

# The Speleograph

Lake Ozarks  
Grotto

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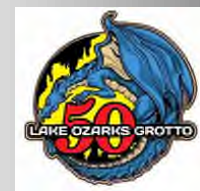


Upper Passage in Stark Caverns

The Speleograph, a bi-yearly publication, is created by the Lake Ozarks Grotto. All articles and other information is donated by cavers and individuals who have an interest in caving.

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[www.lakeozarksgrotto.com](http://www.lakeozarksgrotto.com)



## Stark Caverns – January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Gary & I arrived at the locked gate of the entrance to the grounds, behind Buzz Caldwell and Ken Long. A few minutes later, two of the cave guides arrived and ran to unlock the gate. After parking, we assembled in the gift shop. Christen Easter arrived shortly after. The purpose of the day was to take three new cave guides into the cave off the commercial trail. Cave safety would be the main agenda. Gary & I intended to take pictures and not do any crawling. Buzz was also there mainly for support. We oldies must stick together.....

It was sometime after 9 am when we entered the cave with guides - Tripcie, Kay and Erin. We immediately noticed there had been a lot of changes done to the commercial tour trail. A short distance inside, Ken held a small meeting to go over cave safety rules. The guides were supposed to go on a trip with LOG members before they would be allowed to explore the non-commercial parts of the cave. Ken gave them a choice of where to go first – “stairs” or “canyon.” “Stairs” was the unanimous decision.

At the stairs, Gary was amazed at the work that had been done since he had been to this area of the cave. There were stairs where there had been a nasty climb up to an upper level. While Christen continued into the crawlway passages with the three guides, Ken & Gary waited at the top of the stairs. I did go to the top of the stairs but came back down and joined Buzz at the bottom. When Christen and the guides were ready to come back down the stairs, Gary helped them get plastic bags on their feet in order to keep mud off the commercial trail. It was 10 am. From here, we headed for the “Canyon.” Plastic bags were removed from feet and put in a trash bag. Ken and Christen led the guides over the railing and into the mud going down into the canyon. Tripcie and Kay wasted no time getting down



New steps into upper passage

into the canyon. They were so excited to be exploring areas they had not been in before. Erin was the last to follow, having some difficulty, while Ken waited for her to catch up. They all finally disappeared out of sight. Gary had been in the canyon area before and elected not to go now. Gary, Buzz and I stood on the platform overlooking the canyon. It was a beautiful sight! While we were admiring our surroundings, we could hear the rest talking in the distance but it was just a continuous mumble....

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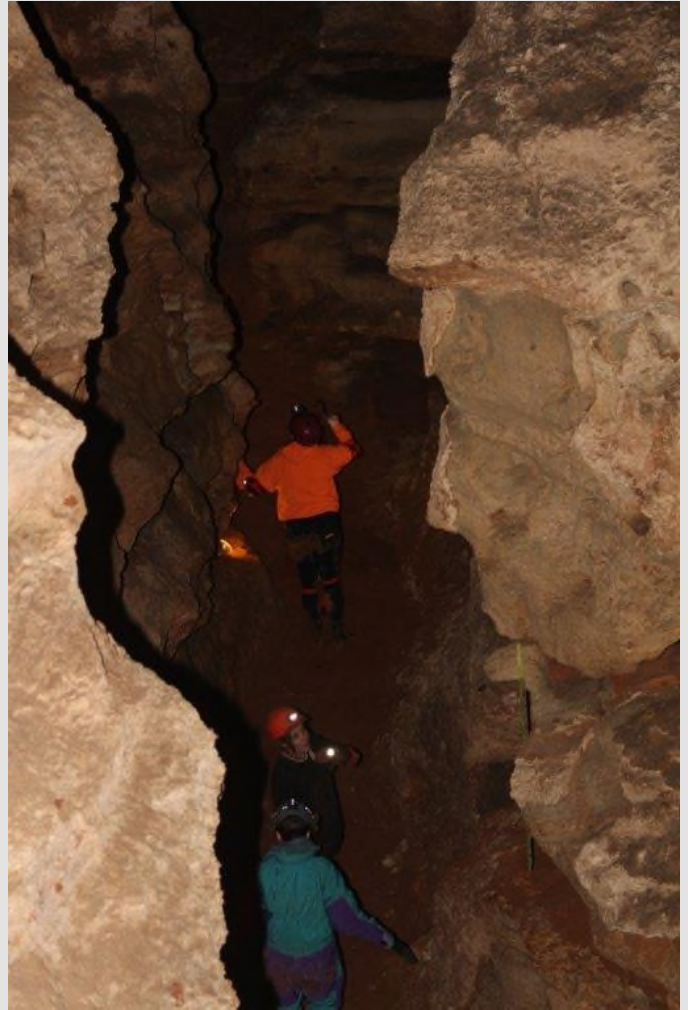
While we were standing on the platform, a tour guide and his group joined us. The tour guide asked us to turn out our lights so he could show the group the darkness of the cave. We did so but Gary forgot that his hardhat glows in the dark.....Oops.... Ken, Christen and the guides emerged into our view just as the tour group was leaving.

It was time to grab the plastic bags and start bagging feet again. After everyone was bagged, we headed for the cave entrance and caught up with the tour there. We passed them and headed out. It was just past 11 am. We were supposed to have the guides out by 11:30 since some had to go to work.

I think everyone enjoyed the trip into the cave. Ken and Christen did a wonderful job with the three guides. Christen did all the crawling with them so I am sure that she could tell some stories..... Our grotto has an awesome Chairman and Vice-Chairman but don't tell them – it will go to their head!

After regrouping in the gift shop, we were hoping to talk to the guides but Erin had already left. Triplicie and Kay were changing clothes but came back into the gift shop. We talked a while and then dispersed to the parking lot.

Gary and I headed for home. It had been 10 degrees when we left the house. But it was really warm in the cave and had warmed up by the time we came out. It had been a good day. – Alberta Zumwalt



Heading into the canyon



Canyon platform



Coming out of the muddy canyon

## Origin of “Spelunker”

A letter to the editor printed in the National Speleological Society's publication, *NSS NEWS*, June, 1964 says the word “spelunker” is credited to Roger Johnson of Hadley, Massachusetts. It goes on to say that since the early 1930's Johnson was well acquainted with most of the caves in the northeast and was the leader of an amateur caving group in western Massachusetts. His mother, while doing a crossword puzzle, encountered the Latin word “spelunca”, meaning “cave”. Johnson replied: “Why, that must make me a ‘spelunker’, and I go ‘spelunking!’” And the word was born. Thereafter, explorers called themselves “spelunkers” to distinguish their practice of the *sport* of cave exploring from the pursuit of the *science* of speleology. The word first appeared in print in newspaper articles in 1937-38. The late Clay Perry Johnson's most avid protégé used the term in his three books, *Underground New England* (1930), *New England's Buried Treasure* (1946), and *Underground Empire* (1947).  
—Alberta Zumwalt—

### TOBY CAVE

By Don Toole

There are several ways to describe Toby Cave. A bat biologist might talk about it as a Tier One Maternity site for Gray Bats, an endangered species. The numbers fluctuate from year to year but significantly large colonies use this cave. Female Gray bats enter in the Spring, give birth, and stay the Summer. It is considered a critical bat habitat.

A cave mapper would describe its dimension, interior features, and how the cave relates to the surface topography.

A historian would talk about how modern people treated the cave, about how they viewed it and how their views may have changed over time.

Settlers began moving into this part of Missouri around 1840. The US Government began issuing deeds to land, which are called Land Patents, the first transference of land from the government to private individuals. I tried to discover who had the patent for the land around this cave and who became the subsequent owners. There is some confusion on this due to unclear records and survey mistakes.

The cave today is named Toby Cave. There was a nearby landowner named Dave Toby who had a land patent dated 1900. However, he did not actually own the cave. His property did have what would later be called Toby Spring and Toby Creek. The first landowner appears to be a man named John Finlay, whose patent deed is dated 1885. Sometime later, it seems the property was acquired by a Moses Berry, an adjacent landowner. I found a newspaper account dated June 8, 1906, which tells that “George J. Moulder is fencing 240 acres of land for Mrs. Berry. He is fencing up Mammoth cave.” In October of that same year, another newspaper article tells that George Moulder was now the owner of the land. “There are mammoth caves on it and fine springs.” On Easter, April 16, 1909, the newspaper tells of “an Easter trip to the historical cave...now owned by George J Moulder.” It is also interesting to note that the newspaper article says “George J. sent a conductor to guide us through the cave and see that the old relics of the mound builders and Indians were not molested.” The writer states that the cave has “perhaps ¼ mile” of passage. Today, the cave passage is much less, possibly due to a sinkhole collapse that cut off the back of the cave. In *The Wild Caves of Camden County, Missouri*, Curtis Scott, Jr. wrote in March of 1974: “The sink is said to have formed about 60 years ago and before the collapse, a person could explore the cave extensively beyond that point.”



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Toby Cave has about 1,000 feet of cave passage and contains a Tier One Gray bat maternity colony, with as many as 115,000 bats each summer, although the number varies year to year. There has been a problem with trespassers disturbing the roosting bats. There has also been some vandalism in, and near the cave. Because of the significant bat population, the cave entrance was gated as a joint project between the Cave Research Foundation (CRF), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC).

Prior to the cave gating, LOG supplied labor to install a farm gate near the cave. This was done in October 2021 and provided a secure path through the property fencing to the cave. LOG members Alberta Zumwalt, Gary Zumwalt, Don Toole, along with independent caver Jim Lehr met Jim Cooley at the site and installed the fencing gate. The gate allowed the construction crew to move materials and personnel to the cave site. The landowners supplied some materials and did some tree and brush clearing. The fence gate was installed in a day.

The cave gating occurred the next year, in April of 2022. There were many volunteers on the crew, some with prior cave gating experience. Jim Cooley, a Fellow of the CRF, designed the gate and supervised construction. He has designed about 65 cave gates and repaired a number of existing gates. This is his 54<sup>th</sup> cave gate he has built and it is designed and constructed according to BCI/ACCA standards. The gate design was reviewed by USFWS and MDC. "It was a big project," Jim Cooley said. "About seven tons of steel went down the hill." The gate was finished ahead of schedule. "It went exceptionally well due to many factors," he stated, including "cooperating landowners, capable volunteers, and cooperation among all involved." MDC supplied some very able personnel and the Deer Creek Sportsman Club provided a clubhouse building for the crew to stay at during construction.



Above and left: building the new gate

## CAVE HUNTING

### **QUESTION: Why do people hunt for caves?**

1. Provides a variety of caves for exploration and study.
2. To inventory
  - A. Caves are non-renewable natural resources and may contain:
    - a. Endangered animal species
    - b. Archaeological remains and artifacts
    - c. Paleontological remains
    - d. Rare or unusual mineral deposits or formations
  - B. For preservation purposes
3. Leisure time activity
  - A. Healthy, entertaining, social
4. Recognition and reward
  - A. Potential for finding a virgin or unrecorded, unnamed cave
  - B. Contribution to caving records
5. A responsibility as an organized caver

### **QUESTION: What do I need to hunt caves?**

1. County road map
2. Local topographic quadrangle
3. Transportation
4. Hiking clothes and footwear
5. Note pad, pencil, compass
6. A smile, congenial attitude and honest approach.

### **It is useful to:**

1. Keep ear and eyes open for cave leads daily
2. Make notes for your own reference
3. Check existing cave records
4. Carry I.D. that identifies you as an active member of a recognized caving group

**QUESTION: What are good sources of information?**

1. Property owners
2. Local business people or government representatives
  - A. Real estate dealers
  - B. Well drillers
  - C. County recorder
  - D. Local newspaper staff
  - E. Surveyors
  - F. Hunters and sportsmen
3. Local historical societies
4. Caving organizations other than your own
5. Cave catalogues and cave leads lists

**QUESTION: What should I look for in the field? What should I ask people about?**

1. Existing caves
  - A. Cave systems
2. Springs
3. Sinkholes
4. Sinking or disappearing streams
5. Natural bridges or arches of rock
6. Bluffs and cliffs
7. Crevices and pits
8. Unusual natural phenomena

**WHEN LOOKING FOR CAVES**

- DON'T.....Misrepresent yourself
- DON'T.....Make promises you can't keep
- DON'T.....Hassle the livestock or pets
- DON'T.....Leave gates open unless told to do so
- DON'T.....Enter or investigate buildings on the property
- DON'T.....Start fires, use fireworks or carry guns
- DON'T.....Block roads, driveways or gates
- DON'T.....Walk on newly planted fields or growing crops
- DON'T.....Damage fences in climbing over them

The information for this article was donated by Rosie and Karen Weaver. The original article was from the Lake Ozarks Grotto Speleo-Craft series printed in the mid 1960's.

## Goodwin Sinkhole and Cave

May 2022 Central Missouri Flooding

During the early morning hours of May 5, 2022 Central Missouri experienced extremely heavy rains. I left Rolla near 6 am since I wanted to see how things looked at the sinkhole. By the time I got close all the roads near the sinkhole were closed due to flooding.

There was some more heavy rain during the early morning hours on May 6.

One of the roads near the sinkhole finally opened and I was able to get to the sinkhole on May 8.

You could tell by the debris in the fence and the section of missing fence that a lot of Lancaster Road near the Dry Auglaize Creek had been underwater. **Looking at old photos, you could see that the last time that the flooding along Lancaster Road was as bad, was July 2015.**



Extensive erosion along Lancaster Road near the sinkhole.

*Notice all the gravel which had been washed off the roads surface.*

When I arrived, I could see that the sinkhole had been totally filled with water. The water level had gotten to within 1 foot of the gate by Lancaster Road and Lancaster Road itself. **The rain gauge at the sinkhole showed over 5.5 inches.** There was all sorts of debris in the sinkhole and a large amount of mud had been deposited in the sinkhole. **The last time the sinkhole totally filled with water was April 2017.**





## The Speleograph



Burning some of the brush which was deposited on the road leading down into the sinkhole.

### Now for some good news.

Looking at old photos from 2017, you could tell that the sinkhole is draining a lot faster now, due to all the work we have been doing in the cave. The water level this year dropped more after 2 days, than after 8 days in 2017.

Last November we constructed a small dam to temporarily hold any runoff. This water now drains into a buried culvert and is carried away from the sinkhole.



Photo taken in November 2021 during construction of the catch basin. *Note: A standpipe drain would allow the trapped water to drain out via the buried culvert and prevent any additional erosion from occurring in the back of the sinkhole.*

## The Speleograph



Photo taken in April 2022 showing the catch basin.



The catch basin on May 8, after the water level had receded. Notice the debris on top of the water intake.

### May 17 Update:

I went to see how the sinkhole looked after 11 days. The water level above the Dry Auglaize Creek Ford along Lancaster Road was within 1 inch of the ford itself. In addition some water was still flowing over the waterfall. There was still water in the cave and a lot of water was dripping from the surrounding rocks. **Since I have started working on the sinkhole restoration project, I noticed that when the water level of Dry Auglaize Creek above Lancaster Road is high, the cave is full of water. This is due to the fact that the water table is so high that the cave cannot drain.**



The cave was filled with water and water was still dripping off the surrounding rocks.



In this photo you can see how a layer of mud covered everything in the bottom of the sinkhole.



Gravel deposited below the waterfall. I estimate that the amount would fill about 4 dump trucks.

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### May 19 Update:

The water level in the cave probably dropped another 3 or 4 feet. On the way back to Rolla we encountered some extremely heavy rains. One place received 3 inches of rain in a little over 1 hour. I have no idea how much rain the sinkhole got.

### May 21 Update:

Ken Long went out there in the morning after 2 ½ inches of rain. He said that the sinkhole was about half full of water. But the catch basin and diversion culvert were working.



Water entering the sinkhole.



Photo taken on May 21, of a nearly full catch basin. Notice the top of the yellow water intake next to the fence post. Ken said that he could see the water entering the water intake.



Dry Auglaize Creek Ford on Lancaster Road.

### Where do we go from here

I estimate that several truck loads of gravel will be needed to address all the mud deposited on the road leading down into the sinkhole itself. It may take months before it dries out enough so that we can resume work in the bottom of the sinkhole. We will not know how much material was washed into the cave until the water resides.

Klaus Leidenfrost  
Goodwin Sinkhole Restoration Project Manager  
Missouri Caves and Karst Conservancy

## Rock House, Home of Jim Henry

The Osage Indians, were the tallest race of men in North America, usually 6 ft. or more in height. The most famous member of the Osage tribe to live in Miller County was Jim Henry. He and his family lived in a unique cave which has been called 'the rock house' over generations. He was probably the last of the Osage tribe to live in Miller County. He was so popular that his name remains today in Miller County's history; a township, creek, church, and a school were named for him.

The rock house, a natural oddity, is located on a wooded hilltop with no other formations around it. Located in Jim Henry Township, Highway 17 can be seen about one-half mile to the west. It is about 60 feet in length, circular in shape and more than 20 feet high. On the south side of the rock, there is a large opening, with an opening somewhat smaller on the east side. Inside there is a spacious cavern. Through the rock is a natural built-in chimney. A fire inside the cavern would have smoke drawn through the cavern ceiling to the top of the rock.

A visitor to Jim Henry, his squaw and two children, said that the Indian had chiseled the print of his hand on a large projecting rock to show his home ownership. Some say the hand print is still visible. Later inhabitants carved their names into the rock formation.

What happened to Jim Henry and his family is unknown. They disappeared from Miller County sometime in the late 1830s or early 1840s and were never heard from again. Some say he went to his people in the southwest. Others say he made a farewell speech at Tuscomb where he thanked the people for the kindnesses always extended to him and his family, then departed for a destination unknown to anyone. There are Indian graves close by the old rock home but nothing is known about them.

In 1854, a man named Samuel Greenup patented the land on which the 'Rock House' was located and since that year, various families have owned the land including the families of Martin, Fowler, Winters, Tellman, Johnston, Albertson, and for the past few years has been owned by the Schulte family.

Jim Henry and the Rock House is an interesting subject but there is very little information available. So, one will just have to settle for what is known.

– Submitted by Alberta Zumwalt



# The Speleograph

## Meetings

### April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022

The April meeting of Lake Ozarks Grotto was called to order by Ken Long, Chairman, on the deck at Stark Caverns, Eldon, MO.

Roll Call.

Eight members present.

The minutes of the last meeting were read by Christen Easter, Vice Chairman, and approved.

Park bench.

Chaz at the November meeting said they were going to get the bench built but with Covid and being short-staffed, the bench is still under construction. There was also discussion on the plaques that are going to be attached to the bench. More discussion at the next meeting.

Grotto shirts.

The grotto still has to decide on what logo to use on the shirts and hoodies. Chairman Long expressed his feelings about the shirts/hoodies and does not want it to be forgotten. Once the decision has been made, individuals wanting a shirt/hoodie should contact Christen Easter or Ken Long and they can get them ordered.

Kiesewetter Cave.

Had a couple of trips to the cave in January. There will be another trip scheduled soon to take a group of new explorers.

More details as they come available.

Goodwin Sink.

There was a work trip on 4/10/22. Participants were Ken Long, Klaus Leidenfrost and Jean Knoll. Work was done in the pavilion area. More tin sheets were added on the sides and top of the new pavilion built last fall. Tin was also added to the side of the first pavilion that was built a few years ago. Next work trip scheduled for 4/30/22, depending on weather.

Dues collected. Ken Long, Christen Easter and Karen Weaver.

Grotto cave trip.

After the meeting, it was decided that we would do a trip into Stark Caverns at a later date. The grotto wanted to wait for more participants.

New member.

Craig Smith was at our last meeting in November. He filled out the membership form and paid dues for the grotto.

Meeting adjourned. – respectfully submitted, Ken Long

### June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022

The June meeting of Lake Ozarks Grotto was called to order by Ken Long, Chairman, in the meeting room at Stark Caverns, Eldon, MO.

Roll Call.

Seven members present: Chaz Jesiolowski, Ken Long, Craig Smith, Karen Weaver, Rosie Weaver, Gary & Alberta Zumwalt.

The minutes of the April meeting were read and approved.

Chairman Long asked Chaz if it would still be possible to have a grotto trip into Stark Caverns. Chaz said yes. Chairman Long said we should do it this Fall.

Park Bench.

Chaz reported that the bench is done and ready for the plaques. Much discussion on the wording of the plaques with no definite decision made. Christen Easter is in charge of getting the plaques so will wait to see the size.

Carroll Cave.

Chairman Long reported that the cave is now 20.74 miles long – the third longest behind Crevice & Berome Moore.

Grotto T-shirts & sweatshirts.

Chairman Long showed the possible designs. Members voted on one of the designs, with a correction by Chairman Long, to add an "s" after Ozark to make it Lake Ozarks Grotto.

Goodwin.

Chairman Long took 6 pallets and another Echo leaf blower to the sinkhole on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Klaus Leidenfrost met him there.

Chairman Long took 720 pounds of scrap metal for recycling and got \$40 for the sinkhole. He said that Klaus received a \$2,000 check from Bass Pro for Goodwin.

Kiesewetter Cave.

Chairman Long has a group scheduled to go into the cave on June 25<sup>th</sup> – a group from Chouteau & KCAG.

Meeting adjourned. – Respectfully submitted, Alberta Zumwalt

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## BREAKDOWN:

Talking about dead spot with cell phones at the Xmas party:

Buzz Caldwell – We had a dead spot in Tuscombria so they built the new tower next to a cemetery.....

Alberta Zumwalt – I'm a Leo

JoAnne Gitchell – Well, Bob's a Sagittarius – that's a goat!

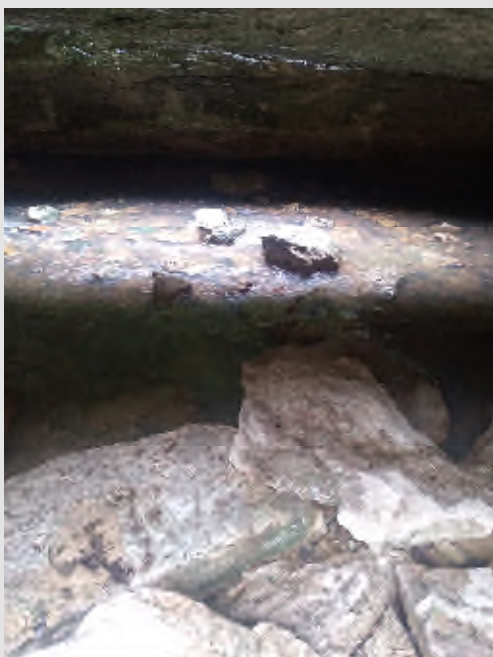
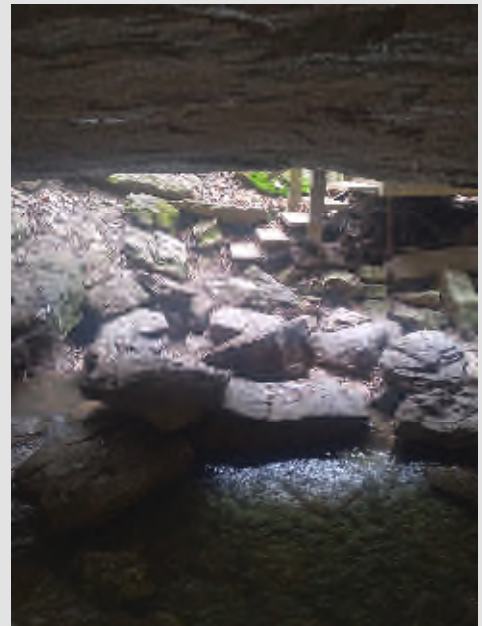
Gary Zumwalt – We can bag you down here.....

And the silence of the meeting was interrupted by "Oh, hell no!" - Yep, Ken's cell phone.....



Looking down into the Devil's Icebox  
Boone county, Mo.

Peeking out  
of the  
entrance at  
the bottom  
of the steps  
in Devil's  
Icebox.



Both left and right  
photo's looking  
upstream in  
Devils Icebox.

