \$97.00

Blank checks = \$0.00

Bank fee = \$5.00

Nicole Ridlen - MSS expenses = \$50.00

March ending balance = \$3428.47

Jim Cooley - 2019 Dues = \$15.00

Nicole Ridlen - 2019 Dues = \$15.00

Kristen Godfrey = \$22.50

DJ Hall = \$15.00

Donation for batteries = \$25.00

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March beginning balance = \$113.84 (PayPal)

PayPal fees = \$0.00

End balance = \$113.84

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March beginning balance = \$42.00 (petty cash)

March ending balance = \$42.00

Quartermaster: Same as last reported.

Fundraising: Contact Pic at picwalenta@aol.com for more information. T-shirts, coffee mugs, beanies and patches are available for purchase.

Presentations: Anyone interested in giving a meeting presentation or have a topic idea, let Pic know. We have exciting things in the works. Please see Upcoming Events for scheduled presentations and future meetings.

Carroll Cave Conservancy (CCC): Rick Hines shared about the most recent work day and the new ascenders that were received due to a recall. He also mentioned the CCC is not going to fence their six acres, and plan to put the access road on different property than where the easement is. Rick also shared that Tom Aley invited him an event at the Ozark Underground lab to celebrate the land donation; this will be on April 26th/27th, others are welcome, contact Rick. Keep an eye out for work weekend opportunities, contact Rick Hines at rickhines@aol.com for more information or visit www.carrollcave.org to stay up to date.

Missouri Speleological Survey (MSS) & Missouri Caves and Karst Conservancy (MCKC): The next MSS meeting will be May 5th at Ozark Underground Laboratory in Protem, MO. MSS newsletters (i.e., "The Liaison") are available at <https://www.mospeleo.org/newsletter>. Contact Nicole Ridlen at nicoleridlen@gmail.com for more information.

Novice and Scout trips: See Trip Reports. There is a scout trip to Cleveland Cave scheduled for August 17th.

Hickory County: Gary Johnson had no new updates; he considers the project nearly done.

Cloud 9: Lee Krout not present. Bill Gee mentioned there will be a QC trip the weekend of April 27th.

Stark Caverns Survey Project: See Trip Report, contact Bill Gee for additional information bgee@campercaver.net.

Old Spanish Cave Restoration Project: See Trip Report, for more info contact Pic Walenta picwalenta@aol.com.

Cave Spring Park Association: Pic Walenta shared that they are talking of establishing the simulated cave off-site from the park, thinking more space may be required.

White Nose Syndrome: See <https://caves.org/WNS/> for the most current map of WNS's reach.

MVOR Sponsorship: KCAG will be sponsoring MVOR in Fall of 2020, in conjunction with Missouri Bat Census. Location will be Noel, MO with numerous privately-owned caves and the commercial Bluff Dweller's Cave. Volunteers for committees are needed. For more information, contact Pic Walenta, picwalenta@aol.com.

New Membership Nominations: Shannon Robinson and Houmin Zhong have met the 3-trip requirement and were nominated and voted into Grotto membership. Welcome Hou and Shannon!

MeetUp: This is a great tool for organizing and communicating trips, and we have gained a lot of interest through this platform. DJ Hall has run multiple trips using it, with great success!

Trip Reports and Other News

Stark Caverns: Bill Gee shared about the March 30th survey trip; they are now up to 904 feet. Most of the tourist section is surveyed. The next trip will be Thursday May 9th.

Old Spanish Cave: Pic Walenta reported that the recent restoration trip went well, the team achieved the objective of removing x-rated graffiti from the walls. It was a very muddy trip. They camped in the former gift shop parking lot, there was torrential rain, high wind, and freezing cold... they bailed and went to the home of one of Pic's friends. Jeff Bowman shared that they collected three big bags of trash and removed an old coke machine.

Taste of the Wild/Rappel Refresher: Many expressed what a great time this event was. We had 28 rappellers, 38 campers, the weather cooperated magnificently. There was a bunny slope, intermediate, advanced, and super advanced slopes.

Houmin Zhong shared about the recent **Carroll Cave** photo trip down Thunder River.

DJ Hall had a good novice MeetUp trip to **Cleveland Cave** on March 16.

DJ Hall also recently held a pre-cave knowledge session for **Perkins**.

DJ Hall did six cave dives in **Florida** the week prior to the meeting.

Carroll Cave: See committee report.

New Business:

Kieswetter Cave has been added to MCKC.

CaveSim: A motion was made and passed to donate \$100 to CaveSim to support them going to NSS Convention and their educational efforts.

Unfinished Business:

Grant Money: Pic wants to get the Grotto some Disto X2's, there might be opportunities for grant money to help with this.

Brochure: This will be updated and ready for the next meeting.

Pic Walenta verified there was no further unfinished business. The meeting adjourned, whereupon members repaired to Minsky's Pizza, 5105 Main Street, KCMO, for great food and even better company.

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UPCOMING TRIPS & EVENTS

If you have trips you would like to add, ideas for trips that you would like to organize, please contact Pic Walenta at picwalenta@aol.com or (816)665-5588.

April 21st - 23rd - Bio-Inventory Expeditions
McDonald County, Noel, MO. area
Count critters with MOBat Census
Camp at River Ranch
Contact Kirsten Alvey-Mudd at cavechef@gmail.com

May 4th - 5th -- Spring MSS Meeting
Ozark Underground Lab
1572 Aley Ln. Protem, MO.
Saturday - Resurvey Tumbling Creek Cave Survey
Sunday - Board meeting, camping available
If interested contact Nicole Ridlen at nicoleridlen@gmail.com

May 9th - Stark Caverns Survey Trip
Eldon, MO.
If interested contact Bill Gee at bgee@campercaver.net

May 11th - NCRC
Cave Rescue Operations and Management Seminar
Camp Riverdale, Mitchell, Indiana
If interested visit, www.ncrc.into

May 17th - CRF Survey Buffalo National River
Upper District of Buffalo National River

Focus on survey and bio-inventory
If interested contact Kayla Sapkota at kayla.sapkota@gmail.com

May 18th - CCC, Carroll Cave Conservancy Open House
Montreal Fire Station
Camdenton, MO.
If interested contact Rick Hines at rickhines@aol.com

May 21st - KCAG Monthly Meeting
Earthquakes and Caves, Lava Bed National Monument
Presenter - John Tinsley, USGS Geologist
6:30 PM Anita B. Gorman Building
4750 Troost Ave. KC MO. 64110

May 24th - 27th -- Memorial Day, Mammoth Cave Expeditions
CRF Eastern Operations Expedition
180 Hamilton Valley Rd. Cave City, Kentucky
Survey and Bio trips
9-hour drive - camping and bunk houses
Hosted by a past KCAGer, Heather Levy, Camp Manager, Pic Walenta
Must be a CRF member to attend. to join CRF - <http://www.cave-research.org/MembershipInfo.php>
If interested contact Pic Walenta 816-665-5588, picwalenta@aol.com
or Heather Levy, levy_h@yahoo.com

May 24th - 27th - Speleofest
Lonestar Preserve, Booneville, Kentucky
49th Caving Event
Includes Caves, kayaking, Mammoth National Park, vendors, banquets, bon-fire
Kids are welcome
If interested <http://louisville.caves.org/speleoregistration.shtml>

June 1st -- Over the Edge Event
Rappelling Fund Raiser
Lawrence, KS.
If interested contact Bill Gee, bgee@campercaver.net

June 5th - Cleveland Cave and Rappel
Help needed to manage 20-25 girls caving and rappelling
If you can give a hand, contact Heidi Fletcher at heidi_a_fletcher@yahoo.com

June 6th - June 7th - Bruce Archambault's Mill Creek Campout
Camp in a cave, with Bruce and his two grandsons at Jesse James Camp
Bio-inventory of Cascade Caverns
Room for two caver/campers
If interested contact Bruce Archambault, brucearchambault@juno.com

June 7th - 9th -- Spring/Summer MVOR

Hosted by Club 69

Turtle Ranch, Edgehill, MO.

5.5-hour drive from KC

More details to follow

June 17th - 21st -- NSS Convention 2019

Cookeville, TN.

Cookeville is the centroid of Tennessee's 10,000+ cave locations

If interested, registration and more information can be found -- <http://nss2019.subworks.com>

June 29th - KCAG Annual Picnic

A fun gathering at the home of Rick and Kay Hines

Bring a side dish, meat provided, bon-fire

RSVP to Rick Hines, rickhines@aol.com

June 28 and 29th -- Bluff Dwellers Cave, Bat Academy

McDonald County Noel, MO. 10:30 AM

MOBat Census will be teaching you everything you need to know about a bat and more

If interested contact Nicole Ridlen, cavingsiberians@yahoo.com

June 28th - July 7th - Independence Day Mammoth Cave Expedition

CRF Eastern Operations, Hamilton Valley Research Center

9-hour drive, Bunk house and meals provided

Must be a CRF member to attend. to join CRF - <http://www.cave-research.org/MembershipInfo.php>

If interested contact Dave West, d270@bellatlantic.net

June 29th -- Over the Edge Event

Rappelling Fund Raiser

Arrowhead Stadium, Kansas City, MO.

If interested contact Bill Gee, bgee@campercaver.net

June 29th - 30th -- Wilderness First Aid

Shawnee Mission Medical Center - Fee attached

Sierra Club Event

Instructor Tom Burroughs, Julie Greene Coordinator

If you're interested, mark your calendar. There will be a flyer soon.

July 6th - Carroll Cave Data Logger Trip

Fairly easy, good trip for first time cavers

5 to 6 hours

If interested contact Bill Gee, bgee@campercaver.net

July 12th -- Bluff Dwellers Cave, Cavern Tavern Event

Noel, MO. McDonald County 6 to 9 PM

Tour Bluff Dwellers Cave and learn how caves have been used historically to brew beer

At end of tour, Indian Springs Brewing Co, will be serving up their beers
If interested contact Nicole Ridlen, cavingsiberians@yahoo.com

July 19th -- Bluff Dwellers Cave, Cavern Taverns Event
Noel, MO. McDonald County 6 to 9 PM
Tour Bluff Dwellers Cave and learn about how caves have been used historically to brew beer.
At the end of the tour, Whistling Springs Brewing Co. will be serving up their beers
If interested contact Nicole Ridlen, cavingsiberians@yahoo.com

July 26th -- Bluff Dwellers Cave, Cavern Taverns Event
Noel, MO. McDonald County, 6 to 9 PM
Tour Bluff Dwellers Cave and learn how caves have been used historically to brew beer
At the end of tour, Flag City Brewing Co. will be serving up their beers
If interested contact Nicole Ridlen, cavingsiberians@yahoo.com

July 27th - Carroll Cave Conservancy Annual Meeting
Meeting held at Mid-County Fire Protection District Station
Camdenton, MO.
If interested contact Rick Hines, rickhines@aol.com

July 26th - 28th - CRF Mark Jones Oklahoma Survey Expedition
Gittin Down Mountain in Adair County
Cabin Camping on site, space is limited
If interested contact Mark Jones, speoleok9@gmail.com or Kayla Sapkota at
kayla.sapkota@gmail.com

August 1st - 5th -- Rick Hines Ennis Cave Photo Trip
Including a trip to Blanchard Spring Commercial Cave
Stone County, Arkansas about 13 miles east of Mountain View
5.5-hour drive
Camping at the cave provided, communal meals optional
Come for all or part of the trip
If interested contact Pic Walenta at picwalenta@aol.com, 816-665-5588
or Rick Hines, rickhines@aol.com, 913-710-1063

August 2nd - 4th - Iowa Grotto Annual Picnic
Details to follow
If interested contact Pic Walenta, picwalenta@aol.com, 816-665-5588

August 17th -- Cleveland Cave Scout Novice Trip
Troop #1323, Lee's Summit
DJ Hall could use help leading this trip

If interested contact DJ Hall at dj.hall@rangerdj.com

August 30th - September 2nd - Labor Day Weekend, Mammoth Cave Expedition
CRF Eastern Division, Hamilton Valley Research Center

9-hour drive, Bunk house and meals provided

Missouri Cavers will have good showing

Must be a CRF member to attend. to join CRF - <http://www.cave-research.org/MembershipInfo.php>

If interested contact Bob Osborn, osburn@levee.wust.edu

September 28th - "See the Best of Carroll Cave"

Thunder Falls, Carroll Passage, Angel Pool Passage

Open to the Public, liability release and be able to climb a 100' ladder

If interested contact Rick Hines, rickhines@aol.com

September 14th -- Over the Edge Event

Rappelling Fund Raiser

St. Joseph, MO.

If interested contact Bill Gee, bgee@campercaver.net

October 7th - 11th - National Cave and Karst Management Symposium

Bristol, Virginia

Interested in cave and karst management

Variety of registrations available

If interested see their website at <https://www.sinkingcreekpottery.com/>

October 11th - 13th -- Fall MVOR

Perry County Fairgrounds

Attenberg, MO.

More details to follow

October 26th - Carroll Cave Bat Census Trip

Wet suit recommended

Difficult, 10 hours in cave

If interested contact Bill Gee, bgee@campercaver.net

Fall 2020 - MVOR

Hosted by KCAG and Missouri Bat Census

Noel, MO.

If interested on serving on a committee, contact Pic Walenta, 816-665-5588, picwalenta@aol.com

Still working on:

Back Packing/Ridge Walk -- Piney Creek Wilderness with members of Batl Grotto

Ozark Underground Laboratories Trip

Float/Cave Monitoring Big Piney River

Three Creeks Conservation Return Ridge Walk

McDonald County, Noel, MO. Survey Trips with Nicole Ridlen
Stark Caverns Camp in the Cave
Co-Sponsored Wander-Woman Events
Co-Sponsored Sierra Club Expeditions