



**Minutes of the Kansas City Area Grotto**  
**May 2023 Business Meeting**  
Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – 6:30 to 8:30 P.M.

Meeting held at the 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 grotto president Bill Gee. The following members and guests were also present: John McGuire, Jeff Bowman, Jim and Julie Cooley, Jackie Danger, Corey Ellis, Matthew M. Hernandez, Rick Hines, Gary Johnson, Kohl Mitchell, Dustin Schmidt, Nathan Taylor and Kristen Vogel.

**Officer Reports:**

**President:** Bill Gee started the meeting off by introducing our presenter for the meeting, John McGuire. See below for details regarding the presentation. Bill had no other updates to provide.

**Vice President:** Dustin Schmidt stated he wants to have a grotto trip to Lewis Cave (longest cave in Ripley County), the date has not been established, potentially in July or August.

**Treasurer:** Jim Cooley informed everyone that the ending balances for the month of April were \$3,972.22 (Commerce Bank), \$26.11 (PayPal), \$169.00 (Petty Cash) for a total of \$4,167.33. Commerce Bank expenses were \$19.46 to Jim Cooley to purchase a lock for Lewis Cave. Commerce Bank had no income. PayPal expenses were \$50.00 to Alex Alterum for DistoX items. PayPal had no income. Petty cash had no expenses or income.

**Secretary:** Matthew M. Hernandez had no updates during this meeting. The previous meeting minutes for April were approved. Bill Gee has posted those minutes to the KCAG website.

**Quartermaster:** Nathan Taylor is the Quartermaster; He can be contacted about borrowing any equipment. A motion was made to purchase some additional survey tapes. The existing ones are missing some incremental readings at the end.

**Novice Trips:** Kristen Vogel had no updates for this meeting.

**Presentations:** Please contact Bill Gee at [bgee@campercaver.net](mailto:bgee@campercaver.net) 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. For in-person meetings up to an hour is available.

**Ozark Underground Laboratory/Tumbling Creek Cave:** John McGuire provided a wonderful presentation on the field trips/services that Ozark Underground Laboratory offers. OUL has amassed 2,900 acres of Ozark land which sits atop 10,000 ft of known underground passages that are part of Tumbling Creek Cave. The field trips are divided into two parts surface tour and underground tour. The surface tour starts our showing how the various temperature/moisture differences across northern/southern hills affect the ground vegetation as well as the underlying cave system. The other goal of the surface tour is to convey how the ground water enters the cave system. This happens through a multitude of ways, such as a sinkhole or losing streams. One sinkhole in particular can channel at least 50 gallons of water per minute into the cave. Some of the streams have also been dye traced to track where the water travels. The underground tour expands upon what was presented in the surface tour. They convey the vast variance the cave can have, going from areas that have wide and tall chambers to passages that require crawling. The

underground stream drains an area of about seven square miles. Inside of the cave you can find various mineral deposits. There are also stalactites/stalagmites formations which are no longer depositing, but instead are being dissolved. The changes are commonly associated with surface events.

**The Guano:** No updates. Anyone interested in contributing a submission to the publication is encouraged to contact Julie Cooley ([oragami\\_fold@yahoo.com](mailto:oragami_fold@yahoo.com)).

**MeetUp:** Kristen Vogel has no updates to provide for this meeting.

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

### **Organization Updates:**

**Carroll Cave Conservancy (CCC):** Rick Hines talked about an upcoming trip on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> to work on the roof ridge cap, windows, electrical and breaker panels. Rick is hoping to be able to procure some bricks to build a fireplace. THERE WILL ALSO BE **ANOTHER CARROLL CAVE** WORK DETAIL **JULY 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>**.

**MSS/MCKC:** Jim Cooley had no updates to provide for this meeting.

**Hickory County:** Gary Johnson talked about the upcoming Vertical Workshop Day at Mule Shoe Conservation Area. See upcoming trips and events for additional information.

**Stark Caverns Survey Project:** Bill Gee had no updates. The photography trip is tentatively being rescheduled. The date has not been set yet.

**Cloud 9 Ranch:** Jim Cooley talked about doing a quality control trip for the caves tentatively in July/August. (This trip occurred June 14<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>).

**Devil's Icebox:** Kristen mentioned a trip that went in April for the yearly biology inventory, but no other information is known.

**Geronimo Cave:** Bill Gee had no updates for Geronimo Cave. Seth Colston is still developing the map for the cave.

### **Trip Reports and Other News:**

**DistoX:** Bill Gee mentioned they have a contact who produces DistoX main boards overseas. We would also need to purchase two batteries and a keyboard locally. Bringing the total to \$500 to convert our current two Leica's to DistoX's. A motion was made to proceed with the purchase/plan.

**Spring MVOR:** Bill Gee talked about his trip to Spring MVOR at the Shriners Campground. There was roughly a 150-person turnout.

**SERA Cave Carnival:** Corey Ellis talked about the three trips he led during the SERA Cave Carnival in Sewanee, TN. The caves were Conley Hole, Wilkson Hollow Horror Hole, and Sinking Cove - Boulder Entrance. Corey's trip report is posted on the KCAG website.

**Cleveland Cave:** Nathan Taylor took his son Sam and a group of nine into Cleveland Cave for his son's birthday.

**Lewis Cave:** Jim Cooley and Dustin Schmidt did a Biology Inventory, they found three cave adapted crawdads and some other critters. This cave is the 28<sup>th</sup> most biodiverse cave in Missouri.

**Shannon County:** Jim Cooley, Kohl Mitchell, and Dustin Schmidt used metal flag stakes for the survey stations in in a recent survey to prevent woodrats from eating the stakes. The metal flag stakes led to problems with the survey devices as they are highly magnetic. They had to be replaced with bamboo stakes. Dustin also got experience in sketching that was interrupted by a flock of turkey buzzards, one adult and two juveniles.

**Ennis Cave:** Rick Hines, Corey Ellis, and Matthew M. Hernandez went down to Arkansas to visit Ennis Cave for a photography Trip. Corey Ellis has a report on the trip on the KCAG website.

**New Business:** No new business.

**Unfinished Business:** No unfinished business. The meeting was adjourned. Several members then went for pizza & libations at Minsky'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.

**2023 May 20:** Vertical workshop at Mule Shoe Conservation Area in Hickory County, Missouri. Overnight camping is available starting May 18<sup>th</sup>, continuing for up to 14 days if you want! Contact Bill Gee at [bgee@campercaver.net](mailto:bgee@campercaver.net) for more information.

**2023 June 2:** Over The Edge event at Arrowhead Stadium. Benefits Salvation army. Contact Bill Gee at [bgee@campercaver.net](mailto:bgee@campercaver.net) for more information.

**2023 June 17:** Ozark Underground Labs tour, both above ground and in the cave. Contact John McGuire [speleolympic@yahoo.com](mailto:speleolympic@yahoo.com) for more information

**2023 June 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>:** Bill Gee, Jim & Julie Cooley and the landowner will lead a KCAG expedition to continue the survey at Gladys's Grotto and Raccoon Requiem Caves, privately owned caves near Climax Springs, Missouri. We will be primitive car camping, and sketching. Contact Jim at [coolstoi@kc.rr.com](mailto:coolstoi@kc.rr.com) or (816) 753-8111 (text OK) if interested. Special arrival & departure constraints will apply.

**2023 June 24<sup>th</sup>:** Rock Bridge State Park outreach event. This involves short guided tours into Connor Cave. Contact Martin Carmichael [martin@showmewebdesign.com](mailto:martin@showmewebdesign.com) for more information.

**2023 June 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>:** NSS National Convention in Elkton, West Virginia. This is a retry from the canceled/online 2020 event. <https://nss2023.caves.org/>

**2023 July 8<sup>th</sup>:** Carroll Cave data logger service trip. Contact Bill Gee at [bgee@campercaver.net](mailto:bgee@campercaver.net) for more information.

**2023 August 12<sup>th</sup>:** KCAG annual summer picnic. All cavers are invited. Contact Rick Hines [rickhines@aol.com](mailto:rickhines@aol.com) for more information and to RSVP. There is a post on this site with some details.

**2023 September 15-17<sup>th</sup>:** Fall MVOR at Perryville, MO.

**2023 October 7<sup>th</sup>:** Over The Edge event at the Marriott Hotel, I-435 and Metcalf. Contact Bill Gee at [bgee@campercaver.net](mailto:bgee@campercaver.net) for more information.

**2023 October 28<sup>th</sup>:** Carroll Cave annual bat census. Contact Bill Gee at [bgee@campercaver.net](mailto:bgee@campercaver.net) for more information.