



Minutes of the Kansas City Area Grotto July 2021 Business Meeting

Tuesday, July 20, 2021 – 6:30 to 8:00 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 6:30 p.m. by Rick Hines. The following members and guests were present or on ZOOM: Kirsten Alvey-Mudd, Krista Bartel, Shelby Colatskie, Jim Cooley, Julie Cottrell, Bill Gee, Kristen Godfrey, Matthew M. Hernandez, Rick Hines, Kyle Jansky, Laura Jaynes, Jay Kennedy, Nick Kennedy, Vona Kuczynska, Jordan Meyer, Russel Myer, Jocelyn Potter, Aleana Savage, Julie Swetnam, and Hou Zhong.

Officer Reports:

President: Seth Colston's 2021 Grotto T-Shirt fundraiser raised \$210 dollars.

Vice President: Jim Cooley had no updates during this meeting.

Treasurer: Bill Gee stated that the ending balance for the month of June is \$2,686.34. Expenses were as follows: A \$5 bank fee, as well as a \$52.53 cost for stove propane.

Secretary: The June meeting minutes were accepted.
Matthew M. Hernandez had no updates during this meeting.

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

Presentations: This meeting featured a presentation on the microclimate in Lime Kiln Mine. The presenters were Vona Kuczynska and Russel Myer. Summarized below is a condensed version of the presentation.

The Lime Kiln Mine was in operation for 90 years, stopping production in 1960. In 2012 an Indiana Bat colony was discovered. The colony size as of 2019 is 180,801 bats. Which makes it the single largest hibernaculum, accounting for 34% of all Indiana Bats. Generally speaking, a man made mine is hot, this is because there is no natural airflow. In the case of Lime Kiln Mine, this is not the case. The mine features 34 gated walk-in openings, which provide unparalleled ventilation creating a unique subsurface environment. The temperature of hibernation environments for bats plays a huge role in the colony's success. Laboratory studies show that 3-6°C temperature is optimal. If it is colder, the bats will relocate and burn fat in order to stay warm. A high humidity/temperature area will promote fungal growth such as White Nose Syndrome (WNS). The objectives of the Lime Kiln mine study are as follows; Determine the mechanics of air circulation, determine depth and pathways of ambient air penetration, locate temperature reservoir areas, and identify how stable the internal temperature/humidity is. In order to solve these, they took temperatures at the entrance and on the surface of internal pillars. Additionally, they monitored the internal microclimate and bat activity. Using the data allows for the ability to predict the effects external climate events might have on the microclimate and to identify any potential vulnerabilities for the microclimate. The microclimate is still being studied. But the finding thus far shows that during winter the microclimate is highly variable due to the influx of ambient air. Also, the end of hibernation for the bats may be triggered by spring warm air airflow. There are plans to install a multitude of internally networked sensors, which will allow for further quantitative data. Which will help the study.

Please contact Seth Colston at 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) or Seth Colston (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) 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 -30th.

Carroll Cave Conservancy: The upcoming annual meeting will be on the last Saturday of July(31st).

Project Updates:

Hickory County: No updates were discussed. Gary Johnson was no present.

Stark Caverns Survey Project: Bill Gee stated there would be a survey trip on the third Saturday(21st) of August.

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

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

Geronimo Cave: No updates were discussed.

Trip Reports and Other News: No trip reports.

New Business: No new business.

Unfinished Business: No unfinished business and the meeting was adjourned. Participants then had pizza at Minsky's Pizza at 51st 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 25th – Perkins Cave Novice Trip.

Contact Kirsten Godfrey for more information. kristenegodfrey@gmail.com

2021 July 25th through 30th – NSS National Convention in Weed California

This will be a VIRTUAL convention! <http://nss2021.caves.org/>

2021 July 31st – Annual members meeting of Carroll Cave Conservancy.

This will be a Zoom virtual meeting.

2021 August 4th through 8th – TAG trip. Tennessee, Alabama & Georgia -- Lots of vertical caving!

Contact bgee@campercaver.net or 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, Bill Gee, Matthew M. Hernandez, and Becky Nelson 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 Be there or be square!

Delayed one year! – 18th International Congress of Speleology in Lyon, France. <http://uis2021.speleos.fr/>

2021 August 21st – Survey Day at Stark Caverns. Contact Bill Gee bgee@campercaver.net for more information.

2021 September 11th – Workday at Roubidoux Cave. Details at

<https://www.mocavesandkarst.org/goodwin-pit-sinkhole-cave/>

2021 September 12th – MCKC meeting. 9:00am to noon. Location is Roubidoux Cave in Pulaski

County, Missouri. Details at <https://www.mocavesandkarst.org/meetings-events-news/>

2021 Fall MVOR – To be determined. Probably October 22nd to 24th in McDonald County, Missouri.

2021 October 30th – Carroll Cave annual bat census trip to the Mountain Room

Tough trip, wetsuit required

Contact Bill Gee for more information. bgee@campercaver.net.

2022 January 8th – Carroll Cave data logger service trip

Contact Bill Gee for more information. bgee@campercaver.net.

2022 March 30th through April 10th: Cave gating project in western Camden County, Missouri. Contact Jim Cooley for more information, coolstoi@kc.rr.com.

2022 June 13th through 17th – NSS National Convention in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Central States Fairground in Rapid City, South Dakota.

2022 July 24th through 31st – 18th International Congress of Speleology.
Lyon, France. <http://uis2021.speleos.fr/>

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