



BREAKDOWN

Volume 7, Number 3, January 1993

MAR Business Meeting set for Sat. Feb. 27, 1993

The MAR business meeting will be held Saturday February 27 at the home of Jay Herbein in Harrisburg at 1:30 p.m. Make sure your grotto has a representative at the meeting.

See page 3 for details and directions.

[The editor thanks Jay Longenderfer for providing the updated camera-ready graphic.]

Hosterman's Pit Status Report

by Mark Jancin

[Adapted from an article written by Mark Jancin for the *Nittany Grotto News*.]

[Ed. Con-Stone, Inc. has filed an application for a permit to surface mine limestone. The mine would destroy most of Hosterman's Pit.]

In October 1992, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources (DER) visited Hosterman's Pit. This visit was in response to the Unsuitable for Mining (UFM) petition filed by the Nittany Grotto in an effort to protect the cave from being mined away. The DER team visited the bone area and the standing water area in the Subway Passage. They also made observations concerning the geology of the cave.

The trip was made by special arrangement with the owner, Con-Stone, Inc. The cave continues to be gated, locked, and off limits to everyone.

The DER received a formal response to the UFM petition dated October 12, 1992, from legal representatives of Con-Stone, Inc. Keith Wheeland (representing the Grotto) also received a copy of the response. This Intervention and Response is part of the official record, and was prepared by Buchanan Ingersoll Professional Corporation of Philadelphia.

This 15-page document was written by lawyers, and arguably for lawyers. The response makes 10 points some of which may have to be decided by a court of law. If you have any knowledge of the relevant environmental law, the Nittany Grotto would appreciate your thoughts. If you would like to see a copy of this response, please call Mark Jancin at (814) 353-1505 or Keith Wheeland at (814) 238-2057.

In the UFM petition, the Grotto also asked that Stover Cave (about a mile from Hosterman's Pit) be protected. The DER visited Stover Cave and found three species of bats. One threatened and the other in danger.

We will not know the results of the DER visits until their report is made public.

The next step for the Grotto is to attend the hearing to be scheduled by the Environmental Quality Board. The date of this hearing has not been set.

Loyalhanna Grotto Goes Buggy

[Adapted from a report by Jim Kennedy which will appear in an upcoming issue of the *Loyalhanna Troglodyte*.]

The Loyalhanna Grotto has adopted a new project: collecting tiny *Pseudanophthalmus* cave beetles, rare in Pennsylvania. The beetles will be collected by placing bait in a cave. A second trip will be made to collect the beetles. The specimens will be sent to Dr. Tom Barr, a noted biospeleologist. The beetle's habitat is limited to southern Pennsylvania, therefore the study area will be confined to that part of the state. If you are interested in helping with this project, contact Jim Kennedy at Stoney Point Crossroads, R.D.#6, Box 462, Uniontown, PA 15401-9044. You can call him weekends at (412) 245-7378.

UFM for Non- Coal: Dead in Pennsylvania

by Mark Jancin

On December 18, 1992, the citizens of Pennsylvania lost their right to protect valuable resources in non-coal areas.

As some of you know, On June 29, 1992, the State Senate amended House Bill No.

2216 to include a section which would result in the loss of authority of the Environmental Quality board to designate non-coal lands as Unsuitable for Mining (UFM). This would be a dismal development for the state. As written, the amendment would also have resulted in the loss of UFM designation for any site which had already received it and would have canceled any petitions in progress. This would have meant that the Hosterman's Petition would have become void. The Nittany Grotto responded by notifying cavers as to this bleak prospect and asking them to write their state representatives to have the offending amendment removed. In addition, Keith Wheeland (representing MAR) wrote a letter to each State Representative asking that the amendment be removed. Judi Stack hand delivered a copy to each representative.



Environmental Resources prior to July 30, 1992." (The UFM petition for Hosterman's Pit was accepted by the DER on July 21, 1992. Therefore it can still be considered.)

HB 2390 with its latest amendment then went to the House for concurrence. Imagine yourself as a legislator, late in the day, Wednesday before Thanksgiving, knowing that expediency can permit you to close the session that day, rather than coming back on Friday, or, heaven forbid, on Monday, the last working day of the session. Such was the setting. HB 2390 was approved on Wednesday evening, the session was closed early, and the legislators went home to celebrate their holiday. Did they give HB 2390 careful consideration?

Cavers are thankful for the grandfathering clause, but how does a legislator explain to his or her constituents that there is nothing in non-coal lands worth protecting?

Hosterman's Pit T-Shirts

The Nittany Grotto has designed and is offering for sale a special Hosterman's Pit T-shirt. The shirts will be grey with the front design in blue, yellow and black. The front of the shirt will display a map of Hosterman's Pit along with a replica of the old Nittany Grotto keystone patch. The back of the shirt will have the words; Hosterman's Pit "I did my part to save the cave..."

The shirts will cost \$15 and will be available at the MAR business meeting.

The net proceeds from the sale of the shirt will be placed in the Grotto's Cave Conservation Fund. Some of these funds are used to defray expenses for the project to save Hosterman's Pit.

State Gates a Cave. More Planned

The Pennsylvania Game Commission gated Salisbury Mines and is discussing plans to gate four more bat sites in Pennsylvania. They are Askon Hollow in Fayette County, Strangford in Indiana County, Schofer in Berks County, and US Steel Mine #2.

This from the *Loyalhanna Troglodyte*, Vol. 6, Issue 1, Fall 1992. Pennsylvania Game Commission workers/cavers Jim Kennedy (Loyalhanna Grotto), Cal Butchkowski (Nittany Grotto), and Jim Hart (Franklin Co. Grotto) installed two bat-friendly gates at Salisbury Mine in Somerset County, Pa. between September 14 and October 8, 1992. They were assisted by two other P.G.C. workers, Jim Swink and Bob Truak, and several volunteers from the Loyalhanna Grotto: Keith Christenson, Rick Page, and Lee Blazek (super vertical wetsuit caver.)

Over \$3,500 of materials were used, including six tons of steel, seven yards of concrete, 40 2x4's, 10 sheets of plywood, 100 pounds of welding rods, and seven gallons of paint. The lower entrance is gated with no access door, but the upper gate (34'x14') has a dandy set of double doors, opening 6'x7'. Access should be available through the owner during the summer months. Many cave passages are found dissected by the mine, totalling several thousand feet in length. In fact, most of the mine passages are enlarged cave passages. Mapping this would be a great grotto project.

Fall MAR Meet: Muddy Fun

Fifty cavers braved the drizzly weekend to set up temporary residence in John Weinel's back yard. The cavers were treated to free camping, pool and hot tub privileges, and a chance to see a premier fossil collection.

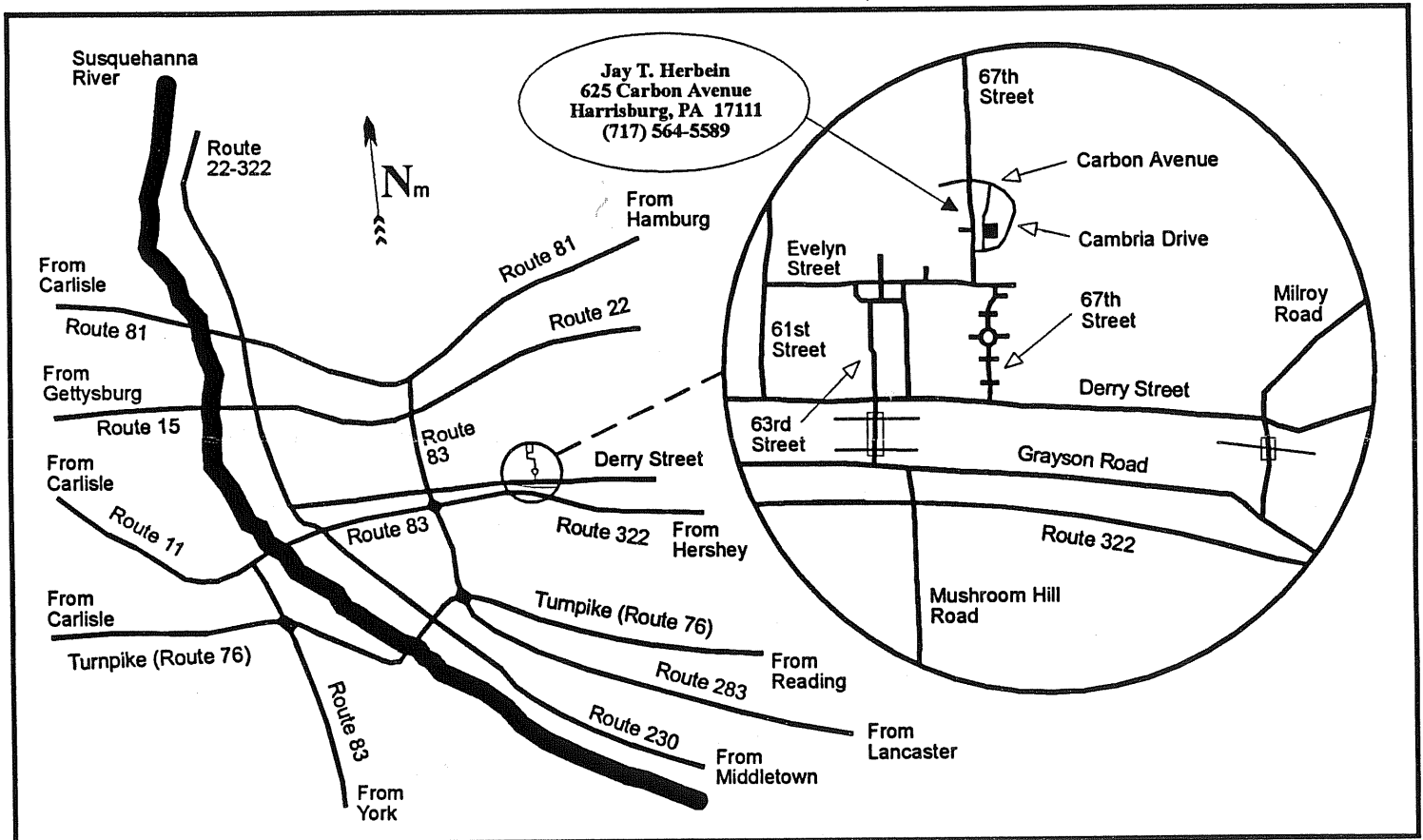
(Continued on Page 4.)

...last minute hijinks were a cookin'!

Lo and Behold, last minute legislative high jinks were a-cookin'! The Senate approved the latest version of HB 2216. Sound good? They then took the original wording of the offensive amendment, verbatim, from the older version of HB 2216 and put it into a completely different bill, HB 2390. This reincarnation of the offensive amendment did have one new sentence added. It reads, "This section shall not apply to any petition to designate an area unsuitable for noncoal mining operations filed with the Department of

Mid-Appalachian Region (M.A.R.) BUSINESS MEETING February 27, 1993 - 1:30PM

We hope to see representatives from all M.A.R. Grottos! A party will be held at Dale and Judi's place after the Business Meeting. Food and beverages will be furnished at both locations (donations are appreciated). For more information, call Jay at (717) 564-5589, or Dale and Judi at (717) 238-2198.



From the East on Route 322:
Turn right on Mushroom Hill Road at the second traffic light after Hummelstown. Proceed one block to Grayson Road and turn left. Travel one more block and turn right onto the bridge crossing the railroad yards. Turn right on Derry Street. Turn left on 67th Street. Follow the enlarged map to Jay's house.

Otherwise:
Intercept Route 322 East toward Hershey. Turn left on Mushroom Hill Road at the first traffic light (about 2 miles after the interchange). Follow the previous text.

NOTE: If you are coming from the West on I-83 N, you can NOT get off at the Derry Street exit... use the Route 322 exit.

© Derf

After much arm twisting, John even permitted cavers to make purchases at his cave equipment store.

Paul Damon and Paul, Jr. organized the event which was considered a success by the participants.

The cavers who toured the Vanport Limestone caves were treated to lots of mud. Jim Kennedy, Keith Christenson, and Bill Wolford led trips to Hineman and Sarah Furnace caves, and there was one stop at the entrance to Brady's Bend.

There was plenty to eat (especially a gigantic tossed salad) at the beef/vegetarian stir-fry supper and at the pancake and sausage breakfast.

The MAR chairperson, Jeanne Wetterling, had to work so was not able to attend. The Vice Chairperson, Keith Wheeland, rounded up a slate of candidates, and conducted a meeting to elect officers. Jim Kennedy, Keith Wheeland, and Bill Wolford were the three top vote-getters. The responsibilities were divided up as follows:

Chairperson

Jim Kennedy
(412) 245-7378 (Weekends)

Vice Chairperson and editor of MAR Breakdown

Keith D. Wheeland
(814) 238-2057 (Anytime)

Secretary

Bill Wolford
(412) 349-3825 (Good luck!)

Treasurer (permanent appointment)

Bette White
(814) 237-3187

Bedford County MAR Bulletin

The Bedford County MAR Bulletin was scheduled to go to press on January 18, 1993. If everything goes as planned, the Bulletin will be available soon after that date. Plan on buying a copy at the MAR business meeting.

Ruth Cave Update

Since 1985, Ruth Cave, Huntingdon County, Pa. has been closed during the winter to protect the bat population. Each year the Pennsylvania Game Commission counts the bats hibernating there. Since the cave has been closed the bat population has increased each year. The 1993 count is no exception.

In late 1992, the owner of the cave, John Espy, informed the keyholders that he wanted each trip into the cave to be accompanied by a member of the Nittany Grotto or the Huntingdon County Cave Hunters (HCCH). The keyholders will comply with this request.

The cave will be open for the season on April 15, 1993. Contact Ken Reynolds of the HCCH at (814) 669-4531, or Keith Wheeland of the Nittany Grotto at (814) 238-2057.

Cave Sign Grant Money Received

Bert Ashbrook, the chairman of the Cave Sign Committee, reported that MAR has received a grant of \$500 from RASS (Richmond Area Speleological Society) to fabricate and distribute signs identifying Pennsylvania caves as significant natural resources.

According to the stipulations the signs are to be sold to subordinate organizations to recoup the principal.

This will be a topic of discussion at the upcoming MAR business meeting.

Pennsylvania Cave Fauna Bibliography Planned

Rich Rosevear, Greater Allentown Grotto, has begun a project to prepare a bibliography of the cave fauna of Pennsylvania. If you have any information relative to this topic, please contact him at

1525 Chew Street, Allentown, Pa. 18102,
(215) 437-6638.

This may lead to another project, that is, to enter the data into the Pennsylvania Cave Database.

MAR Spring Meet Planned

The Franklin County Grotto will be hosting the MAR Spring Meet on May 7-9, 1993 at the Ruritan Camp Grounds in Chambersburg, Pa.

Please contact Pat Minnick, 13954 Mar-Penn Ave., Waynesboro, PA 17268, (717) 765-0521

Additional information will be printed in the next MAR Breakdown due to be published in March.

Owner Closes Caves in Westmoreland County

The SMT Family Partnership based in western Pennsylvania owns approximately 4,300 acres and has declared their property off limits. The property contains Rattlesnake Sink, Copperhead, Con, and Hillside Run caves which are no longer able to be visited. Copperhead and Con caves have been sealed with bat-unfriendly gates. When queried about the nature of the gates, the owner said that "cavers know nothing about bats."

Cave Conservation Signs Available From MAR

Cave conservation signs are available for placing in Pennsylvania caves. The signs are 18 x 12 inches heavy, white-painted aluminum with black letters.

The signs are being made available to Grottos and other caving organizations at \$10 each. A log is being maintained by MAR to include the cave where the signs will be posted, and the sponsoring organization.

If you, as an individual, are interested in obtaining a sign for placing in a cave, check with your grotto. Grottos were sent information in March 1992.

If your organization would like to learn more about the sign program, please contact one of the following individuals.

Bert Ashbrook
1257 Lehigh Parkway South
Allentown, PA 18103
(215) 797-3981

Keith D. Wheeland
2191 Mt. View Ave.
State College, PA 16801
(814) 238-2057

Why Did You Receive This Newsletter?

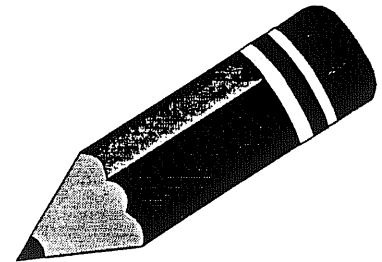
Each grotto in the MAR is sent a copy of the *MAR Breakdown*. And a copy is sent to the NSS.

If you attend one of the MAR Field Meets held each spring and fall, you will get credit for three copies of the newsletter. Why three? Because we publish three issues per year.

At the meets, \$4.00 of your registration fee goes back to MAR. This money is used for MAR projects. It helps pay for printing the MAR bulletins and pays for the printing and mailing of this newsletter. If you examine your address label on the newsletter you will see a number after your name.

This number (less 1) tells you how many issues of the newsletter you are entitled to receive.

When you register for a field meet, you are asked to provide your address. This address is used to prepare the mailing labels for the next newsletter.



Send your address changes to the editor of this newsletter, or to the keeper of the mailing labels, Carol Tideman, 7600 Pindell School Road, Fulton, MD 20759

NSS Member Price List Mid-Appalachian Region Bulletins

	Caves	Maps	Large Maps	Cost	Postage Code
1-4 Bulletins #1-4 in one booklet (Reprint)		Limited number of copies		7.00	A
8 Caves of Blair Co., PA (Reprint)	89	40		6.50	A
9 Caves of Huntingdon Co., PA (Reprint)	94	36		7.50	A
10 Caves of Snyder Co., PA	20	14		2.00	A
11 Caves of Centre Co., PA	71	56	1	5.00	B
12 Caves of Mifflin Co., PA	47	31	5	7.00	B
13 Caves of Perry Co., PA	13	6		1.50	A
14 Caves of Bucks, Co., PA	24	6		3.00	A
15 Caves of Lehigh Co., PA	25	13		3.25	A
16 Caves of Northampton Co., PA	24	13	1	5.50	A
17 Caves of Northumberland Co., PA	20	10		5.00	A
18 Caves of Berks Co., PA	64	32		7.00	B
19 Caves of Bedford Co., PA	54	32		to be announced	

Postage codes

- A US Postage: \$0.75 for first copy: \$0.25 for each additional copy to the same address.
Non-US Postage: \$1.50 for first copy: \$1.10 for each additional copy to the same address.
- B US Postage: \$1.00 for the first copy: \$0.25 for each additional copy to the same address.
Non-US Postage: \$1.50 for first copy: \$1.10 for each additional copy to the same address.

Please make checks payable in US funds to MAR. Send to Bette White, 542 Glenn Road, State College, PA 16803 USA

*Cave cleanup, graffiti, and lint removal
from unguided portion of PA's
longest commercial cave.*

Laurel **Caverns**

100th ANNIVERSARY

'93 CLEANUP

- *\$5 pre-registration fee
- *Free campground sites
- *Restroom facilities/showers
- *Evening lesson of Laurel
- *Pavillion party (BYOB)

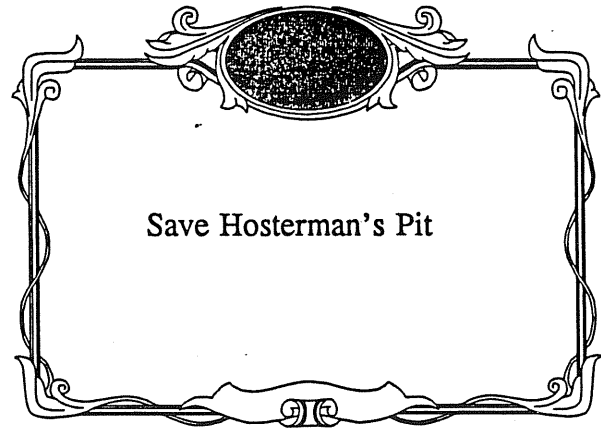
**-Register early to reserve your spot
on Sunday's local wild trip-**

For information package
contact John Chenger, (412) 437-5215
R.D. #6 Box 100, Uniontown, PA 15401

Saturday, August 21, 1993
10 a.m. Uniontown, Pennsylvania

*Within minutes of Ohiopyle
State Park, Washington's
Rocks, and Fort Necessity
National Battlefield.*

1993 sponsor:
Loyalhanna Grotto,
N.S.S.



MAR Breakdown
Keith D. Wheeland, Editor
2191 Mt. View Ave.
State College, PA 16801
(814) 238-2057