

**MINUTES OF THE
KANSAS CITY AREA GROTTO
MAY, 2017 BUSINESS MEETING
HELD WEDNESDAY, MAY 10TH, 2017 – 7:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.
ARTHUR MAG CONFERENCE CENTER – 4920 CHERRY ST, KCMO**

President Jack Peters called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and welcomed members and guests. The following members were present: Josh Bookout, Jim Cooley, Jaclyn Dalby, Bill Gee, Rick Hines, Laura Jaynes, John McGuire, and Jack Peters. Guests present: David Ashley, Sharon Ashley, Alex Buzicky, Jennifer Raff, and Zachary Schmidt.

Presentation: Dr. David Ashley, professor of biology at Missouri Western State University, gave a wonderful guest presentation surrounding the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Some topics encompassed were: reasons for the loss of a species, differentiating terms such as threatened, endangered, or extirpated, and the various species listed as endangered or threatened in Missouri, including cave species. He also spoke on the process for formally listing endangered and threatened species, recovery process, and the differences in state vs. global listings. Dr. Ashley has specific experience working in Tumbling Creek Cave, where the Tumbling Creek Cave Snail resides.

Officer reports: President Jack Peters and Vice-President Bill Gee had nothing to report in their capacities as officers.

Secretary Laura Jaynes had sent out April's meeting minutes via email. There were no objections; a motion was made and passed to accept the minutes.

Treasurer: Pic Walenta was absent, but sent in a report of \$1006.50 in the treasury.

Carroll Cave Conservancy: No new news; Rick Hines' trip with the Smithsonian Gem & Mineral Collection people will be in June.

MSS and MCKC: The MSS meeting Sunday, May 21st, at Onondaga Cave State Park. Ken Grush sent out an email that evening sharing that he, Jim Cooley, and five other MSS contributors were awarded the Lang Brod Certificate of Recognition.

Novice and Scout trips: Look for a reschedule of Breakdown cave.

White Nose Syndrome: It's everywhere. See <http://www.caves.org/WNS/index.htm>.

Trip Reports:

April 15th Carrol Cave eDNA sampling trip: Bill Gee reported it went well, as expected. Another trip was set to take place on May 13th.

Jim Cooley reported that the gating project at Butler Hollow, scheduled for April 27h-May 5th, was rained out, and postponed. Extensive, never-before-seen flooding in southern Missouri caused extensive damage that weekend, including wiping out the Powder Mill Research Center, which went under about 12 feet of water when the Current River reached a crest 15 feet higher than any previous recorded crest. Fortunately, Cooley had most of the gating gear in Cassville, on the CRF trailer.

May 6th: Jaclyn and Jim took a group to J.C. Nicolas Mine near Banister Rd, went very well.

Jack Peters verified there was no further old or new business. The meeting adjourned, whereupon members and visitors repaired to Minsky's Pizza, 5105 Main Street, KCMO, for speleofellowship, libations and cheesy comestibles.

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UPCOMING TRIPS

May 15-24, 2017: Cave gating at Valles Mines, near St. Louis. Contact Cooley (816)753-8111 or coolstoi@kc.rr.com if interested.

May 20th: Scout Trip to Cleveland Cave, located in Monegaw Springs (St. Clair County, two hours from Kansas City), led by Jack Peters, Troop 323. Need help, will be repelling. Contact Jack Peters at (913)669-7179 or jack@peters2000.com.

June 19-23, 2017: NSS Convention in Rio Rancho, New Mexico (very near Albuquerque, NM). Visit <http://nss2017.caves.org/> for more information.

June 24th: KCAG Picnic at Rick Hines' house.

July 5-14, 2017: We will probably attempt to reschedule the Butler Hollow gating project for this time frame. Contact Cooley (816) 753-8111 or coolstoi@kc.rr.com if interested.

September 7th-16th, 2017: Tear out two substandard cave gates and buld two cave gates at Meramec Caverns, a privately owned show cave in Stanton, Missouri. Contact Cooley (816)753-8111 or coolstoi@kc.rr.com if interested.

September 22-24, 2017: Fall MVOR at Green's Canoe Rental in Steelville, MO.

October 20-22, 2017: MORE cave gating at Valles Mines, near St. Louis. Contact Cooley (816)753-8111 or coolstoi@kc.rr.com if interested.

November, 2017: Fence-style cave gating project, Butler Hollow, Barry County. Contact Cooley (816)753-8111 or coolstoi@kc.rr.com if interested.