

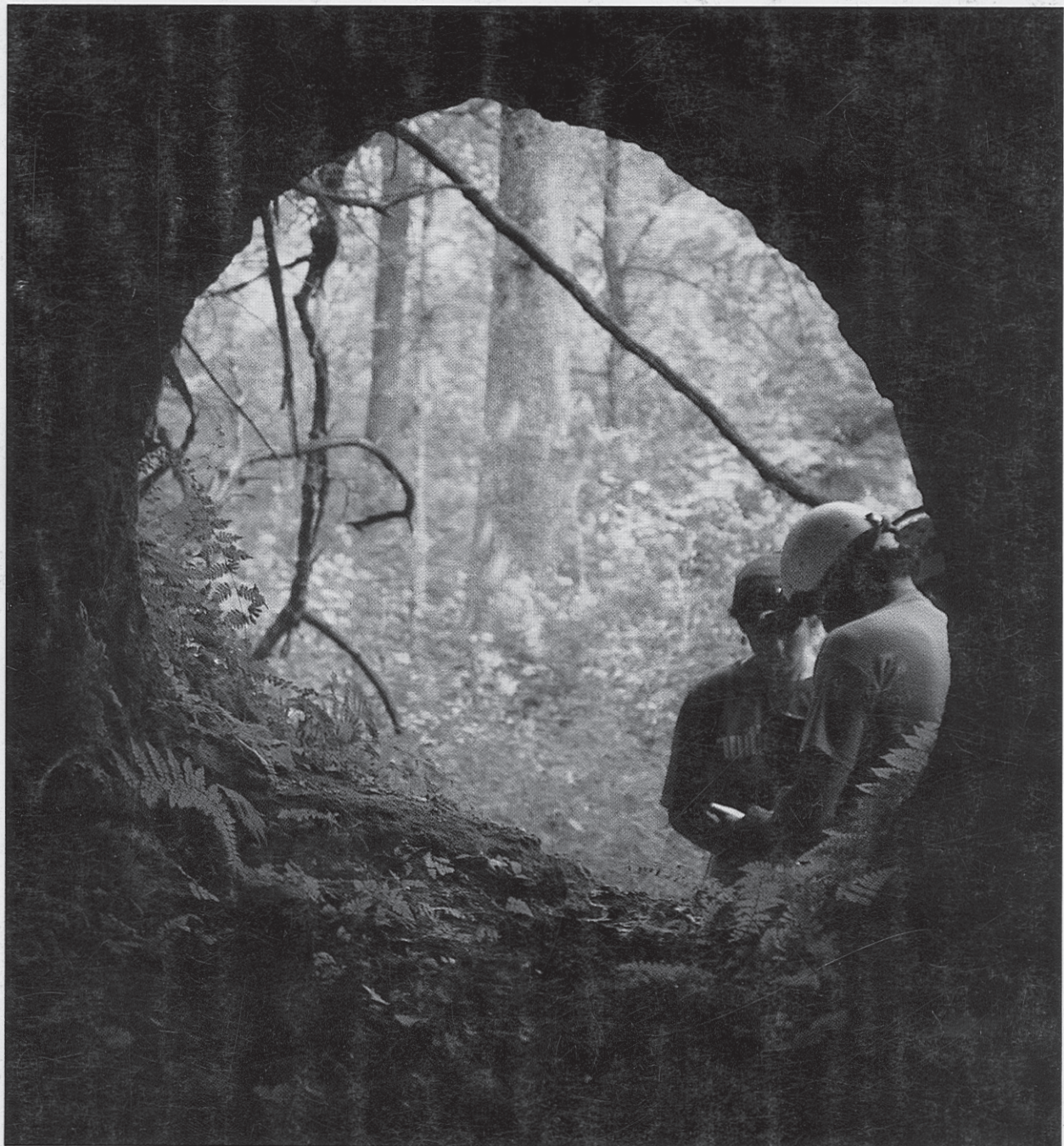
PHOLEOS

JOURNAL OF THE WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Volume 15 (1)

March, 1995





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 May 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.

The National Speleological Society

This is to certify that

Wittenberg University Speleological Society

having fully complied with all the requirements established by the Board of Governors, and having accepted the responsibility which such status entails, is hereby chartered in the National Speleological Society, and is entitled to all due rights and privileges: in testimony whereof the President and the Chairman of the Internal Organizations Committee have hereunto set their hands and the Seal of the Society, this 14th day of May, 1980.



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PRESIDENT

Erlyn H. Bradshaw
INTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

G-268
INTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS NO.



Cover: Entrance of Sullivant's Cave
Photo by H. H. Hobbs III

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EXCHANGES: Exchanges with other grottoes and caving groups are encouraged. Please mail to Grotto address.

MEETINGS: Wednesday evenings (when Wittenberg University classes are in session - call to confirm), 7:00 p.m., Room 206,
Science Building (corner of Plum and Edwards - parking available in adjacent lot), Wittenberg University,
Springfield, Ohio.

Editors' Note

Fasten your seat belts and hold on tight for what will be a fun-filled and exciting ride through this edition of *Pholeos*. This issue has it all: caves, crickets, bats, a sinkhole, and even a party.

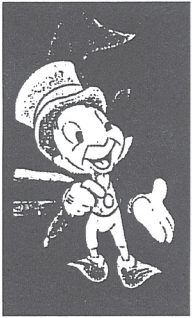
This edition of *Pholeos* begins with a creatively written story by Richard Hand in which you, the reader, are taken on a fascinating tour through Sloans Valley. Following Richard's story are descriptions and maps of several small caves in Adams and Ross County, Ohio by Megan Porter, a junior biology major here at Wittenberg. Then, WUSS President Annette Summers describes several small and interesting caves in Carter County, Kentucky. A unique selection appears next, as 12 year old Bradly Bond, along with some help from Linda Bond, presents information on those organisms synonymous with caves, bats! A letter from Harry White, the landowner of The Sinkhole, follows as Mr. White presents some of his concerns that led to his closing of the pit.

Finally, a letter announcing the much anticipated reunion for all WUSS alumni is included, along with an insert that is to be returned if you are interested in attending. This is the 15th anniversary of the Wittenberg University Speleological Society and we are working to make this a special and memorable year. I hope you enjoy this issue of *Pholeos*, and remember to keep your eyes open for our 15th anniversary issue due out in May.

- Gregg Savage
Editor

BY JIMMINY! IT'S A CRICKET!

by Richard Hand
NSS 12360L



Created by Ward Kimball for Walt Disney's Pinocchio.

"Wow! What's it like inside a cave?"

"Why don't you come down to Sloans Valley with us and find out for yourself?"

"Gee, can I really?"

The small stream that enters the cave is dry now, but just inside, water drops condensed on the limestone walls glisten like diamonds reflecting our headlamp beams. A phoebe nest adheres to the rock near the ceiling. The temperature is suddenly cooler. Dripping water is heard off to the right. A brown surface crayfish, startled by our lights, darts backwards across a small pool of water in the floor. Only a dim reflection of light vaguely illuminates the passage from the entrance. There are no greens; colors are grays and browns, no green plants.

"Eek! It's a spider!"

"Why do you think it's a spider?"

"It's long legs and feelers."

"Spiders don't have feelers and this creature having only six legs is an insect."

"What is it then? A grasshopper?"

"That is a pretty good guess. It is a *Ceuthophilus* (sue-thop-ill-us) or camel cricket. It belongs to the family gryllacrididae (wingless, long-horned grasshoppers) and order orthoptera (ortho = straight, ptera = wing). Note that they are rather humpbacked and have large brown and black bands across their abdomens."



Ceuthophilus stygius near cave entrance. Note the dark abdominal bands.

"They are troglonexes, that means that they can live part of their lives in the cave. They are equally at home in

hollow logs, under fallen trees and stones; essentially in any dark, moist place. They use the damp, cool cave as a daytime shelter and feed outside on quiet, humid, warm nights. They rarely venture deeper into the cave than the crepuscular (twilight) zone."

"Wow! What pretty ..."

"It's flowstone. It was once all white like marble but several generations of crickets have been roosting above it. Their droppings, having dotted the top, have changed the color to black and water has carried these brown streaks down the face."

We clamber over the breakdown, sign the register, and carefully climb down to lower passages.

"Look over here!"

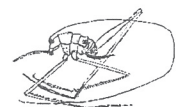
"What is it, a string?—No, it's moving. It's a little worm."

"It is called a horsehair worm, with a much simpler structure and thickness than a common earthworm. It is related to the nematode (roundworm). This four inch adult, in this pool of water, is laying its eggs. Microscopic larvae from these eggs, after being eaten by crickets, burrow from the intestine into the blood cavity. There they live parasitically in the cricket until fully grown. Then they emerge, mate, and lay their eggs in a pool of water."

We descend to the lower levels of the cave. A small stream is flowing in the floor of the canyon we are traversing. A minute stone unnoticeably knocked off the wall "KUR-PLUNKS" into the water. A small white crayfish darts out of view and three black tadpole-like creatures swim to new locations. These are in reality tiny, black salamanders.

"Hey, another cricket! This is the first one we've seen since the dozens near the entrance. And it's white."

"Yes, it's a different cave cricket, *Hadenococcus* (Had-dee-neh-cus), paler than the camel cricket, it has no bands. Legs and antennae are longer and eyes smaller, characteristics of permanent residents of the aphotic zone. They number fewer and are more sparsely distributed than their surface



Hadenococcus subterraneus deep in the cave; palely colored with long, thin appendages.

counterpart. In fact, in some small caves the female has been known to parthenogenetically (without fertilization) produce fertile eggs, a feature of importance to an individual which may never meet a fellow species in its reproductive lifetime."

"Do these go all the way to the surface for food every night?"

"No. Even in a small food-poor cave only about one-third of the population go to the surface on given nights when the humidity is above 85 percent and the temperature is above freezing. The Sloans Valley Cave System is a relatively food-rich cave mainly because of the amount of organic debris washed in by flooding streams. *Hadenococcus* with sufficient food may be a troglophile (live its entire life in the cave) in wetter shafts and muddy, deeper cave passages."

We crawl through a small, wet tube that has grooves in the mud floor eroded by previous cavers, wade through chest-deep water, and ascend a muddy breakdown hill to admire the formations at the top. Next, we worm and wiggle through a very tight breakdown passage. A white cave millipede is seen. That most of the remainder of the trip will be in large, walking passages is a rewarding thought. A small spider dangles from a stalactite remnant eroded by flood waters into a beautiful caramel-ice cream splendor. Small clusters of bats cling to the ceiling in one of the big rooms. Maybe it is *Myotis sudalis* (the endangered Indiana cave bat). As we clamber over a rock into a constriction, a large, white, fuzzy mass with extended filaments is encountered.

"What is that?"

"That was a cave cricket. Now fungus is living on the carcass. You can still see a couple of the cricket's legs. Crickets are very important in the Sloans Valley food web. Per individual, crickets deposit less energy rich guano than bats, cave packrats, raccoons, etc., but crickets by orders of magnitude out number all of these species summed together. Their guano dropping are food for numerous organisms which are themselves food for other organisms and so on."

"Even eggs crickets lay are the sole diet of a common cave beetle. Energy is so economically restricted in biospeleological systems that crickets can only lay eggs, unlike their surface relatives, in times of high food supply. The cave beetle only has enough surplus energy for egg production when it is well fed on cricket eggs."

"A third energy input is the cricket's body. We have already mentioned how it supports the horsehair worms when it is living. When it dies, if carnivorous insects don't find and devour it, fungus spores develop a colony like this one. Other organisms eat the fungus and so on."

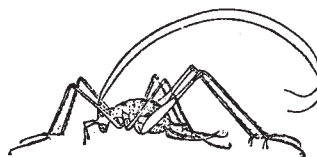
As we near our exit, even before we sense the humid vegetative odors permeating from the outside, we hear what sounds like a machine factory.

"It's the stridulations of thousands of surface crickets outside. A direct contrast to the silence of the cave. We have not heard cave crickets give even a single chirp. Cave crickets lack auditory organs, and since they can't hear, they don't communicate with sound."

It's been a long cave trip. While fingers of night have subdued the setting sun, twilight has faded into darkness and ghostly swirls of fog glide over the landscape. We emerge from the cave, climbing up through mystic strata of condensing fog. The stars overhead are scintillating with a brilliance unparalleled back in Ohio. A good cave trip ended.

"Thank you very much for introducing me to this intriguing underground activity. How can I learn more about these cave animals?"

"Two things I will strongly recommend. The first is the book, *THE LIFE OF THE CAVE*, by Charles E. Mohr and Thomas L. Poulson, McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York, 1966 (ISBN #07-046003). This book, although out of print, is available at many libraries. If not at yours, it can be obtained by inter-library loan. Second is the Biospeleology Weekend Workshop offered by David Culver and Horton Hobbs, III. You don't have to be a biologist to attend."



Caves of Adams and Ross County, Ohio

Megan Porter
 NSS 38171
 (photos by H. H. Hobbs III)

In August 1994 a trip was organized as part of an endangered species assessment of five troglobitic invertebrate species located in southern Ohio caves. As part of the assessment, five WUSS members spent several days digging around in

the mud for interesting organisms. On 19 August 1994, in addition to looking for these troglobitic species, the WUSS crew took time out to explore and survey several, yet interesting, caves in the area.

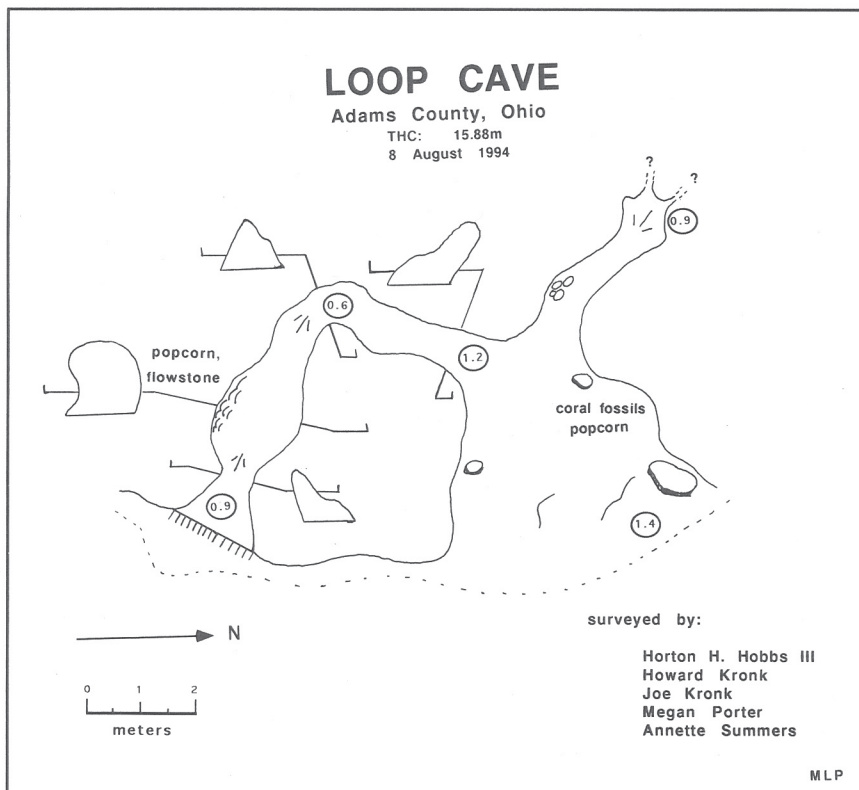
Loop Cave

(THC:15.9m) has two entrances located 5.6m apart in a dolomite bluff in Adams County, Ohio. The larger entrance opens into a wide, low room in which coral fossils and popcorn speleothems can be found on the walls. Two passages branch from the back of the main room. The lead to the northwest ends quickly, becoming too tight to pass. The second passage, leading to the southwest, constricts



Annette Summers taking in the view outside the main entrance to Loop Cave. ◀

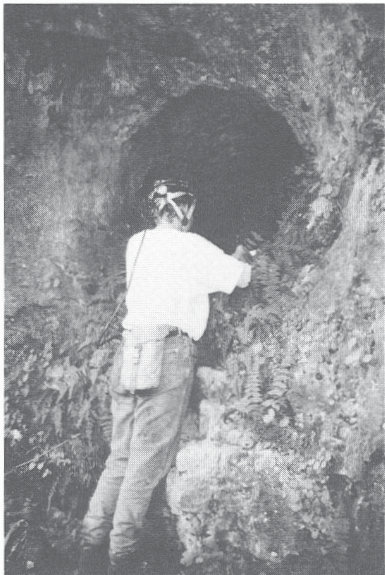
Joseph Kronk entering the small crawlway off the main entrance, Loop Cave. ▽



Joseph Kronk taking a break inside the smaller entrance, Loop Cave.

into a small crawlway. After 3.8m the passage turns southeast into a small chamber that leads to the second entrance, opening onto a ledge south of the main entrance. The only organism found in the cave was the Long-tail Salamander, *Eurycea longicauda* (Green). Organisms observed in the entrances to the cave included tipulid flies, terrestrial isopods, harvestmen, and crickets. There was also evidence of a mammal's nest.

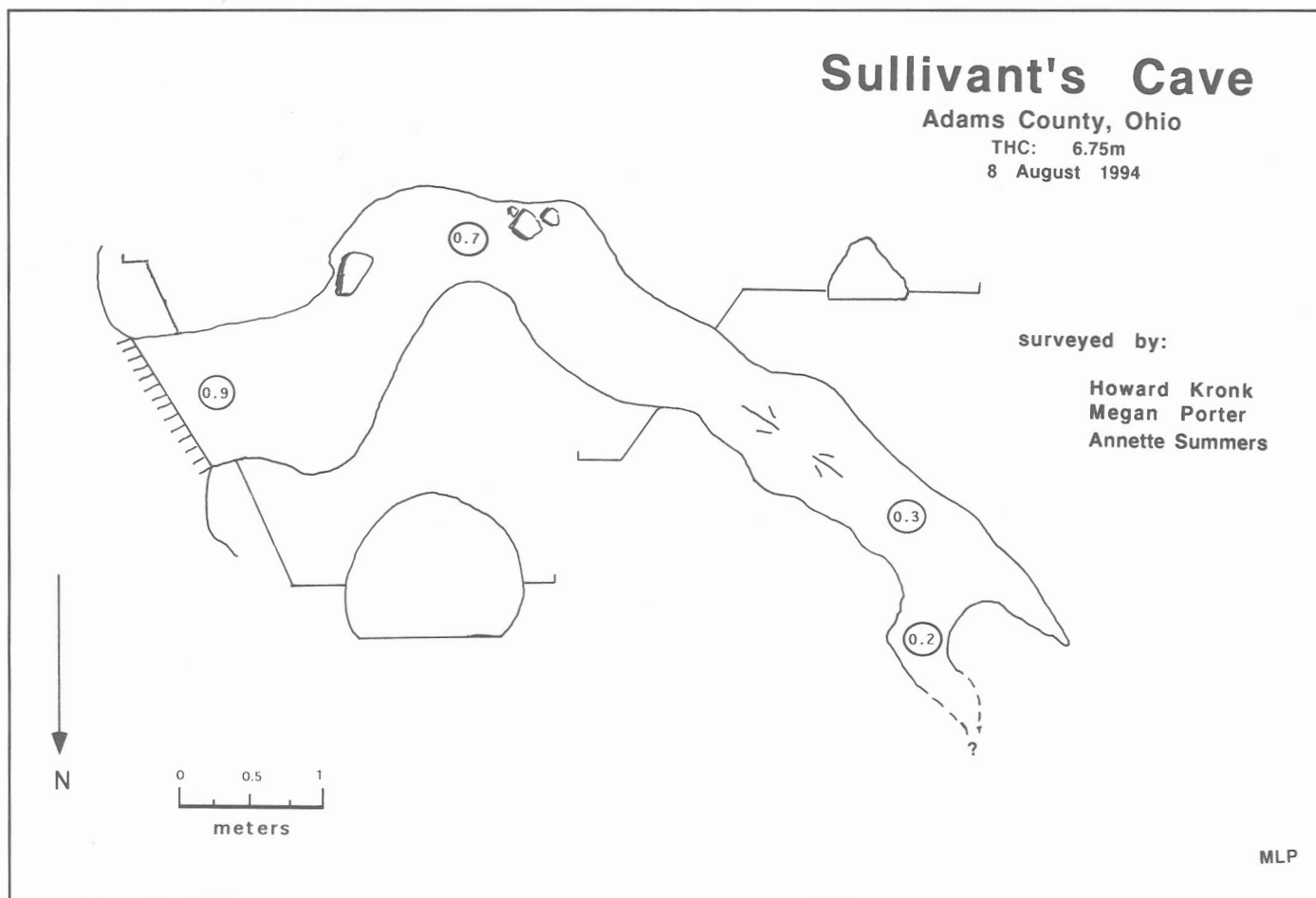
The entrance to **Sullivant's Cave** (THC:6.8m) is located 7m south of Loop Cave. Growing around the entrance is the rare plant *Sullivantia sullivanti* (Britt), for which the cave is named. The entrance passage is elliptical in shape, heading southwest. After 2.6m, the passage turns northwest, branching into two leads that quickly become too small to continue. Organisms found in the cave include tipulids, harvestmen, a wolf spider, terrestrial isopods, snails, and crickets.



Megan Porter surveying the entrance to Sullivant's Cave.



Sullivantia sullivanti, the rare plant found at the entrance of Sullivant's Cave for which the cave is named.

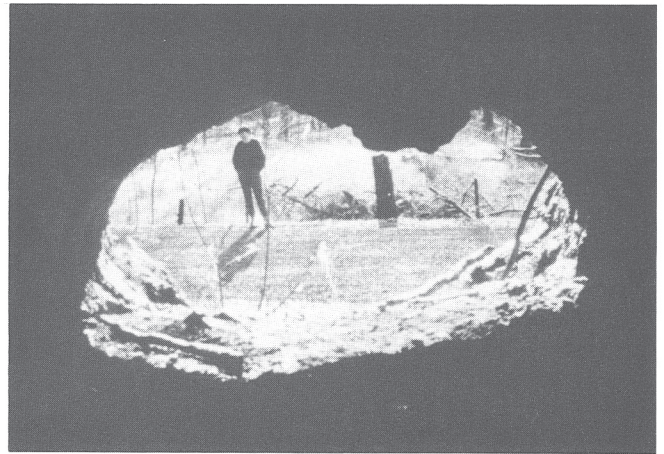


Roadside Cave (THC:10.7m) is, as the name implies, found to the side of a backroad in Adams County, Ohio. Three small arches are located directly north of the entrance. The entrance opens into a low passage heading west. The

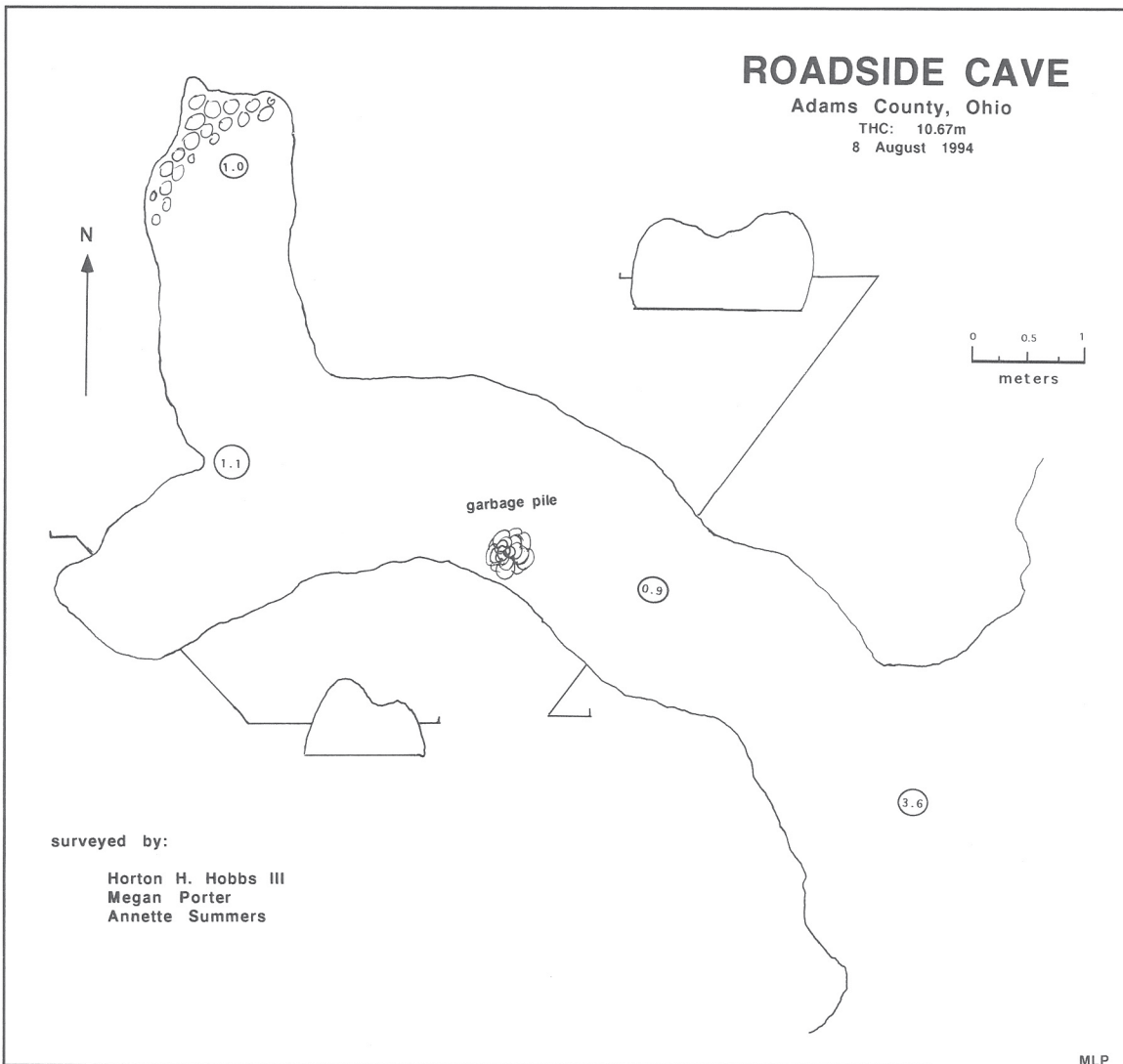
pile of garbage found near the entrance is evidence of local use. The main passage diverges in two directions, with both leads ending quickly. There were no organisms observed in this cave.



Relaxing outside Roadside Cave. Pictured here are Howard Kronk, Joseph Kronk, and Megan Porter.



Looking out the entrance to Roadside Cave (former WUSS member Monika Palunas provides scale).



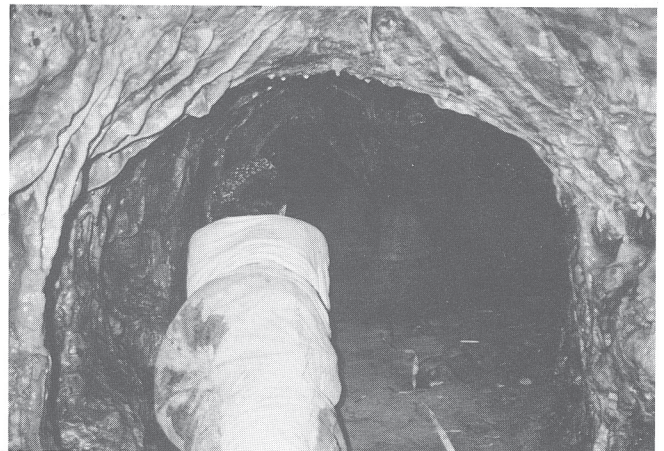
Oscar Hole (THC:16.1m) is developed in the Greenfield dolomite of Ross County, Ohio. The entrance, discovered upstream from Buckskin I and II caves, opens onto the east side of Buckskin Creek, at an elevation of 2461m. Because the entrance is at water level, the sandy floor of the cave is wet. The entrance slopes up into a small room that then pinches into a smaller passage heading east. Although the end of the cave could be seen, three large mud columns towards the back of the crawlway

effectively blocked further survey. Bacon strips and active flowstone are also present on the walls of the cave near the columns. Millipedes, harvestmen, and tipulids were observed in the passage.

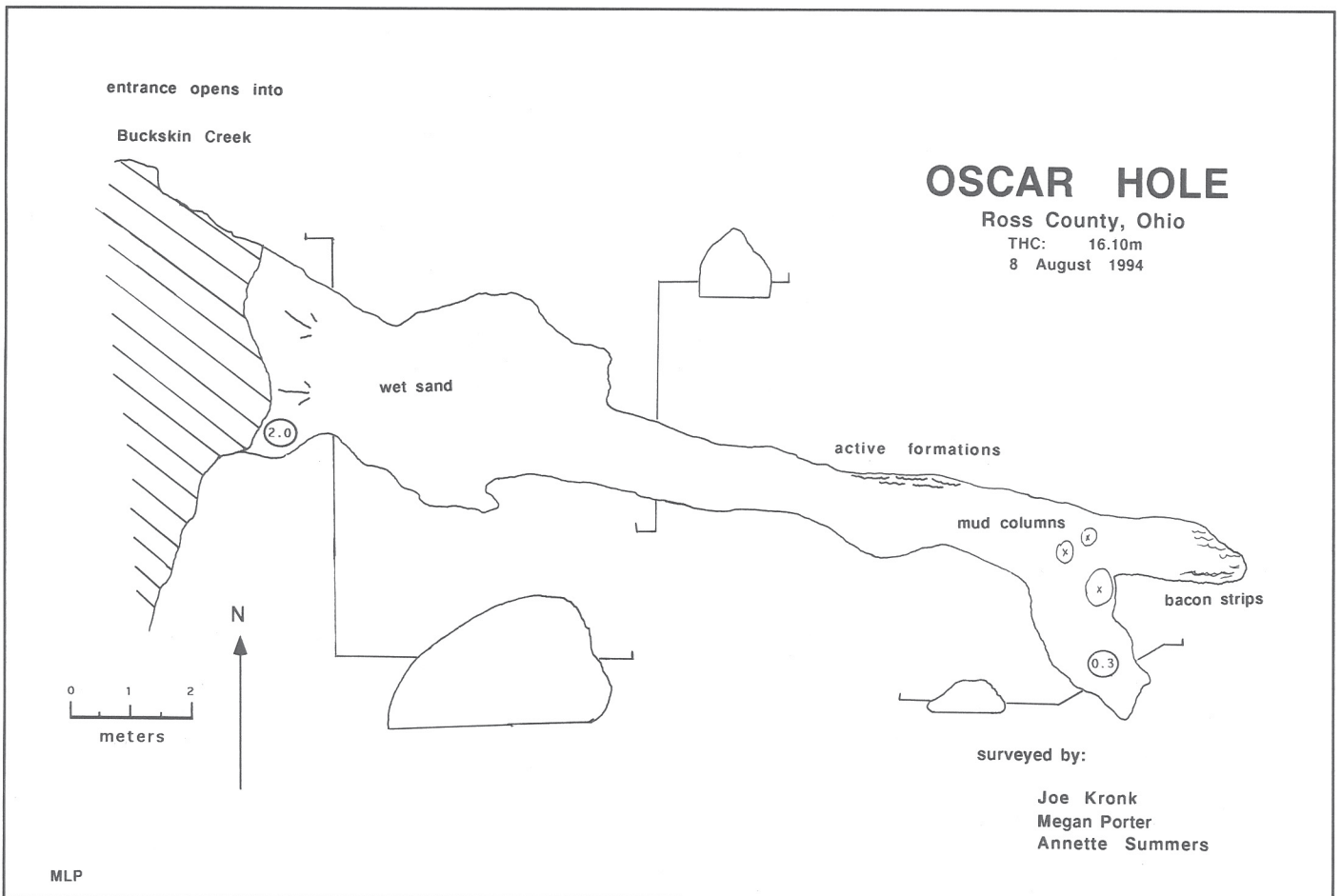
Thank you to Horton Hobbs III, Howard Kronk, Joseph Kronk, and Annette Summers for their contribution to the surveys of these caves.



Howard Kronk and Joseph Kronk trying not to get their feet wet entering Oscar Hole.



Annette Summers admiring the mud columns found near the back of Oscar Hole.



Small, but Interesting Caves in Carter County, Kentucky

Annette Summers
NSS 31319
(photos by H. H. Hobbs III)

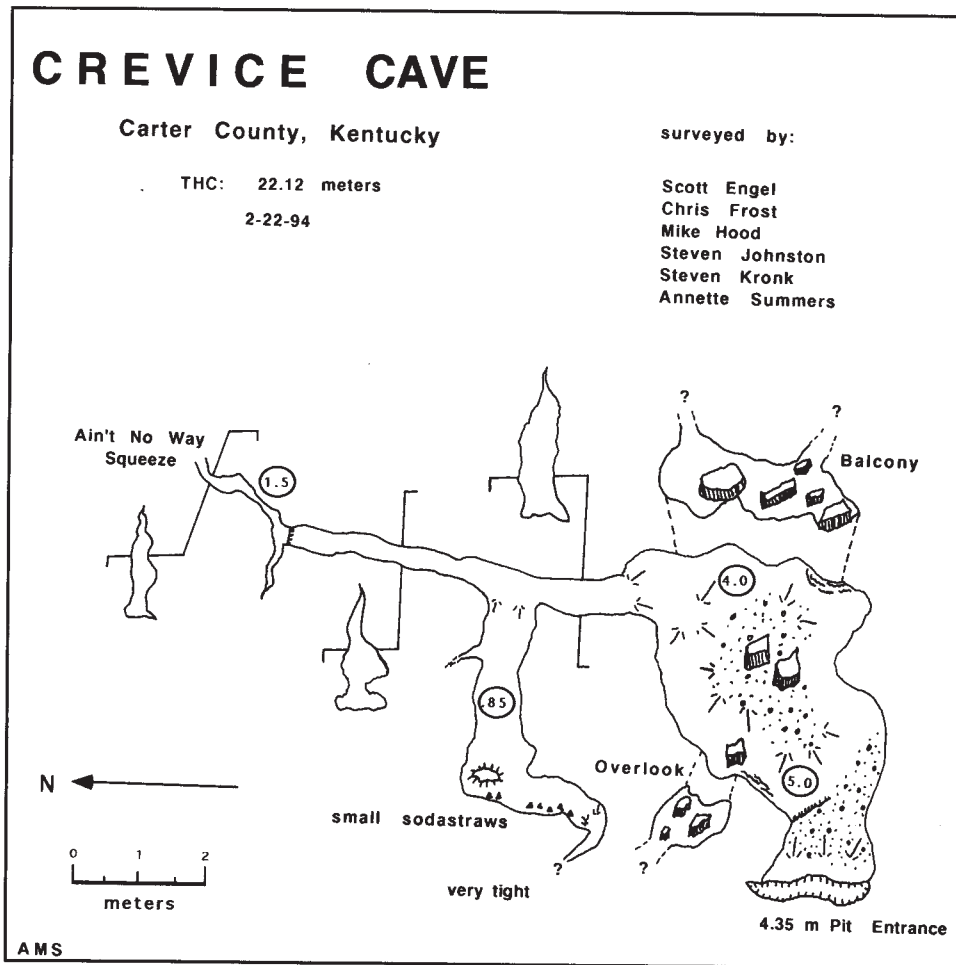
Although Canyon Cave, one of Carter County's largest caves (currently at over 9000 feet of surveyed passage), is by far the most exciting cave in Scott Hollow, several other caves developed in this ridge also offer a little enjoyment.

In addition to work in Canyon, WUSS members mapped Crevice Cave and Spider Hole several years ago. Recently, Scott Hollow and Harassment Cave were surveyed.

Crevice Cave (THC: 22.12m) is accessed from a narrow, 4.35m pit. The entrance was negotiated using a belayed etrier; it was also free-climbed. Much debris lie at the bottom of the drop, making it a very slick and dangerous place. A large room, with ceiling heights at approximately 4-5m, is well decorated. The walls are covered either with flowstone, or with solutional fluting. Many breakdown blocks cover the floor. To the east and west are easy climbs to upper-levels. Because exploration was limited by time,

three of the small, narrow leads could not be surveyed (and the number of tiny surveyors was insufficient!). M. Hood found writing scribed in The Balcony.

A constricted canyon-passage drops away to the north from the big room. Both leads in this direction ended quickly, although Ain't No Way Squeeze provides the most potential for more going passage. The cave is very dry, except near the entrance and active formations. No biological life was found.



SPIDER HOLE

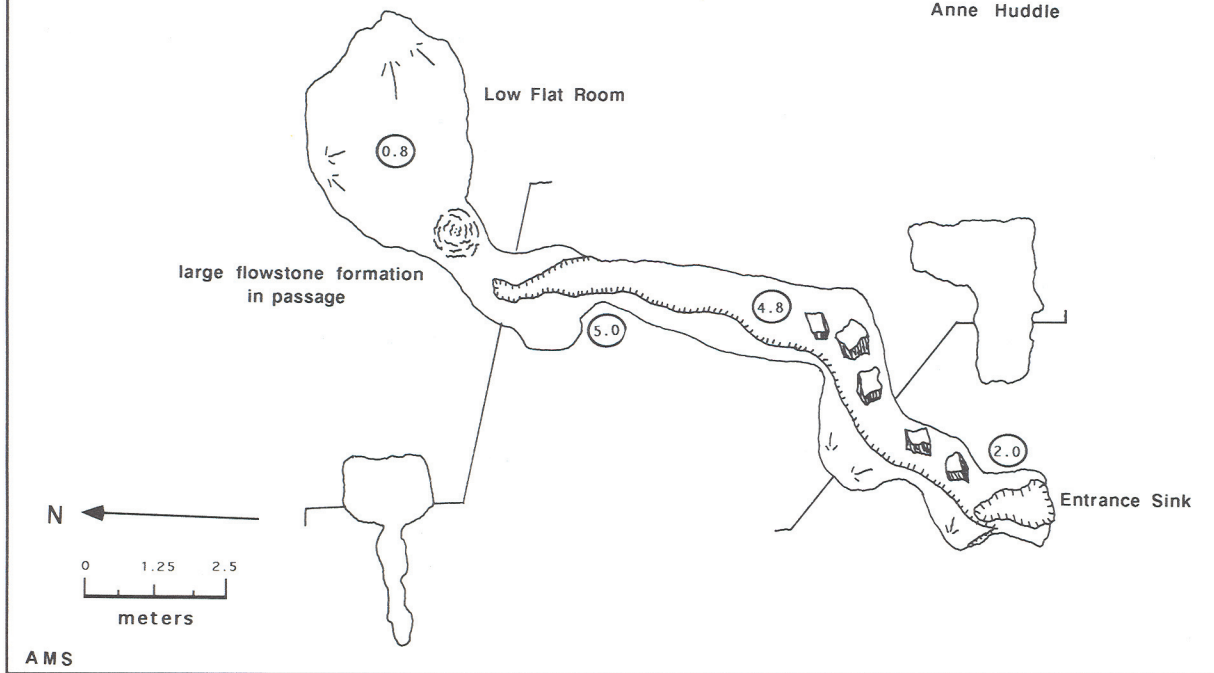
Carter County, Kentucky

THC: 18.56 meters

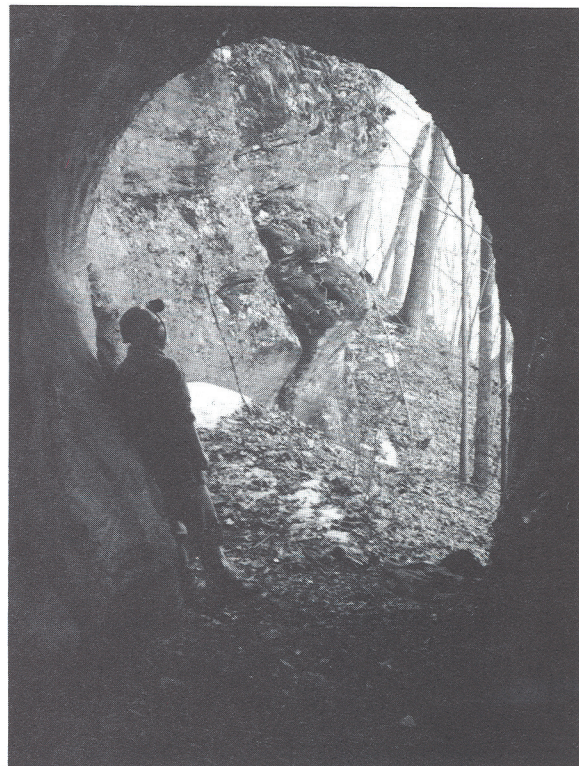
2-22-94

surveyed by:

Scott Engel
Tina Evert
Jessica Hoane
Anne Huddle



Spider Hole (THC: 18.56m) is entered from a sink. The cave does not have any side passages, and follows a north-east/south-west trend. There is a ledge on the right side of the passage, with many breakdown chunks in the lower recess. A large flowstone formation virtually blocks access to the Low Flat Room. Surveyors observed cave crickets, an orange salamander, and many spiders.



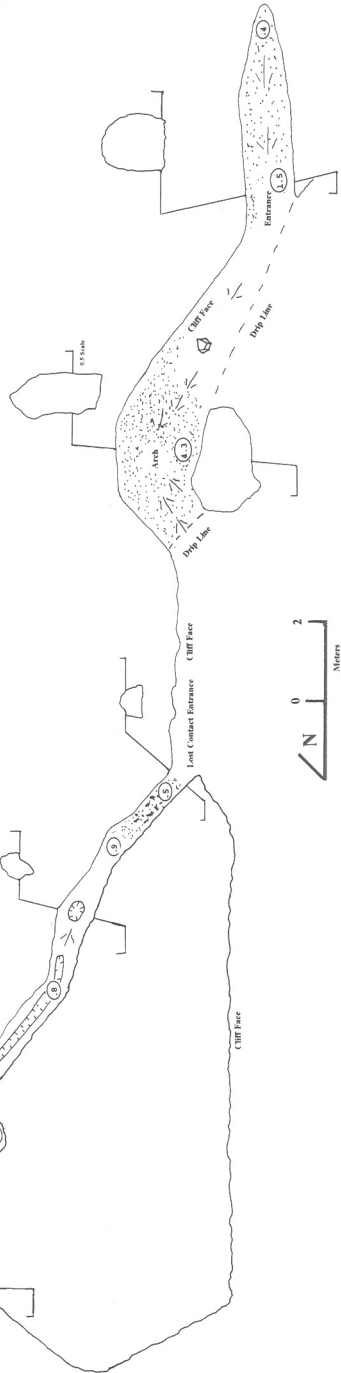
The arch located south of Harassment Cave.

Harassment Cave

Carter County, KY
19 February 1994

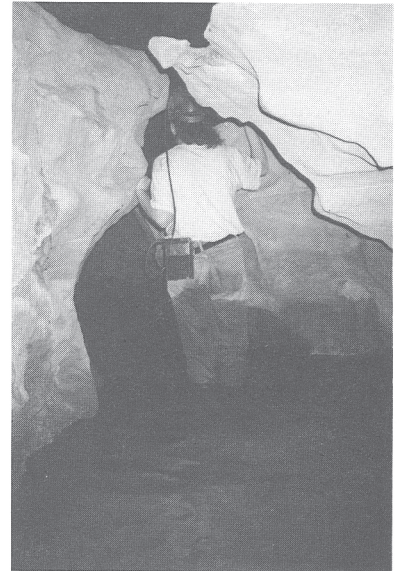
THC: 32.25m

Toby Dogwiler
Horton H. Hobbs III
Megan Porter
Annette Summers

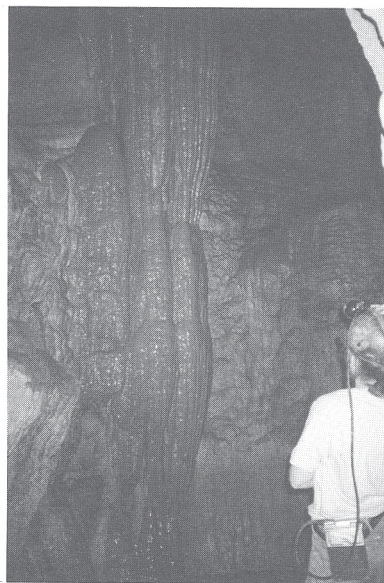


Harassment Cave (THC: 32.25m) is a short, small cave. Along the limestone ridge, one can encounter a 4m limestone arch. This arch was included in the survey of Harassment. Lost Contact Entrance is a tight squeeze into the ridge wall (M. Porter, on the survey, lost her contact here). The passage continues northeast into the rock for approximately 15m until it terminates at the other entrance; there are no side leads.

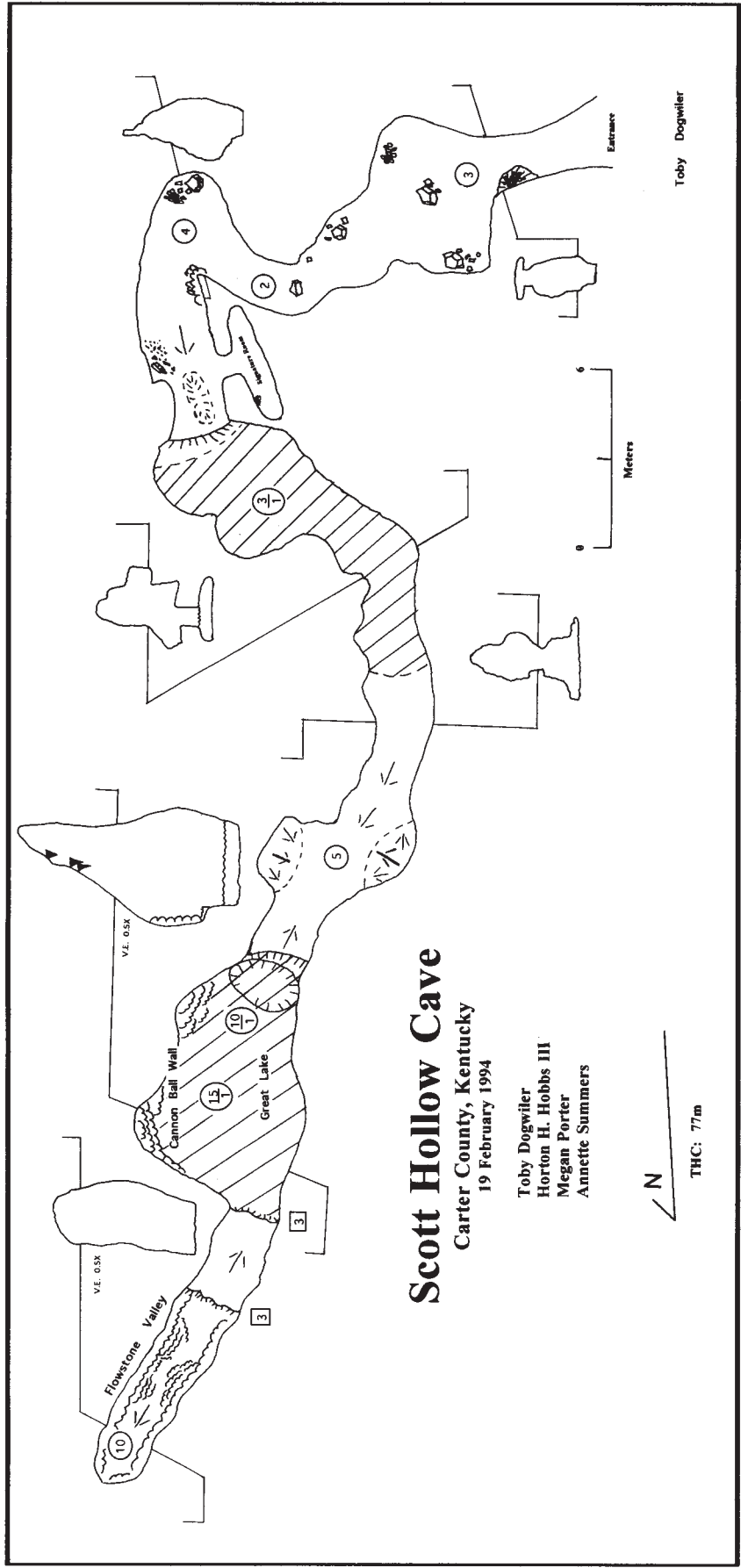
Scott Hollow Cave (THC: 77m) is the most decorated cave on the ridge. Passages in this cave are equally as impressive, where ceilings are approximately 3-15m high. Scott Hollow's entrance is easily accessed from the outcrop of limestone along the ridge. The dry, main passage from the entrance turns sharply north after 15m of walking; the Signature Room is located near the bend. Water averages one meter depth in the first pool (6-8m in length). The walls and floor at this point are covered with flowstone. The Great Lake is 6-8m in length. It is here where the most beautiful formations are seen, such as the Cannon Ball Wall and delicate rimstone pools containing cave pearls. Flowstone plugs further passage in the Flowstone Valley, where the formations stretch from floor to ceiling.



Megan Porter getting wet in the first pool of Scott Hollow Cave.



Megan Porter admiring flowstone in Flowstone Valley, Scott Hollow Cave.



Scott Hollow Cave

Carter County, Kentucky
19 February 1994

Toby Dogwiler
Horton H. Hobbs III
Megan Porter
Annette Summers



THC: 77m

Toby Dogwiler

All of these caves are developed in the Ste. Genevieve Limestone Member, of the Mississippian Newman Limestone Formation. Cross-bedding in the limestone is seen readily in Crevice Cave's big room, as well as at outcrops along the ridge. Breakdown blocks consist of red and grey chert, limestone, and sandstone from upper units. The abundant formations in Scott Hollow Cave demonstrate the limestone's productivity concerning calcite precipitation. Although, the water source for Scott Hollow is unknown because the cave has developed so high on the ridge.

Crevice Cave and Spider Hole were surveyed initially in February of 1992, and were later visited in 1994. Scott Hollow and Harassment Caves were mapped in February 1994. The following people are deserving of thanks for their contribution to the surveys: Scott Engel, Tina Evert, Chris Frost, Jessica Hoane, Horton Hobbs III, Mike Hood, Anne Huddle, Steven Johnston, Steven Kronk, and Megan Porter. We also extend gratitude to the landowners for access to these caves.

Bats

by Linda Bond
NSS 31581

There seems to be several common misconceptions about bats, for example, not all bats drink blood or have rabies. Bats are not frightening creatures and rarely do they harm people, but instead they help people in many ways by eating insects, pollinating plants, distributing seeds, and providing fertilizer.

Bats are often referred to as "flying insect traps" because they eat harmful insects worldwide. With nearly 70% of all bats eating insects, they are major predators of night flying insects such as crop pests and mosquitoes. In fact, bats eat so many mosquitoes in some areas that they are very important in helping control malaria. Besides mosquitoes, bats also feed on moths, beetles, grasshoppers, and flies.

Bats are often found living in the tropics. The rain forests depend on bats to pollinate flowers, plants, and trees. When pollinating flowers, bats roll out their tongue like a straw and suck up the nectar. As the bats move from flower to flower, they carry pollen along with them. Some trees and plants pollinated by bats in the rain forest include:

banana, date, fig, avocado, cashew, and clove. The flying foxes of Africa, large fruit bats, pollinate countless species of plants. The Durian fruit of southeast Africa rely completely on flying foxes for pollination.

Besides feeding on insects and pollinating plants, bats also play a role in distributing seeds. Bats feed on fruit and in the process swallow seeds. As they fly, seeds are dropped over a large area of forest. By this process, bats can account for up to 95% of forest regrowth on cleared land.

Bats are also important in providing fertilizer for farming. Large amounts of guano accumulate on the floors of bat caves. This guano is mined and used on crops as a fertilizer since it is rich in nitrogen, a nutrient vital in plant growth.

Although often times thought of as blood sucking and dangerous animals, bats are actually a valuable natural resource. They play an important role in insect control, pollination, and seed distribution. It is essential that people begin to get a better understanding of bats so that the normal misconceptions can be eliminated.

Bats

by Bradly Bond

Bats are the only flying mammals. Bats are nocturnal. There are nearly 1000 species of bats. They do not live in very hot deserts or at the North and South poles.

Bats fit into two groups. One group is called large bats or fruit bats, while the other group is small bats, which mostly eat insects. The world's smallest mammal is a bumble bee bat of Thailand.

It weighs less than a penny. Some flying foxes have a wing span of six feet.

Bats eat insects, fruit, fish, blood, nectar, and pollen. They eat billions of deadly insects. Bats pollinate plants and flowers in the deserts, jungles, and forests. Bats are a valuable natural resource.

Letter from a Landowner

The following is from Harry White, the landowner of the Sinkhole. He has some genuine concerns for closing the pit, concerns that we should heed when we go to each and every cave and pit in Tag. This letter is reprinted from Speleo Themes, vol. 36, September/October 1994.

September 6, 1994

To: Whom it May Concern

From: Harry E. White, Jr. - NSS#8336

Please be so kind as to inform your membership as well as other cavers that the property owned by Harry White in Marion County, Tennessee is closed and off limits. This property is the location of the vertical shaft known as The Sinkhole.

As a vertical caver, I was optimistic when I acquired this property several years ago. I thought that other cavers would treat The Sinkhole with a certain degree of respect, as though they owned the property. During the first few years, this seemed to be the case. But recently (the last five years) the influx in sheer numbers of sport-cavers has drastically altered the situation. Please note that I avoid using or implying verbiage that I own The Sinkhole. I am not that audacious. It would be like saying, "I own the sunset, or that rainbow, or that redwood, or that woman, or that man, or that piss ant," or anything else that I didn't make or create with my own sweat, back, hands, or mind. But, legally, I do own what is within the man-made boundaries in which The Sinkhole lies, and I am therefore responsible for its health and welfare.

Folks will be folks. Cavers are not respecting The Sinkhole, and only I am to blame since I have failed to properly manage the situation. Cavers are not intentionally damaging the property or The Sinkhole. Yet, a sharp stick in the eye hurts whether it's accidental or not. The abuse, as I see it, is overuse. Today, the surface area surrounding the pit resembles a campground in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The vegetation is vanishing and the ground is hard tamped by bored cavers waiting their turn on the rope. Since the red oak tree that once defined the only logical place to rig succumbed to blight (or possibly overuse), cavers have been very creative in rigging the pit. "Otter slides" abound, causing loss of vegetation and erosion.

Not being a letter-to-the-editor type of person, I have attempted to make my wishes known on what I thought was best for The Sinkhole by informal conversation with

other cavers; this has not worked. In part, due to my non-assertive Southern manner (until I get mad) and partly due to my propensity toward ostrich-like behavior, my attempts at protecting The Sinkhole have been, at best, feebleish to nonexistent and have failed.

The following are a few conditions that I have asked cavers to observe with respect to The Sinkhole (All of which have been breached.) I did not want large groups gathering at the pit. I had wanted no more than four (4) cavers at the pit at any given time. I only wanted the original rigging point used with no more than two ropes in the shaft at one time. (So, the rigging tree died: you should have used a longer rope, thereby keeping the same rub. This is only simple hiking trail etiquette. You don't make your own trail in order to shorten switchbacks.) "Creative rigging" is acceptable due to the necessities of exploration, rescue, or on man-made objects, but not with The Sinkhole. I did not want the pit to be used as a training site for rescue work since this involves numerous people and often multiple rigging locations. In spite of its "heartland" location in TAG and easy access, I wanted the pit to be kept as low-profiled as possible, not to be included in caver activity guidebooks, or the object of a media event that on the surface purports to be a nature appreciation segment: when in fact, it's only a thinly-veiled bungee jump, depicting daredevils defying the jaws of death. I see nothing to be gained by enticing thrill-seeking-types to fragile natural environs. There are plenty of acceptable places to do this type of activity, but not at The Sinkhole. The main reason I don't want The Sinkhole to be publicized anymore than it has should be obvious. Heavy traffic has caused The Sinkhole to be in distress. To date, all the entities of my want list for The Sinkhole have been violated.

Several locals still get their water supply from the spring above the pit. I will notify them of the closure of the property to cavers.

In the near future, I will start a reclamation project for the pit, checking erosion and trying to re-establish its flora. The pit needs to lie fallow for a time.

I don't want to make The Sinkhole into something it's not. It's not a Surprise; it's not Fantastic, or Incredible, and I

don't want it to turn into a Valhalla. It just happens to be an average sinkhole with a modest degree of character and charm. Its only problem is that it's located in a heavily caved area with easy access, and it's defenseless. This is not just another irate landowner telling you to, "Get the Hell off my property." It's a caver talking to other cavers.

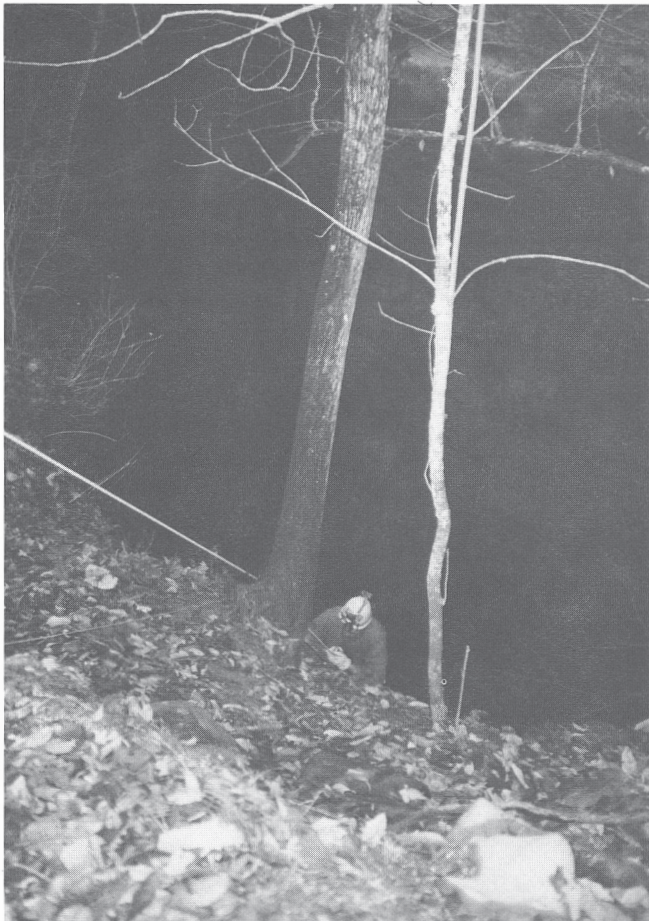
You tell me; if you owned the property and saw the cave in distress, what would you do?

Please feel free to publish this letter in your newsletter or other publications. However, if you choose to do so, please maintain the letter's integrity by leaving it intact and not use out of context quotes.

Sincerely,

Harry E. White, Jr.
NSS#8336

P.S. I elicit constructive comments and criticisms other than those that relate to my birth origins or things that are anatomically impossible for me to do. My mailing address is: 13820 Old Hickory Boulevard, Antioch, Tennessee 37013.



Larry Bond climbing out of Balcony Sink, a now closed classic pit in Jackson County, Alabama (H. H. Hobbs III) .



Spring 1994 Limnology class taking water samples from Bronson's Cave, Lawrence County, Indiana (H. H. Hobbs III).



Specific conductance values being obtained from Whistling Cave effluent, Lawrence County, Indiana (H. H. Hobbs III).



Annette Summers viewing soda straws and helictites in new section of Marango Cave, Crawford County, Indiana, September 1993 (H. H. Hobbs III).

Dear WUSS Alumni:

This letter is to inform you and your family about the recent activities of the Wittenberg University Speleological Society. In addition to the on-going exploration, survey, and research by students and other WUSS members, we are planning a special event. This year, WUSS is having its fifteenth anniversary and we invite you to join in the celebration!

In 1978, Wittenberg cavers formed an organization that would cater to their needs and interests. The roots of this club began in the spring of 1977 through the collaborated effort of a first year biology professor, Horton Hobbs, and Wittenberg students. After a couple years, officers were elected and members decided the next logical step would be to join the National Speleological Society (NSS) as a student grotto. In April of 1980, the Wittenberg University Speleological Society received its charter membership as an internal organization of the NSS. Ever since then, WUSS has been dedicated to the advancement of speleology, to cave conservation and preservation, and to the safety of all persons entering the spelean domain. Members have been active explorers, surveyors, and scientists, taking their enjoyment of the underground throughout the United States and the world during the past fifteen years.

A banquet will be held on May 6, 1995 in the Shouplin Center, Room 105, on the Wittenberg Campus at 6:30 pm to commemorate the event. Dinner will begin at 7:00 pm, with a program at 8:00 pm. On Sunday, May 7, we are organizing a trip to Ohio Caverns in West Liberty, Ohio. The following page is a RSVP form if you plan to attend any of these events. A campus map, as well as a list of local hotels and camping accommodations are also provided.

We hope that you have fond memories of your time with the organization. Looking back through old photographs and *Pholeos* articles has been very exciting for us. We are trying to publish a Commemorative Issue of *Pholeos*; unfortunately, our archives seem somewhat sketchy for some years. We are also putting together a slide show for the night of the reunion. In order to do this, however, we need your help. If you have anything you wish to contribute (e.g., slides, prints, letter), feel free to send it to the address at the bottom of the page. We can guarantee you will get your item(s) back once we have completed our tasks. We are also welcoming letters or articles for *Pholeos*, detailing your involvement with WUSS and your life since you were a member. Additionally, if you would like to renew your WUSS membership and support the activities of the grotto, choose from the various membership categories provided on the following sheet.

We hope to hear from you and to see you at the Reunion!

Sincerely,

Annette Summers
Chairperson, NSS 31319