



## Minutes of the Kansas City Area Grotto June 2021 Business Meeting

Tuesday, June 15, 2021 – 6:00 to 7:00 P.M.

Meeting Held inside the auditorium at Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center, a Missouri Department of Conservation facility at 4750 Troost, Kansas City, and via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by president Seth Colston. The following members and guests were present: Aaron, Muhammad Al-Rawi, Jeff Bowman, Seth Colston, Kirsten Colston, Jim Cooley, Julie Cottrell, Bill Gee, Kristen Godfrey, Matthew M. Hernandez, Rick Hines, Nick and Jay P. Kennedy, Jeff Page, Shawn Paxton, Melissa Shippy, Dheeray Simgiresu, and Joe and Terri Wynne.

### Officer Reports:

**President:** Seth Colston presented the 2021 Grotto T-Shirt fundraiser. Several styles and colors can be purchased online through “Bonfire”.

<https://www.bonfire.com/kcag-2021-t-shirt-fundraiser/>

**Vice President:** Jim Cooley announced there was a grey bat colony counting assessment happening in Camden County, Missouri Saturday night into Sunday morning (June 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>). There is also another counting assessment in Oregon County Missouri, Monday Night into Tuesday morning (June 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>)

**Treasurer:** Bill Gee stated that there were no major changes in May other than a \$5 bank fee and one \$15 membership dues were paid.

**Secretary:** The May meeting minutes were accepted, as filled out by Jim Cooley. Matthew M. Hernandez is filling in as secretary for this meeting.

**Quartermaster:** No updates. As always, Seth can be contacted about any equipment.

**Fundraising:** As previously mentioned, the 2021 Grotto T-Shirt fundraiser is officially live, several styles and colors can be purchased online through “Bonfire”.

<https://www.bonfire.com/kcag-2021-t-shirt-fundraiser/>

**Presentations:** Please contact Seth Colston at [swcy92@gmail.com](mailto:swcy92@gmail.com) if you are interested in giving a meeting presentation or have a topic idea. For online meetings, presentations should be in the half hour range rather than an hour long.

**The Guano:** No updates. Anyone interested in contributing a submission to the publication is encouraged to contact Julie Cottrell ([origami\\_fold@yahoo.com](mailto:origami_fold@yahoo.com)) or Seth Colston ([swcy92@gmail.com](mailto:swcy92@gmail.com)).

**MeetUp:** There have been few events on MeetUp since there have been no recent open-invitation novice trips, but Seth ([swcy92@gmail.com](mailto:swcy92@gmail.com)) can still be contacted for any trips to add to the MeetUp schedule.

**MVOR:** The next (fall) MVOR will be hosted by Kirstin Alvey-Mudd of Missouri Bat Census, tentatively to be held in McDonald County, in far southwest Missouri.

**White Nose Syndrome:** See <https://caves.org/WNS/> for the most current map of the spread of WNS.

**International Year of Caves and Karst (2021):** Contact Seth Colston if you have ideas for presentations or want to lead a trip in 2021.

## Organization Updates:

**NSS:** The 2021 NSS Convention will be held remotely from July 25th to July 30th. The list of presentations will be available ahead of time, and anyone interested can log into any meetings. There will also be an NSS in-person event in Weed, California July 25th -30<sup>th</sup>.

**Carroll Cave Conservancy:** During a previous work trip, a multitude of trees were planted around the silo and the surrounding area. There is concern about whether a few of them have started to die due to toxic substances in the ground from neighboring agricultural farming.

\*Note the upcoming annual meeting will be on the last Saturday of July(31<sup>st</sup>).

## Project Updates:

**Hickory County:** No updates. Gary Johnson was no present.

**Stark Caverns Survey Project:** On June 12<sup>th</sup>, a total of six volunteers participated in a survey trip. It has been over a year since anyone has made a trip inside.

They mainly focused their efforts in the tight areas near the “Grand Canyon” region.

It was discussed that either the third or fourth weekend of August would be another survey trip.

**Cloud 9 Ranch:** There will be quality control checks coming this fall. If you are interested, please contact Jim Cooley ([coolstoi@kc.rr.com](mailto:coolstoi@kc.rr.com))

**Devil’s Icebox:** No updates. The next trips to Devil’s Icebox will be in September.

**Geronimo Cave:** Participants surveyed on June 13<sup>th</sup>. They made quite a bit of progress!

The entrance required a water crawl. Seth did his first change over in a cave, switching from wet gear to dry gear. There will be another survey day on the 21<sup>st</sup> of August.

**New Membership Nominations:** Jennifer (Last Name Unknown)

## Trip Reports and Other News:

Seth Colston led a scout trip to Perkins Cave on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Zac Lavicky hosted a trip to Cleveland Cave on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

MSS has reduced their number of annual meetings from three to two.

MSS with the help of 20 or so participants surveyed Ozark Caverns, finding several bear beds.

**New Business:** No new business.

**Unfinished Business:** Seth Colston confirmed that there was no unfinished business, and adjourned the meeting. Participants then had pizza at Minski’s Pizza at 51<sup>st</sup> and Main.

## Upcoming Trips and Events

COVID-19 update: Check with the trip leader before you set out to attend any of these events. Many of the “stay at home” restrictions have been lifted. Restrictions or not, please make your own decision regarding your health. The caves are not going anywhere.

2021 July 10 – Carroll Cave data logger service trip.

Contact [bgee@campercaver.net](mailto:bgee@campercaver.net)

Fairly easy trip, suitable for newbies to Carroll Cave.

2021 July 11 – Carroll Cave biology and rescue cache service trip to Upper Thunder River  
Tough trip, not for newbies. Contact [bgee@campercaver.net](mailto:bgee@campercaver.net)

2021 July 25 to 30 – NSS National Convention in Weed California  
This will be a VIRTUAL convention! <http://nss2021.caves.org/>

2021 July 23 to 29 – 18th International Congress of Speleology  
Lyon, France. <http://uis2021.speleos.fr/>

2021 July 31 – Annual members meeting of Carroll Cave Conservancy.  
This will be a Zoom virtual meeting.

2021 August 4 through 8 – TAG trip. Tennessee, Alabama & Georgia -- Lots of vertical caving!  
Contact [bgee@campercaver.net](mailto:bgee@campercaver.net) or [swcy92@gmail.com](mailto:swcy92@gmail.com) We will drive on Wednesday, go caving Thu-Fri-Sat and return on Sunday. Bill has permits for Valhalla, Neversink, and South Pittsburgh Pit. Currently Seth Colston, Kristen Godfrey, Matthew M. Hernandez, Becky Nelson, and Hou Zhong are going.

**2021 August 14th – Annual Grotto Picnic at Rick & Kay Hines's house, 16525 Orchard Lane, Stilwell, KS. 3:00 pm. to midnight. Cooking starts at 5:00, bring a covered dish to share. See flyer below for details, or contact Rick Hines [rickhines@aol.com](mailto:rickhines@aol.com) Be there or be square!**

2021 Fall MVOR – To be determined.

2021 October. Date not yet determined. Cave gating project in western Camden County, Missouri.  
Contact Jim Cooley for more information.

2021 October 30 – Carroll Cave annual bat census trip to the Mountain Room  
Tough trip, wetsuit required  
Contact [bgee@campercaver.net](mailto:bgee@campercaver.net).

2022 January 8 – Carroll Cave data logger service trip  
Contact [bgee@campercaver.net](mailto:bgee@campercaver.net).

2022 – NSS National Convention in the Black Hills of South Dakota  
Probably June or July. The web site is not up yet.

2023 – NSS National Convention in Elkton, West Virginia  
This is a retry from the canceled/online 2020 event. Dates are not yet determined.