

# PHOLEOS

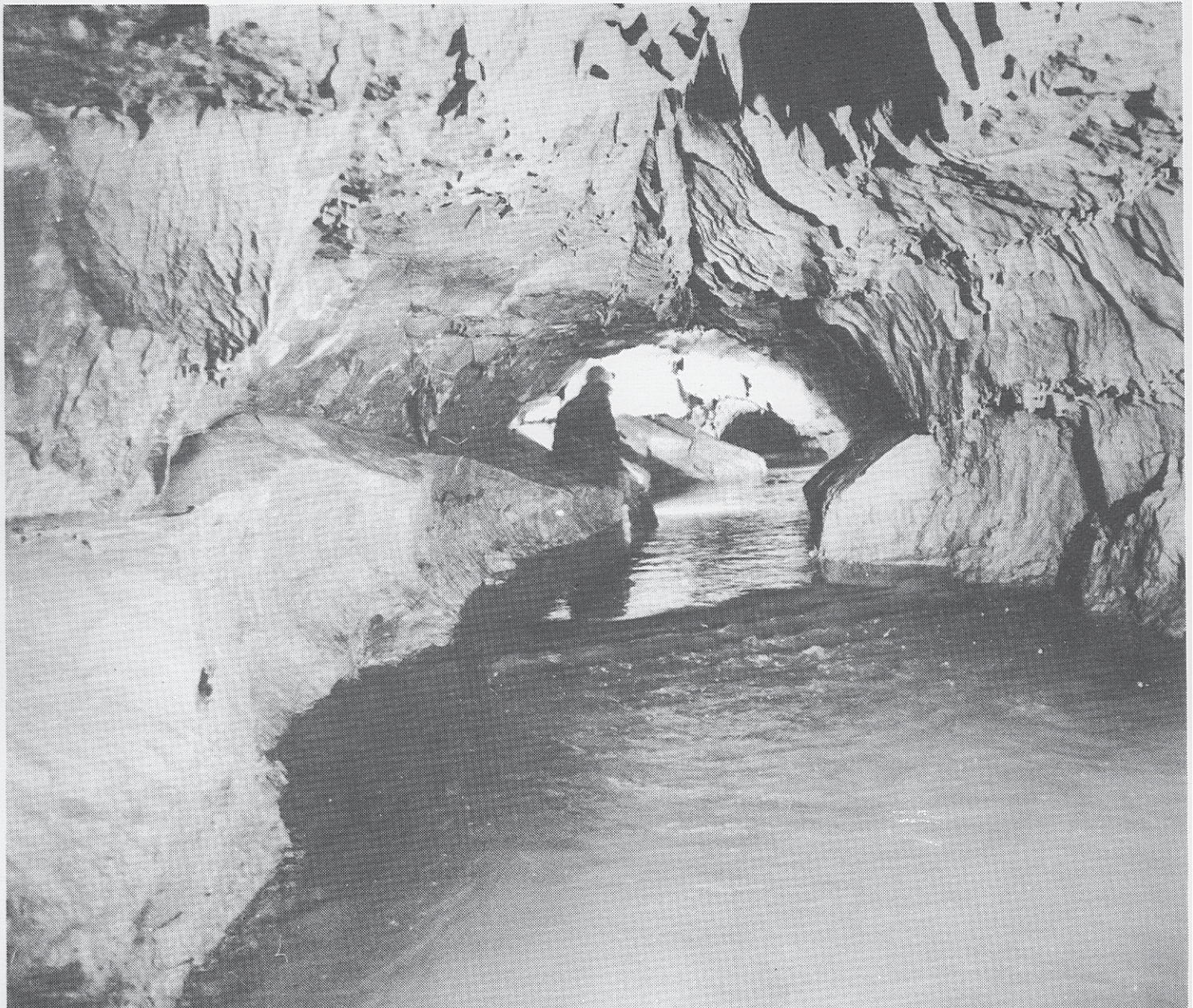
WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY

SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Volume 7 (2)

1987





THE WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Wittenberg University Speleological Society is a chartered internal organization of the National Speleological Society, Inc. The Grotto received its charter in April 1980 and is dedicated to the advancement of speleology, to cave conservation and preservation, and to the safety of all persons entering the spelean domain.



CONTENTS

Editor's Note	Timothy Hopkin	page 2
My First Year of Caving	Terri Ruben	page 2
Poem	Steven Kronk	page 2
Is Another Cavernicole To Disappear?	H. H. Hobbs III	page 3
Caves Of Smokey Lake Ridge	Teressa Keenan	page 5
Bills To Protect America's Caves		page 9
Magazine Review	M. M. M.	page 11

# PHOLEOS

THE WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 7, Number 2

20 June 1987

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## GROTTO ADDRESS

c/o H.H. Hobbs III  
Department of Biology  
P.O. Box 720  
Wittenberg University  
Springfield, Ohio 45501  
(513) 327-6484

## SUBSCRIPTION RATE

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Send to Grotto Address

## EXCHANGES

Exchanges with other grottos  
and caving groups are encouraged.  
Please mail to Grotto address.

## MEETINGS

Wednesday evening,  
7:00 p.m., Room 206, Science  
Building, Wittenberg University  
Springfield, Ohio.

## GROTTO OFFICERS 1987-88

### CHAIRMAN

Martin E. Trent  
805 Tower Hall  
Springfield, Ohio 45504

### VICE CHAIRMAN

Teressa Keenan  
312 Ferncliff Hall  
Springfield, Ohio 45504

### SECRETARY

Heidi Murry  
302 Tower Hall  
Springfield, Ohio 45504

### TREASURER

Monika Palunas  
212 Woodlawn Hall  
Springfield, Ohio 45504

### EDITOR

Timothy Hopkin  
220 Ferncliff Hall  
Springfield, Ohio 45504

### ASSISTANT EDITOR

Terri Ruben  
103 Hanley Hall  
Springfield, Ohio 45504

### COVER PHOTO:

Front stream passage in Pless Cave  
Lawrence County, Indiana  
This section of the cave appears to be  
recovering from a gasoline spill; see  
Pholeos 6 (1).

Photograph by H. H. Hobbs III

EDITOR'S NOTE

Timothy Hopkin

Once again its time for Pholeos. Since the last issue the club has had its' annual officers elections. The previous editor of the club magazine, Martin Trent, has been voted in as the clubs new chairman, and the other new officers are as follows: vice chairman Teressa Keenan, secretary Heidi Murry, treasurer Monika Palunas, editor Timothy Hopkin, and assistant editor Terri Ruben.

After a few changes the Ohio Cave Protection Bill (SB 177) was resubmitted for hearing by the State Senate. The Bill received alot of coverage by the local press this time round with a story in the Sunday edition of the Springfield News-Sun, and a television report filmed in one of Ohio's trashed caves. At the present moment the bill is waiting to be voted on by the Senate. All cavers are encouraged to write to their local senators asking for their support for the bill, all it takes is a few hand written lines explaining that you're a caver and feel that the caves of Ohio should be protected.

The club was well represented at both of the past two caving festivals; a fun time was had by all at both the MVOR in southern Indiana and Speleofest in Kentucky. Now that the term is over the clubs activities will be limited till next fall; however if things work out a week might be spent at Carter Caves in Kentucky surveying and mapping the local caves in the park. I hope you enjoy this issue of Pholeos and please feel free to write with any questions, comments, or suggestions you might have.

have enjoyed all the trips, Indiana, Kentucky, and even the winter trip when it snowed and I only had my summer sleeping bag. I froze my buns off that weekend.

The best trip though, was to Crawl-A-Thon at Carter Caves in Kentucky where I met lots of neat people. Saturday was filled with guided tours through some of Carters best caves; it was such a blast. Some friends and I spent the day teeth cutting our way through Burchett's cave, we saw some pretty formations and walked along some of the natural bridges. That same evening my beloved grotto members conviced me to enter the squeeze box competition which I had never heard of. I should have known better when none of the other girls in the grotto entered. The object of the competition was to see who could squeeze through the smallest gap. A wooden box with open ends and a lowering top, which was lowered 1/4' each round, was used.

Things began to get tight when the gap was at seven inches and by six and three quarters only one other girl and myself remained. My friends encouraged me all at the same time, telling me to relax, to push, and stretch. I had squirmed quite far and wasn't going to give up; that would be too easy, I continued until I got stuck and could not move any more. The final hieght was six and a half inches and I had won.

The rest of the weekend was spent joking and kidding around with friends, but my story doesn't end there. On Monday morning, to my surprize, a Dallas, Texas radio station called me and interviewed me live on-the-air about by squeeze box experience.

It is now a term later, and although I haven't been on many trips lately, I still love caving and can't wait to go on my next trip.

My First Year of Caving

by Terri Ruben

A year ago I never would have thought that I would actually have fun crawling around in a muddy, damp cave; but now, I find that crawling in some mud puddle a few inches deep, wading through a knee high stream of water or rapelling into a pit are often the highlights of my week.

When I first came to Wittenberg and heard of the Speleological Society I thought it sounded strange and different so I decided to give it a try. Today I've become a regular member of the club and

Poem

by Steven Kronk

The Nymphs that live in the walls and the Dryads who live in the trees come out of hiding late in the night. When all is still to go feasting and treasure - seeking with the wild and wondrous herculean Halfings. Deep in the mines and caverns far beneath the forest lands of C. S. P. (Carter Caves State Park) Kentucky.

## Is Another Cavernicole To Disappear?

by H. H. Hobbs III

Of some 360 described species and subspecies of crayfishes in North and Middle America (including Cuba and Central America), 32 are restricted to cave waters. At present, only a single troglobitic crayfish, *Cambarus (Jugicambarus) zophonastes* Hobbs and Bedinger, 1964 (figure 1), has been assigned a name from any Arkansas cave; at least one other cave-adapted species, however, is known to occur in the subterranean waters of Arkansas. *C. zophonastes* is considered a troglobite because it has been found only in a subterranean habitat and demonstrates specialized adaptations to living in a spelean environment (e.g., lacks pigment, blind) -- see Hobbs and Bedinger, 1964 and Hobbs et al. 1977 for a description of this species.

This troglobite is known only from the type locality, Hell Creek Cave, a relatively small karst feature in Stone County. That this species is apparently restricted to a single locality may reflect an incomplete survey of caves in the environs or it may very well be that the local geology and topography limit the distribution of *C. zophonastes* to a single cave system. The latter would appear to be a more accurate explanation of its limited distribution since more than 170 additional caves in northcentral Arkansas have been searched without discovering other populations of this crayfish.

Hell Creek Cave is one of the many karst features of the Ordovician Platin Limestone and is situated in the Ozark Mountains at the boundary of the Salem Plateau to the north and the Springfield Plateau to the south. An active stream brings allochthonous matter into the cave and flows through 425m (1400') of passage; much of this subterranean conduit is flooded following storms and wet seasons. The stream emerges 45m (150') below (N of) the cave entrance as three springs. The springs are the principal sources of water for Hell Creek, a perennial second order stream that drains to the north for 2.4km (1.5 miles) where it flows into the White River (see Bedinger and Hobbs 1965).

Individuals of *C. zophonastes* have been found only in a limited section of the cave, specifically in the front 45m. A deep, mud-bottomed pool (up to 6m deep) with steep rock sides is the most populous site currently known, although a few individuals have been observed in upstream sections of the stream as well as in flood pools near the entrance, all locations in the perpetually dark zone. On 23 August 1983 a scuba diver counted 15 individuals

on the mud bottom and on the sides of the pool. The population has been estimated to be fewer than 50 individuals (Smith 1984) and, although actual numbers may be somewhat larger than this, it is highly probable that this species is represented only by this single small population.

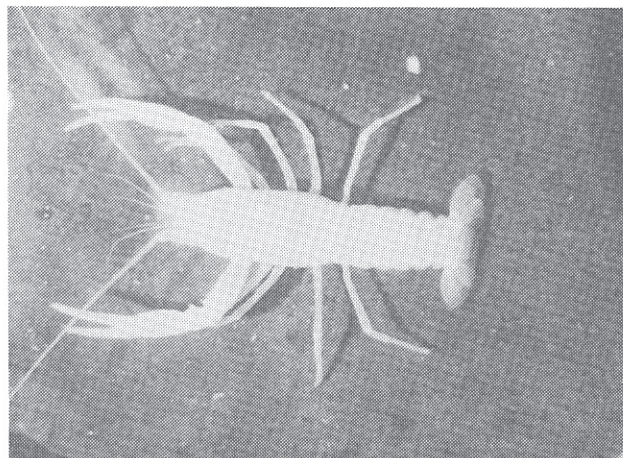


figure 1

Very little is known about the life history and habits of this cavernicole. If its reproductive habits are like those of most other troglobitic crayfishes, egg-laying is initiated in late winter and spring and diminishes during the summer months. Hell Creek Cave is an energy-limited system with organic material being imported from the surface via the stream. Harvey et al. (1981) suggested that the cave was formerly a maternity roosting site for the endangered gray bat, *Myotis grisescens*. If so, the abandonment of this roost site represents a significant loss of guano, a consequent decrease in energy input to the caves' terrestrial and aquatic communities. Such a loss would have lowered food availability to the cave inhabitants and may have resulted in a reduced population size of *C. zophonastes*.

A small number of breeding individuals in any population limits genetic diversity and lowers the potential of successful mating encounters. Obligate cave species characteristically have low reproductive capacities (low biotic potential) and these factors suggest that *C. zophonastes* is limited in its ability to recover from environmental perturbations. Thus, the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of

Interior has labeled this crayfish a candidate for Federal Endangered Species status (Anonymous 1986) with the groundwater contamination representing a major threat to it. Aley and Aley (1985) conducted a hydrological study of the cave environs and identified several threats to the subterranean drainage system. Use of herbicides to clear the right-of-way for an electrical transmission line crossing the recharge area could contaminate the cave. A state highway abuts the recharge area for the stream flowing through the cave and is a potential source for accidental spills of hazardous materials (a 15,140 liter gasoline spill occurred nearby on the highway in March 1985). Three industrial plants within the recharge area store petroleum products that could spill and/or leak into the cave due to constructive runoff, sheet wash, and waste water from septic tanks.

The Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission and The Nature Conservancy recently purchased a 65ha (160 acre) tract that includes the entrance to the cave. Still, the primary recharge area is largely privately owned and consists of a 9km square (3.51 miles square) area. Unless measures are taken to restrict specimen collection and until the headwaters section of this cave system are protected from potentially hazardous modifications, the continued existence of this species is suspect, if not improbable.

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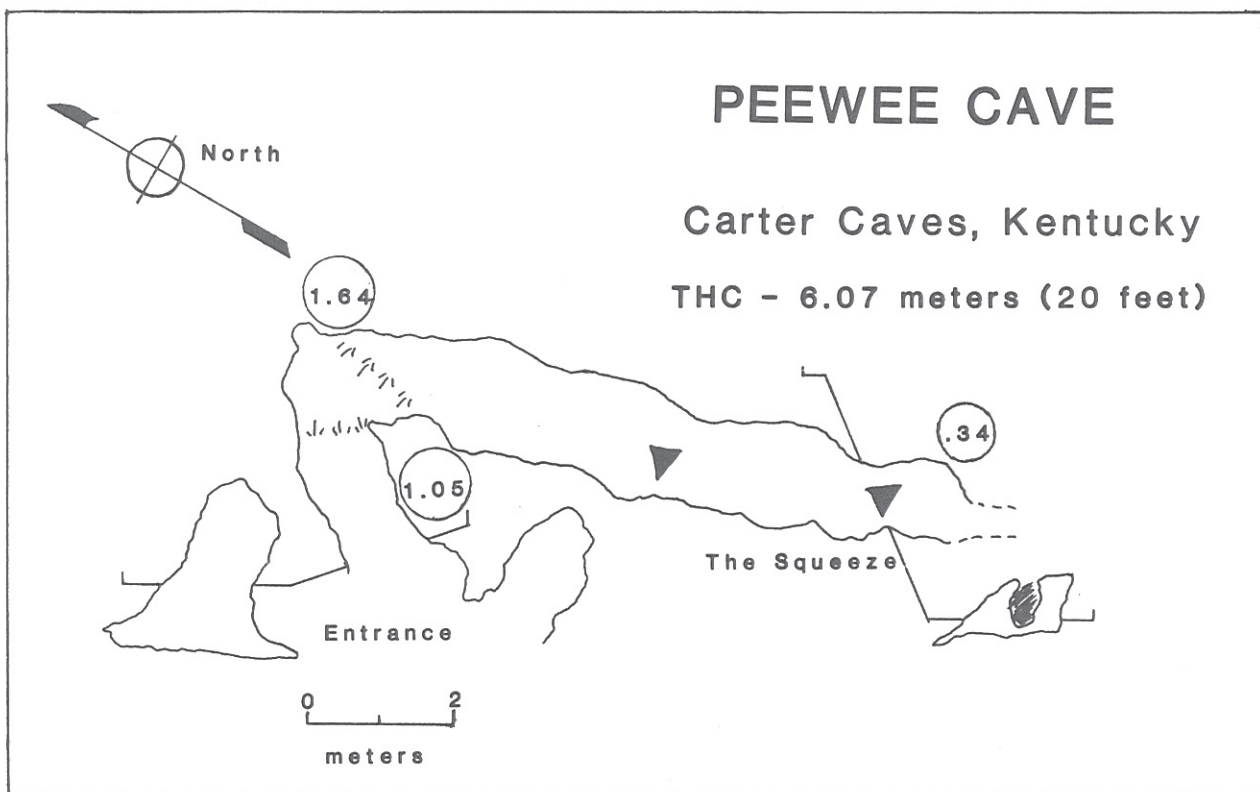
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Hooper's Well, AL



#### CAVES OF SMOKEY LAKE RIDGE

By Teresa M. Keenan

There is an abundance of small caves and fractures located all along the north ridge of Smokey Lake in Carter Caves National Resort Park, Carter County Kentucky. We began our survey at Smokey Bridge and followed the exposed limestone ridge which runs in an east south east direction until we reached the dam at the end of the lake. Due to an insufficient amount of time not all of the caves have been mapped yet; look for further updates on this area in future issues.

#### PEEWEE CAVE

Approximately a quarter of a mile from the bridge and two meters from the base of a ten meter semi slopping limestone cliff is PeeWee Cave. This small (THC - 6.07 meters) The main part of the cave runs north east and then bends back in a southerly direction. The entrance height is 1.05 meters but within three steps you are forced to crawl. At the bend there is a fairly large amount of fill which causes

the passage to appear to dip down and then back up again. The cave is bare of speleothems except for a small stalagmite formation about three meters from the entrance and a prominent stalagmite formation a meter beyond which restricts further travel for most normal sized people. There is a possible connection between this cave and another entrance approximately ten meters further south. However the passage leading from this possible entrance is filled to within .16 meters of the ceiling prohibiting further progress. Only a future digging expedition will confirm the connection.

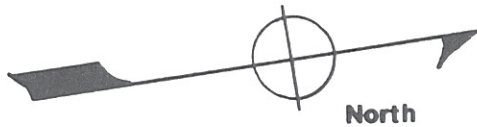
#### LAKE CAVE

A half mile south of the lodge and almost directly beneath the red trail is Lake Cave. So far the most extensive of the caves located along Smokey Lake Ridge (THC 180 m). Lake Cave is characterized by a very large (approx. 1.5 m) stalagmite formation which due to weathering and collapse is now directly in front and outside of the entrance. As with most all of the other caves in this area Lake Cave is probably of a phreatic

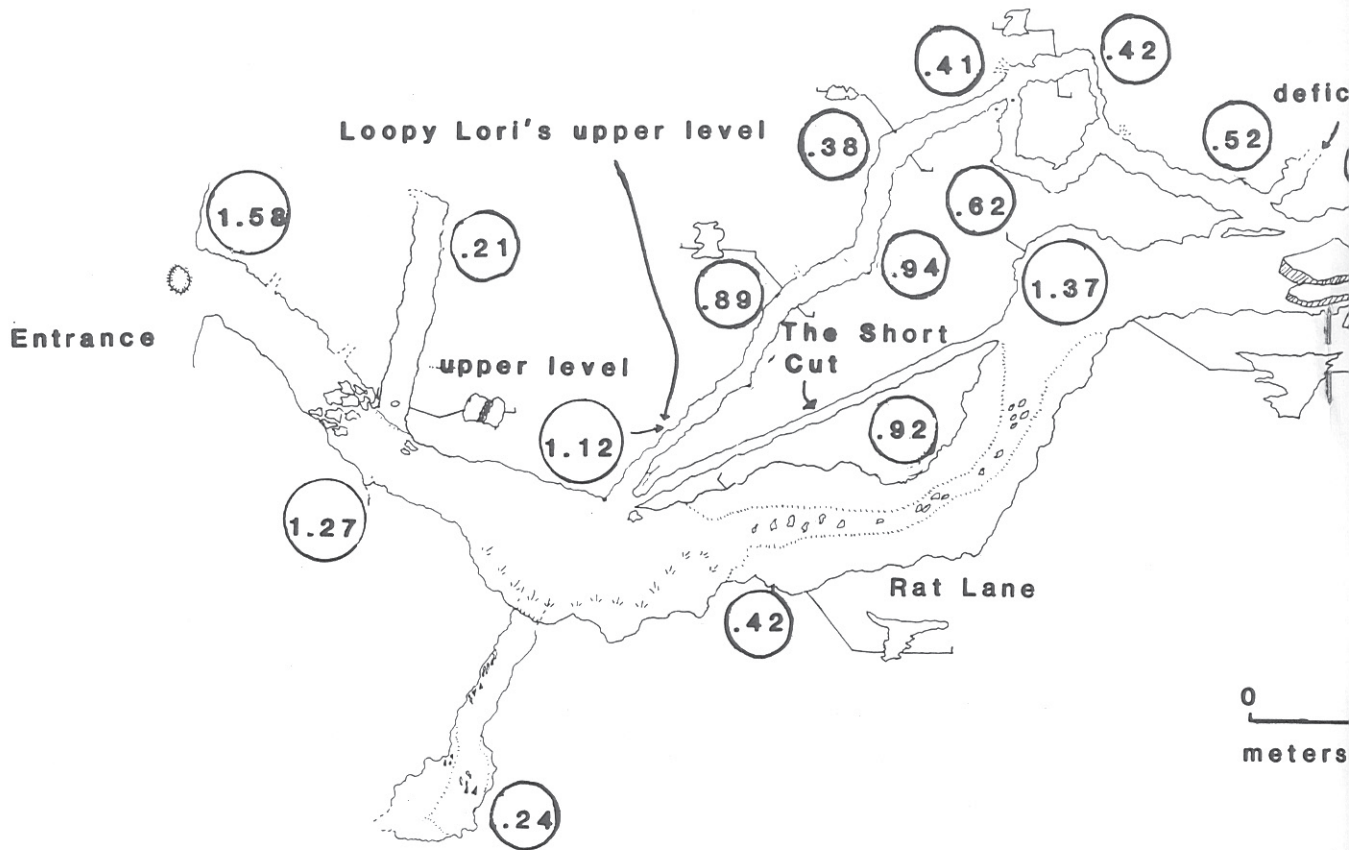
# LAKE CAVE

## Carter County, Kentucky

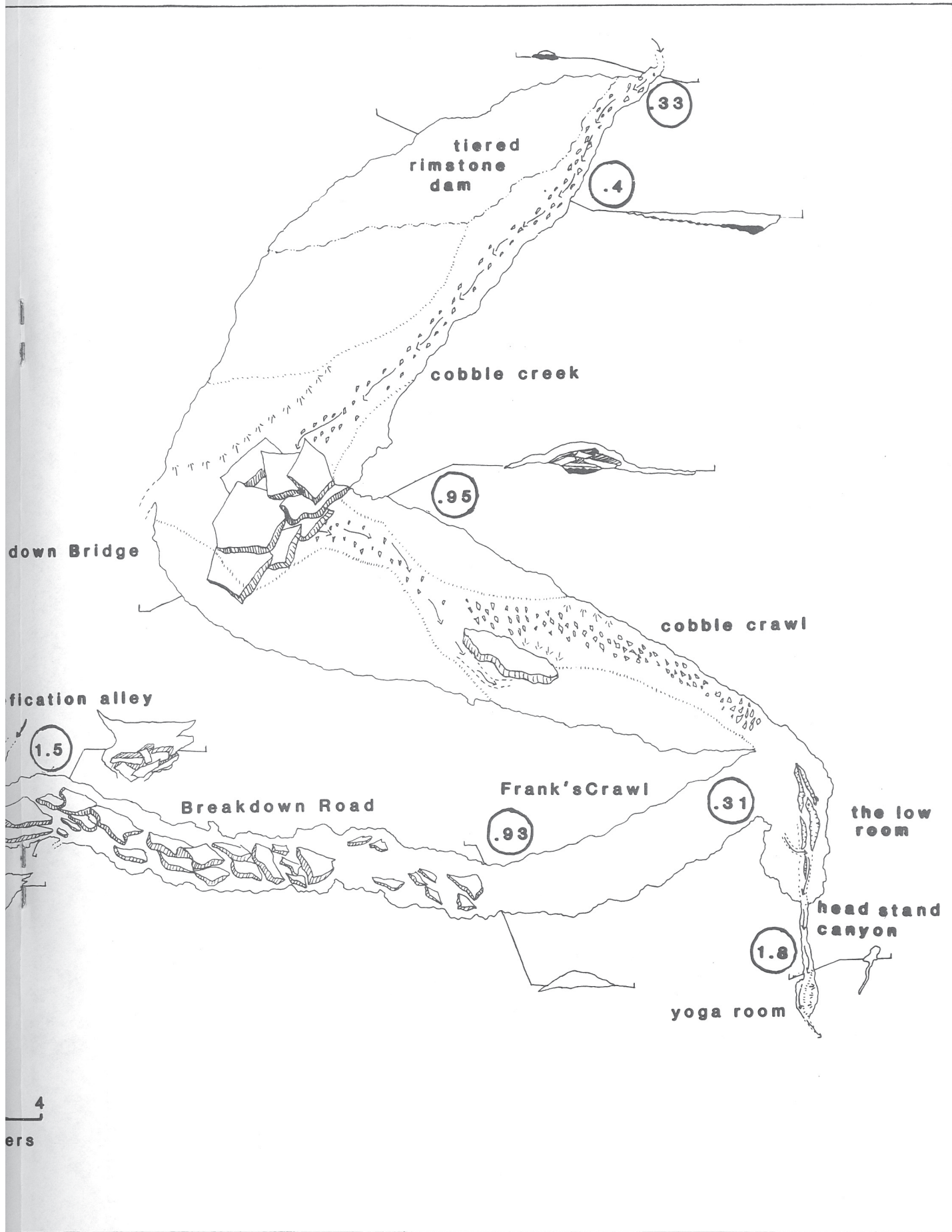
THC - 180 meters (590 feet)



The Breakdo







origin, however, there is continuing vadose growth back by the yoga room and cobble creek (see map). The walls by the entrance are jagged and there is a fair amount of breakdown along the first two meters of passage. There are numerous passages leading off of the main drag but most of them pinch off. Approximately eight meters from the entrance is an upper level which loops around to the north west and connects back into the main passage about sixteen meters later. Generally the main passage is wider than it is tall with fill and breakdown creating a small central lane for human travel. Approximately 46 m into the passage forms an "L" shape and heads south south west. At the base of the "L" is the low room in which there is a lower hourglass shaped passage at water level which leads to the small leaf shaped yoga room. This is the only area of the cave that is taller than it is wide. The passage extends beyond the yoga room but is too narrow for a person to traverse. As the main passage continues south west one is forced to crawl along a cobble stone creek. About seventeen meters up stream there is a mass of breakdown forming a bridge across the creek. At this point the passage bends back toward the north and continues for about twenty more meters until the passage ends in a teered rimstone dam.

Casual observation identified the following fauna in Lake Cave. Although no individuals were actually seen, it is evident from rat lane and defecation alley

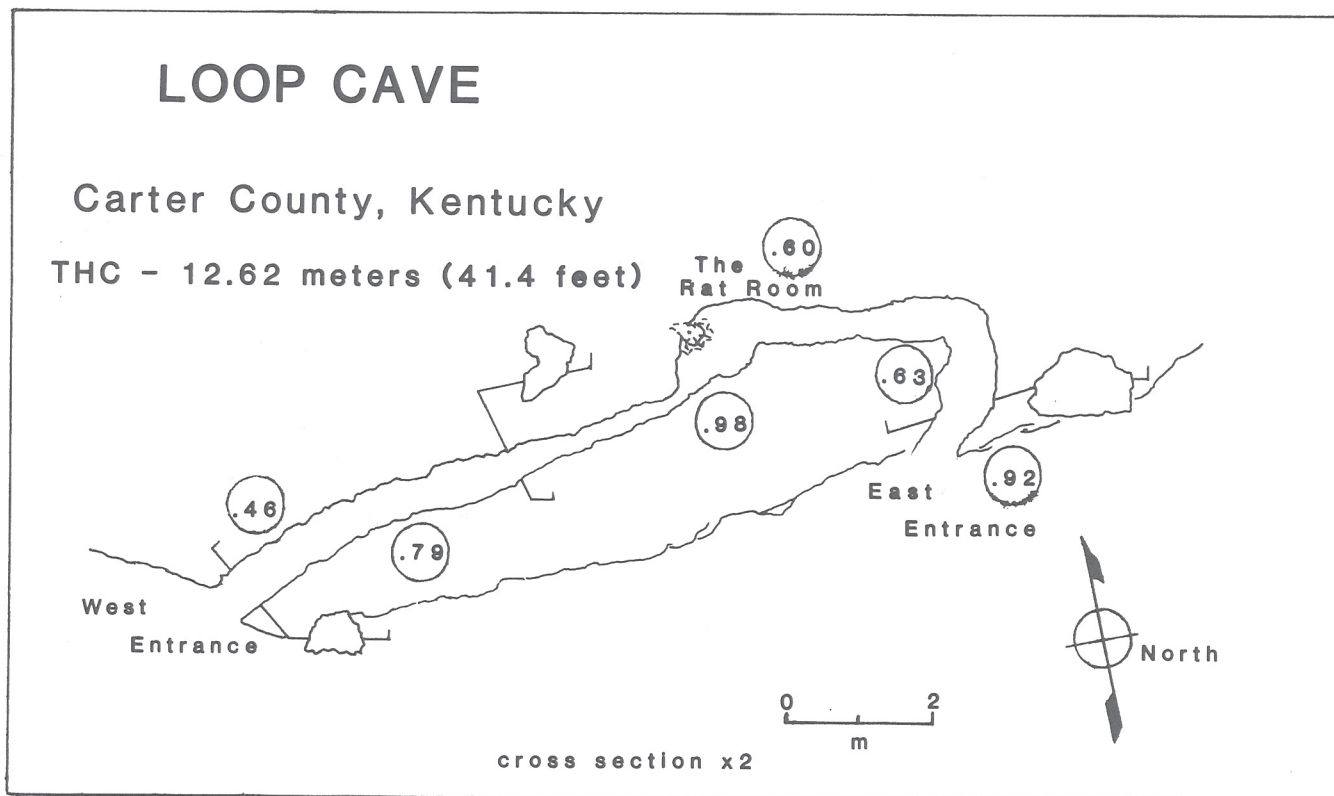
that rats commonly frequent this cave. Two different species of *Ceuthophilus* were seen throughout the cave, the highest density being closer to the entrance. A few *Phalangids Sp.* were also observed near the entrance. A small group (five individuals) of pipastrils were found in the immediate area of the breakdown bridge and a couple of *Phagocata Subteranea* were also found in the stream just beyond the bridge.

LOOP CAVE

Loop Cave is situated at the base of the same cliff about twenty meters further east south east. It is a small (THC- 12.6 meters) phreatic tube which runs parallel to the cliff and then bends south west to emerge outside again. There is one small chamber approximately at the mid-point of the tube which has been named the rat room because of a small hole leading presumably to a rat's den. There are scattered droppings and a few foot prints around this small opening. The cave is fairly dry and dusty and has no significant formations.

I wish to thank the following people who helped in this survey:

Therese Herp, Amy Herp, Lori Federwitz and Frank Keenan.



Bills To Protect America's Caves

The Ohio Cave Protection Bill has been presented to the Ohio Senate and is waiting to be voted on. The bill was introduced in an attempt to protect the caves of Ohio. At the present time the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act is also being discussed in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives. Both these bills need your support, so if your interested in protecting the caves of America please write to your senators and ask for their support of these important bills.

THE OHIO CAVE PROTECTION BILL

A BILL

To amend section 1517.99 and to enact sections 1517.21 to 1517.26 of the Revised Code to protect and preserve cave resources and to provide for penalties.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 1517.99 be amended and sections 1517.21, 1517.22, 1517.24, 1517.25, and 1517.26 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

Section 1517.21. AS USED IN SECTIONS 1517.21 TO 1517.26 OF THE REVISED CODE:

(A) "CAVE" MEANS A NATURALLY OCCURRING VOID, CAVITY, RECESS, OR SYSTEM OF INTERCONNECTING PASSAGES BENEATH THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH OR WITHIN A CLIFF OR LEDGE, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATIONS, A GROTTO, ROCK SHELTER, SINKHOLE, CAVERN, PIT, NATURAL WELL, POTHOLE, OR SUBSURFACE WATER AND DRAINAGE SYSTEM.

(B) "CAVE LIFE" MEANS ANY LIFE FORM THAT NORMALLY OCCURS IN, USES, VISITS, OR INHABITS ANY CAVE, EXCEPT THOSE ANIMALS THAT ARE INCLUDED UNDER CHAPTER 1531. OR 1533. OF THE REVISED CODE.

(C) "MATERIAL" MEANS:

(1) ANY SPELEOTHEM, WHETHER ATTACHED OR BROKEN, FOUND IN A CAVE;

(2) ANY CLAY OR MUD FORMATION OR COCRETION OR SEDIMENTARY DEPOSIT FOUND IN A CAVE;

(3) ANY SCALLOP, RIL, OR OTHER CORROSIONAL OR CORROSIONAL FEATURE OF A CAVE;

(4) ANY WALL OR CEILING OF A CAVE.

(D) "OWNER" MEANS ANY PERSON HAVING TITLE TO LAND IN WHICH A CAVE IS LOCATED.

(E) "SPELEOTHEM" MEANS ANY STALACTITE, STALAGMITE, OR OTHER NATURAL MINERAL FORMATION OR DEPOSIT OCCURRING IN A CAVE.

(F) "SPELEOGEN" MEANS THE SURROUNDING MATERIAL OR BEDROCK IN WHICH A CAVE IS FORMED, INCLUDING WALLS, FLOORS, CEILINGS, AND SIMILAR RELATED STRUCTURAL AND GEOLOGICAL COMPONENTS.

(G) "SINKHOLE" MEANS A CLOSED TOPOGRAPHIC DEPRESSION OR BASIN GENERALLY DRAINING UNDERGROUND, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, A BLIND VALLEY, SWALLOWHOLE, OR SINK.

(H) "GATE" MEANS ANY STRUCTURE OR DEVICE THAT IS LOCATED IN SUCH A MANNER AS TO LIMIT, CONTROL, OR PROHIBIT ACCESS TO OR ENTRY INTO A CAVE.

Sec. 1517.22. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS THAT CAVES ARE UNCOMMON GEOLOGICAL PHENOMENA AND THAT THE MINERALS DEPOSITED IN THEM MAY BE RARE AND OCCUR IN UNIQUE FORMS OF GREAT BEAUTY THAT ARE IRREPLACEABLE IF DESTROYED. ALSO IRREPLACEABLE ARE THE ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES IN CAVES, WHICH ARE OF GREAT SCIENTIFIC AND HISTORIC VALUE. IT IS FURTHER FOUND THAT THE ORGANISMS THAT LIVE IN CAVES ARE UNUSUAL AND OF LIMITED NUMBERS; THAT MANY ARE RARE, THREATENED, OR ENDANGERED SPECIES; AND THAT CAVES ARE A NATURAL CONDUIT FOR GROUNDWATER FLOW AND ARE SUBJECT TO WATER POLLUTION, THUS HAVING FAR-REACHING EFFECTS TRANSCENDING MAN'S PROPERTY BOUNDARIES. IT IS THEREFORE DECLARED TO BE THE POLICY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO PROTECT THESE UNIQUE NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES.

SEC. 1517.23. WITH THE ADVICE OF THE OHIO NATURAL AREAS COUNCIL CREATED UNDER SECTION 1517.03 OF THE REVISED CODE, THE CHIEF OF THE DIVISION OF NATURAL AREAS AND PRESERVES SHALL:

(A) FORMULATE POLICIES AND PLANS AND ESTABLISH A PROGRAM INCORPORATING THEM FOR THE IDENTIFICATION AND PROTECTION OF THE STATE'S CAVE RESOURCES AND SHALL ADOPT, AND MAY AMEND OR RESCIND, RULES IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 119. OF THE REVISED CODE TO IMPLEMENT THAT PROGRAM;

(B) PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE TO OWNERS UPON REQUEST.

Sec. 1517.24. NO PERSON, WITHOUT THE EXPRESSED WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE OWNER AND, IF THE OWNER HAS LEASED THE LAND, THE LESEE:

(A) WILLFULLY OR KNOWINGLY BREAK, BREAK OFF, CRACK, CARVE ON, WRITE ON, MARK ON, BURN, REMOVE, OR IN ANY OTHER MANNER DESTROY, DEFACE, MARK, OR DISTURB THE

SURFACES OF ANY CAVE OR ANY NATURAL MATERIAL THAT MAY BE FOUND IN ANY CAVE, WHETHER ATTACHED OR BROKEN, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, SPELEOTHEMS, SPELEOGENS, AND SEDIMENTARY DEPOSITS;

(B) BREAK, FORCE, TAMPER WITH, OR OTHERWISE DISTURB ANY LOCK, DOOR, GATE, OR OTHER DEVICE DESIGNED TO CONTROL OR PREVENT ACCESS TO A CAVE;

(C) REMOVE, DEFACE, TAMPER WITH ANY POSTED SIGN GIVING NOTICE AGAINST UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS TO OR PRESENCE IN A CAVE OR CITING ANY OF THE PROVISIONS OF SECTIONS 1517.21 TO 1517.26 OR DIVISION (B) OF SECTION 1517.99 OF THE REVISED CODE;

(D) PLACE REFUSE, GARBAGE, DEAD ANIMALS, SEWAGE, OR TOXIC SUBSTANCES HARMFUL TO CAVE LIFE OR HUMANS IN A CAVE OR SINKHOLE;

(E) BURN WITHIN A CAVE OR SINKHOLE ANY SUBSTANCE THAT PRODUCES SMOKE OR GAS THAT IS HARMFUL TO ANY NATURALLY OCCURRING ORGANISM IN THE CAVE OR SINKHOLE OTHER THAN ACETYLENE GAS EMISSIONS CREATED BY CARBIDE LAMPS;

(F) USE ANY DOOR, GATE, OR OTHER DEVICE DESIGNED TO CONTROL OR PREVENT ACCESS TO A CAVE THAT DOES NOT ALLOW FREE AND UNIMPEDED PASSAGE OF AIR, WATER, AND NATURALLY OCCURRING CAVE LIFE;

(G) EXCAVATE OR REMOVE HISTORIC OR PALEONTOLOGICAL SITES FOUND IN A CAVE, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, SALTPETER WORKINGS, RELICS, INSCRIPTIONS, FOSSILIZED FOOTPRINTS, AND BONES;

(H) DESTROY, INJURE, OR DEFACE HISTORIC OR PREHISTORIC RUINS, BURIAL GROUNDS, OR ARCHAEOLOGICAL OR PALEONTOLOGICAL SITES FOUND IN A CAVE, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, SALTPETER WORKINGS, RELICS, INSCRIPTIONS, FOSSILIZED FOOTPRINTS, AND BONES. VIOLATION OF THIS DIVISION IS DESECRATION UNDER SECTION 2927.11 OF THE REVISED CODE.

(I) REMOVE, KILL, HARM, OR DISTURB ANY CAVE LIFE FOUND WITHIN A CAVE.

Sec. 1517.25. NO PERSON SHALL:

(A) SELL OR OFFER FOR SALE SPELEOTHEMS COLLECTED FROM CAVES IN THIS STATE.

Sec. 1517.26. OWNERS OF LAND AND, IF THE OWNER HAS LEASED THE LAND, THE LESEE, SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR INJURIES, MENTAL HARM OR DEATH SUSTAINED BY PERSONS USING THEIR LAND, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO CAVE RESOURCES, FOR RECREATIONAL, EDUCATIONAL OR SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES IF NO CHARGE HAS BEEN MADE. BY

GRANTING PERMISSION FOR ENTRY OR USE, THE OWNER OR LESEE DOES NOT THEREBY:

(A) EXTEND ANY ASSURANCE THAT THE PREMISES ARE SAFE FOR SUCH PURPOSES;

(B) CONSTITUTE TO THE PERMITTEE THE LEGAL STATUS OF AN INVITEE OR LICENSEE TO WHOM A DUTY OF CARE IS OWED;

(C) ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR OR INCUR LIABILITY FOR ANY INJURY TO PERSON OR PROPERTY CAUSED BY AN ACT OR OMISSION OF A PERMITTEE EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION.

THIS SECTION SHALL NOT LIMIT THE LIABILITY WHICH OTHERWISE EXISTS FOR (1) WILLFUL OR MALICIOUS FAILURE TO GUARD OR WARN AGAINST A DANGEROUS CONDITION, USE, OR NATURAL STRUCTURE, OR (2) FAILURE TO GUARD OR WARN AGAINST A DANGEROUS MANMADE STRUCTURE, FIXTURE, OR ACTIVITY.

Sec. 1517.99. (A) Whoever violates section 1517.021 of 1517.051 of the revised code shall be fined not less than twenty-five nor more than five hundred dollars for his first offense; for subsequent offense such person shall be fined not less than two-hundred nor more than one thousand dollars.

(B) WHOEVER VIOLATES DIVISION (A), (B), (C), (D), (E), (F), (G), OR (I) OF SECTION 1517.24, OR SECTION 1517.25 OF THE REVISED CODE IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR OF THE THIRD DEGREE.

Section 2. That existing section 1517.99 of the Revised Code is hereby repealed.

THE FEDERAL CAVE RESOURCES PROTECTION ACT

[The following section has been taken from the NSS NEWS June 1987.]

U.S. Senate Bill 927 and U.S. House of Representatives Bill No. 1975 say:

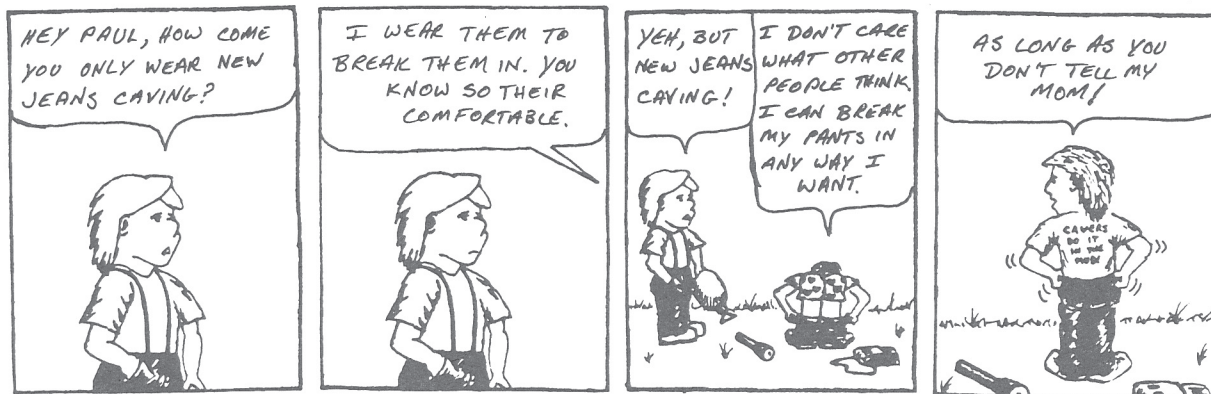
"The purposes of this bill Act are:

(1) to secure, protect and preserve cave resources on Federal lands for perpetual use, enjoyment, and benefit of all people, and

(2) to foster increased cooperation and exchange of information between governmental authorities and those who utilize cave resources located on Federal lands for scientific, educational, or recreational purposes."

HR BILL No. 1975 goes on to state: "It is the policy of the United States that cave resources be managed in a manner

## Caves and Cavers by David Fazio



that will protect and maintain such resources for present and future public use."

"The Secretary (of Agriculture or Secretary of Interior) shall take such actions as may be necessary to further the purposes of this Act. Those actions may include (but are not limited to)-

(1) regulation and restriction of use of Federal cave resources;

(2) entering into volunteer management agreements with persons of scientific and recreational caving community; and

(3) appointment of advisory committees."

"The Secretary (of Agriculture or Secretary of Interior) shall-

(1) ensure that Federal cave resources are considered in land use planning; and

(2) foster communication, cooperation, and exchange of information between land managers, those who utilize cave resources, and the public."

## Magazine Article Review

by M.M.M.

[The following review is of the article by: McRae, Micheal "Down Under Down South" Outside March 1987: 39-49.]

Michael McRae relives the pains and pleasures of caving as he tells of his experience with a convocation of cavers

from Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia dubbed the "Tag" cavers. These cavers usually keeping to themselves, invited McRae and his friend, a native Tag caver and photographer, Nichols to join them on an expedition to Ellison's Cave.

McRae and other cavers set out from camp in Lafayette, Georgia around 8:30 at night to go "pit bouncing". Describing the pit bouncing to be "nothing so ambitious" McRae began by rappelling into four "progressively deeper" pits within the tri-state area. Later in the expedition, McRae recaps a moment when he and Tag caver Ernie McAfee, almost as unfamiliar with vertical caving techniques as the author, were beginning their 125ft. descent down a pit. McRae recalls:

"Soon I was leaning out over the abyss nearly perpendicular to the walls...to move farther I had to do something with my feet...suddenly...I swung into space."

A futher frightening moment for McRae came when he became wedged while belly crawling through an 8 inch passage. The realization that he was "really stuck" proved worse than being just plain stuck as McRae went on to describe. On the lighter side, McRae experienced the spirit of the cavers' as they whooped and hollered around the campfire, sharing bottles of moonshine and peach schnapps. Joining the Tag cavers on their Bingo trip to Pigion Mountain, McRae discovered that a seemingly "dull" expedition can prove exciting with a connection of cavers. In the end McRae realizes the breath taking beauty of caving as his friend, Nick, lights up the cave with a dish of flash powder, producing a glow as if the sun had risen.



Hooper's Well, Jackson Co., AL



Negotiating Top of Surprise Pit - Fern Cave



Stephens Gap Cave, Jackson Co., AL

Practice Climb Session

