



BREAKDOWN

Volume 37, Number 1, April 2022

The *MAR Breakdown* is the journal of the Mid Appalachian Region of the National Speleological Society. It is published three times a year; prior to the annual business meeting and prior to the Spring and Fall field meets.

Subscriptions-

Event notices and MAR Breakdown newsletters are distributed electronically. When you attend a field meet, the email address provided on your registration form is added to the distribution list. You may also add yourself to distribution by going to <http://eepurl.com/P2f5j> and completing a short registration form.

Meetings and Meets-

The annual business meeting is held the last Saturday in February. Each spring and fall there is a field meet. Watch for dates.

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Spring 2022 MAR/VAR May 20 - 22 Grand Caverns Grottoes, VA Co-Hosted by Charlottesville Grotto and Seven Valleys Grotto



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Mid-Appalachian Region of the National Speleological Society

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

February 26, 2022

[Held via Zoom video conference due to the global COVID-19 pandemic]

Officers Present:

Paul Winter, Chairman
JD Lewis, Vice-Chairman
Bette White, Treasurer
Hope Brooks, Secretary

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by MAR Chair, Paul Winter, at 1:42 PM, February 26, 2022 on Zoom (online).

Introductory Remarks: Paul Winter welcomed all meeting attendees and thanked them for their attendance at the MAR Business Meeting.

Vice Chairman Report: Nothing to report.

Reading of the Minutes: The minutes from the previous business meeting, held on February 27th, 2021, were shared via Zoom screen by Chairman Paul Winter and read by Secretary Hope Brooks. Rick Smith moved and Randy Hurst seconded the minutes, and the minutes were accepted with minor grammatical changes.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was read by MAR Treasurer, Elizabeth "Bette" White. There was \$820.89 in expenses and \$96.64 in income for the year.

Hope Brooks moves that we combine the Cave Law Signs account with the MAR's main banking account. Carol Tideman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

MAR Breakdown: Gretchen "Red" Schock reported that the MAR Breakdowns have been published on schedule, and they are available on the MAR Website. If you are not receiving MAR Breakdown via email, please contact one of the MAR officers.

Internet:

MAR Listserv (Google Groups): Some members who weren't on the listserv were added by Paul during the voting.

MAR Listserv (Non-Google Group): Going well.

MAR Website: NSS hosting of IO and website has been going smoothly.

MAR Bulletins: No new MAR Bulletins published. Paul Winter and Harrison Cassidy are working on publishing a new MAR Bulletin 11: Caves of Centre County with 40+ caves to add, newly created maps, some updated descriptions, updates on caves/features which no longer exist, and they plan to attempt contact for most caves to update access. Bette White still has foldout maps of Hosterman's Pit for the next publication of the Caves of Centre County Bulletin. Paul and Harrison are interested in keeping both old and new maps in the publication for comparison and study. If anyone is interested in helping work on the new Caves of Centre County or has new bulletins they are interested in publishing, contact Will White.

Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC): Greg Turner and Mike Scafani have been assisting Dr. Aaron Katz of the US Army Corps of Engineers with a research project searching for the Heller Cave Springtail in Heller Cave and other caves.

Garret Czmoor was in contact with Greg Turner and Mike Scafani. Beginning March 3rd, 2022, the Game Commission plans to conduct bat counts and assist in Dr. Katz's springtail research in Hall Cave, Tytoona Cave (all research must be approved by the NSS Research Commission), Indian Caverns, Sewray Cave, and a few others.

Amber Noder from the Pennsylvania Game Commission and Rick Smith visited Mt. Rock for a bat count and found 32 bats without White Nose Syndrome (WNS). Rick and Amber did not visit the entirety of the cave.

MAKC: The MAKC is strengthening its scientific project proposal system. If you plan to conduct any studies or surveys in MAKC caves, please contact the individual cave managers to officially apply to conduct studies.

In honor of the MAKC paying off the Bear Cave Preserve mortgage, MAKC preserve managers are scheduling open houses for all the MAKC's preserves. On July 4th, 2022 Kim and Tom Metzgar are planning on having a "Mortgage Burning Party"

celebrating paying off the Bear Cave mortgage open to MAKC members and friends.

The MAKC is working with the Pennsylvania State Parks on securing legal access to a deep cave in Ohiopyle State Park formed in the Wymps Gap.

Billy Clay and Rodgers Belmont are both back under MAKC lease.

White Nose Syndrome: Paul Winter reported that White Nose Syndrome is currently expanding into western caving regions.

Talia Sepiol noted that the Out of Bounds Grotto counted 246 bats in a Tioga County mine. This is approximately 75 more bats than counted in 2020.

Derek Flaig reported that before WNS there were approximately 2,000 bats in Seawra cave. A few years ago, the Pennsylvania Game Commission counted approximately 30 bats found in the cave. Derek also noted that bats banded in Canoe Creek in Pennsylvania traveled to Hellhole Cave in West Virginia.

New Business:

2022 Field Meets:

2022 Spring MAR/VAR Field Meet: Seven Valleys Grotto and Charlottesville Grotto are co-hosting a MAR/VAR at Grand Caverns, Grottoes, VA on May 20-22, 2022. Registration will be online shortly.

2022 Fall Field Meet: Out of Bounds Grotto plans to host a vaccinated-only Fall Field Meet located in Pennsylvania. Date and location, TBD.

Mummau Cave: John Rosenfeld is looking for a landowner contact role for Mummau Cave in northwest Lancaster County. John would like to have a meet and greet with the landowner and to show the new landowner contact the cave. Steve Warnek and his son, David Briggs, and others have expressed interest in being landowner contacts.

Comments from Online Elections:

"Thanks to the Board for all they do."

"No comments, thanks."

"Like online meetings."

"Make all future MAR meetings virtual and change time/date to Sunday at 7 pm. With the advent of Zoom removing necessity for folks to spend an entire day traveling half a state, each way, just to attend an in-person meeting, the MAR and PCC might be able to recruit more active

cavers into attending both meetings and actively serving in roles."

Caver Alert Information Sheet: The National Cave Rescue Commission has made a sign out form for cave trips with lots of useful information for cavers and call outs. The form can be found here: https://ncrc-er.caves.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Caver_Information_Sheet.pdf.

Officers for 2022 Term: Elections were conducted online, and at the 2022 Fall MAR Field Meet there will be another election. The three officers elected are: Paul Winter, Rick Smith, Hope Brooks (Secretary). Bette White continues to serve as MAR Treasurer.

Laurel Caverns: Ryan Maurer reports that on October 10th, 2021 there was a rescue at Laurel Caverns. The patient was a Boy Scout leader taking his son's troop on a wild cave tour and suffered a massive aneurysm in the wild cave. He was transported via life flight to Ruby Memorial Hospital in West Virginia. The patient died on October 12th, 2021 in the presence of his family. The rescue took 1 hour 55 minutes with the assistance of Laurel Caverns staff, local volunteer fire departments, and members of the NCRC.

Next Meeting: The next MAR Business Meeting will be on Saturday, February 25, 2023 at 1:30 pm in person and via Zoom.

Adjourned: MAR Business Meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm on February 26, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,
Hope Brooks, *MAR Secretary*

Representatives at the MAR meeting:

- Bald Eagle Grotto
- Baltimore Grotto
- Bucks County Grotto
- Franklin County Grotto
- Greater Allentown Grotto
- Huntingdon County Cave Hunters
- Loyalhanna Grotto
- MAKC
- Nittany Grotto
- NJ Tri-State Speleological Society
- Out of Bounds Grotto
- Seven Valleys Grotto
- Sligo Grotto
- York Grotto

MAR FINANCIAL STATEMENT: February 1, 2022

Form 990-N accepted by IRS 01/31/2022

Gross Assets: February 1, 2022

Checking:	143.66
Savings: 6,142.00 - 690.39 =	5,451.61
[in savings: Cave Signs 690.39]	690.39
[\$10,000.00 CD at Reliance Bank]	10,000.00
Total	16,285.66

Gross Assets: February 12, 2021

Checking:	470.19
Savings: 6,636.36 - 690.39 =	5,945.97
[in savings: Cave Signs 690.39]	690.39
[\$10,000.00 CD at Reliance Bank]	10,000.00
Total	17,106.55

Net Income (Gain/Loss) for 2021 **820.89**

.....

ITEM	INCOME	EXPENSES	NET
INTEREST	Savings	0.64 0.64

.....

MAR FIELD MEETS ALL CANCELLED

Spring ` 2021 xxxxxxxxxx Grotto

MAR Income: xx persons @ \$1.00 = xx.00

25% [Reg-Exp = \$xxxxx - x,xxx=xxxxx] = xxx.xx

Spring MAR income:

Fall 2021 xxxxxxxxxx Grotto

MAR Income: xx persons @ \$1.00 = xxx.00

[Regis-Expen = \$xxx.xx.

Fall MAR income: \$

Annual Meeting Site Rental 0.00

Annual Meeting coffee/tea/cider 0.00

Rental P.O. Box* (\$53.) 53.00

Field Meets/Web: Net **-53.00**

.....

MAR Bulletin sales

MAR 20: \$5,161.64 - (sold 1 @ 29.50)

\$4,748.14 short of recovering cost

Bulletin sales: 96.00

ULINE packaging 114.53

MAKC donation 750.00

MAR Bulletin Sales: Net **768.53**

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MAR BREAKDOWN NOTE: Breakdown Account closed]

[Breakdown balance: = as of Feb 2020: balance in MAR Breakdown account: 0.00

.....

CAVE LAW SIGNS (previous balance 690.39)

[Cave sign balance = \$690.39]

.....

Totals..... **96.64** **-917.53**..... **-820.89**

Elizabeth L. White, Treasurer

* Post office annual fee shared half with Nittany Grotto

Of Further Interest

Bulletin Sales Feb 2021 – Feb 2022

Bulletin #	Number Sold	Price/Bulletin	Bulletin Income	Bulletins + postage
1-4		\$ 7.00		
5	1	\$ 8.00	\$8.00	
6		\$17.00		
7		\$ 5.00		
8	1	\$ 7.00	\$7.00	
9		\$10.00		
10		\$ 6.00		
11		\$10.00		
12		\$10.00		
13		\$ 10.00		
14	1	\$ 5.00	\$5.00	
15	2	\$ 6.00	\$12.00	
16	1	\$ 6.00	\$6.00	
17		\$ 5.00		
18	1	\$10.00	\$10.00	
19	1	\$ 7.00	\$7.00	
20	1	\$29.50	\$29.50	
21		\$27.50		
22		\$16.00		
Totals	9		\$84.50	\$96.00



Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy, Inc.

P.O. Box 373, Neffs, PA 18065

Minutes of Regular Meeting – February 26, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 3:25 pm by President Dave Briggs via the Virtual Zoom Meeting environment on Saturday, February 26, 2022.

The following officers were present: **President** Dave Briggs **Vice President** --
Secretary Gretchen Schock **Treasurer** John Boswell

Representation was as follows:

Bald Eagle Grotto	J.D. Lewis	Greater Allentown Grotto	Dean Snyder
Baltimore Grotto	Kim Fleischmann	Huntingdon Co. Cave Hunters	Garrett Czmor
Bucks County Grotto	Steven Warnek	Nittany Grotto	Paul Winter
Central New Jersey Grotto	--	Philadelphia Grotto	--
Commander Cody Caving Club	--	Seven Valleys Grotto	Joe Schock
Franklin County Grotto	Pat Minnick	York Grotto	Randy Hurst

Secretary Report: Randy Hurst moved and Steve Warnek seconded to accept the minutes from the February 27, 2021 meeting as published in the April 2021 MAR Breakdown. The motion passed.

Treasurer Report: John Boswell reviewed the PCC account activity since the last meeting (provided below). John noted that the PCC was responsible for donating a total of \$5,127.78 to MAKC for their Penn Aqua cave acquisition efforts. Dave Briggs also highlighted the funds received via the Amazon Smile program. Dave encouraged anyone who shops via Amazon to utilize the feature to donate a percentage of every Amazon purchase to a non-profit of your choice, such as the PCC. It doesn't cost the shopper anything but raises funds for the designated non-profit.

Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy

Financial Summary

2-27-21 through 2-26-22

Interest Checking Account

Checking Balance 2/27/21	F&M Trust Bank checking	2/27/2021	\$7,057.32
Deposit	Central NJ Grotto Donation	4/2/2021	\$50.00
Deposit	Paypal/Go Fund Me for Penn Aqua	4/28/2021	\$2,287.87
Payment	Penn Aqua Fund (PayPal xfer)	4/29/2021	(\$4,575.74)
Deposit	Amazon Smile	5/24/2021	\$5.00
Deposit	Paypal/Go Fund Me for Penn Aqua	7/6/2021	\$227.35
Payment	Penn Aqua Fund (PayPal xfer)	7/19/2021	(\$454.70)
Deposit	Paypal/Go Fund Me for Penn Aqua	10/29/2021	\$48.60
Payment	Penn Aqua Fund (PayPal xfer)	11/10/2021	(\$97.34)
Deposit	Interest Credit	2/28/2021	\$0.10
Deposit	Interest Credit	3/31/2021	\$0.12
Deposit	Interest Credit	4/30/2021	\$0.12
Deposit	Interest Credit	5/31/2021	\$0.08

Deposit	Interest Credit	6/30/2021	\$0.08
Deposit	Interest Credit	7/31/2021	\$0.08
Deposit	Interest Credit	8/31/2021	\$0.08
Deposit	Interest Credit	9/30/2021	\$0.08
Deposit	Interest Credit	10/31/2021	\$0.07
Deposit	Interest Credit	11/30/2021	\$0.08
Deposit	Interest Credit	12/31/2021	\$0.08
Deposit	Interest Credit	1/31/2022	\$0.07
Ending Balance :			\$4,549.40

<u>SAVINGS ACCOUNT (CDs):</u>		<u>Maturity Date</u>	
Certificate of Deposit *75	F&M Trust Bank CD	7/27/2021	\$1,152.00
Certificate of Deposit *29	F&M Trust Bank CD	7/27/2021	\$1,152.00
Certificate of Deposit *65	F&M Trust Bank CD	7/27/2021	\$1,152.00
* \$6.27 Interest credit applied to each in 2021.			

COMBINED TOTAL : **\$8,005.40**

Web Page: Dave Briggs reported that he is working to stand up the new PCC website, hopefully within the next year.

PCC Breakfast: Due to COVID restrictions, there have been no 2021 MAR fields meets therefore there have been no PCC Breakfast fund raising events. The PCC plans to have a PCC breakfast at the upcoming Spring MAR/VAR field meet the weekend of May 20-22, 2022 at Grand Caverns in Grottoes, VA. Anyone willing to volunteer to help would be greatly appreciated. Also, Red Schock requested someone assist in transporting the PCC equipment to the MAR/VAR site since she may not have available room in her vehicle. Dave Briggs indicated that he should have available space in his truck.

PCC Brochure: Dave Briggs has the supply of PCC brochures. Anyone interested in obtaining brochures should contact Dave Briggs.

Mail: Dean Snyder reported the PCC received a few items in the mail that were given to John Boswell. Dean also stated that the \$76 PO Box fee has been paid for another year. Dave Briggs thanked Dean for his ongoing assistance monitoring and maintaining the PCC mail box.

Christmas Cards: Kim Kehs assumed the task of sending the PCC Christmas Cards beginning in 2018. Dave Briggs encouraged everyone to contact Kim if you know of a landowner you would like added to the PCC Christmas card list. This is one way we can show our appreciation to those landowners that are kind enough to permit access to their caves. Kim Fleischmann requested a copy of the current list of Christmas Card recipients in order to know who is already included. Dave Briggs offered to obtain the list from Kim Kehs.

T-shirts: The PCC t-shirts are available for purchase on the PCC web site for \$15, which includes shipping and handling.

PA Cave Database: Paul Winter reported he continues to maintain the PA Cave Database responsibilities. Paul encouraged everyone to submit applicable updates for the database, as some information has become dated. Paul also requested assistance from Dave Briggs, as previously offered, to improve on the existing environment.

As a follow up to last year's requested information for cave locations to supplement emergency/911 efforts, Paul reported that he responded to the request stating that he was unable to provide cave locations but could provide cave rescue contact information to assist with applicable situations. The requestors thanked him for his response and he has not received any additional contact from them. Paul thanked the PCC for their assistance in developing an appropriate response to the request.

OLD BUSINESS:

Project and Caves of Interest List:

Cold Air Cave (Northampton County) – no report.

Decker Sink Cleanup – no report.

Northumberland County Grotto: During the February 2021 meeting, Northumberland County Grotto expressed interest in becoming a member grotto of the PCC. They were informed that they must first be recognized by the National Speleological Society (NSS) before being eligible for PCC membership. We have not received additional contact from Northumberland County Grotto since their initial request. Based on the NSS website, Northumberland County is still not listed as a NSS recognized organization.

NEW BUSINESS:

Grotto Outreach: Dave Briggs expressed a desire to improve outreach/visibility of the PCC. One method would be reaching out to potential grottos/groups within the PCC region to join as member grottos of the PCC. Reaching out to these groups to educate them about the PCC organization, what we do, and to get the PCC name and brand more publicized would be beneficial. It was also suggested that reaching out to PA commercial cave owners could also be advantageous.

Out of Bounds Grotto indicated that they select different grottos/caving organizations to highlight/feature to their membership. They offered to include the PCC in one of these features to improve PCC visibility.

It was also suggested that the PCC could partner with other groups/organizations with similar interests to help promote the PCC as an organization. One group that was suggested was the International Year of Caves and Karst.

Paul Winter proposed including examples of PCC's past efforts/accomplishments on the PCC website as a way to highlight the things the PCC has done. Items could include both cleanup efforts as well as funding support to other organizations.

The PCC could also improve exposure/education by setting up a booth and/or table at caving events such as the MAR field meets and NSS Conventions. Carol Tidemann mentioned that booth space is free of charge to conservancies as long as they are not selling products (t-shirts, etc). Emily Davis of Speleobooks is the contact if interested in reserving a space for the PCC at an NSS Convention.

2022 PCC Events: In the hopes of COVID conditions improving and in-person events beginning again, Dave Briggs expressed an interest in having some kind of PCC event this year. One possibility would be a summer picnic. Dave encouraged people to contact him with suggestions and ideas. Pat Minnick mentioned that Franklin County Grotto had done a cleanup project at Conodoguinet Cave (Cave Hill Preserve) several years ago. That effort could be repeated as a PCC project since the cave is the continual victim of littering and spray paint/graffiti.

PCC Committees: Dave Briggs suggested the possibility of forming various committees to address some of the needs/activities of the PCC. Some suggestions included: Conservation, Fundraising, Social Media, Events, Multimedia, Website. The members of these committees would not be restricted to designated

grotto representative but could include any interested participants. It was suggested that developing the new PCC website would go a long way in improving the efforts of the other items listed for committees.

New PCC Member Grotto: Out of Bounds Grotto (NSS Grotto #00486) expressed an interest in joining as a member grotto of the PCC. Out of Bounds Grotto has a far-reaching membership with a base in Pennsylvania. Randy Hurst moved and Steven Warnek seconded to accept Out of Bounds Grotto as a member grotto of the PCC. The motion passed.

Spring MAR/VAR 2022: After several postponements due to COVID concerns, Seven Valleys Grotto and Charlottesville Grotto will be co-hosting the Spring 2022 MAR/VAR Field Meet at Grand Caverns in Grottoes, VA on May 20-22, 2022. Registration should be available within the next few days. Details and updates will be posted on the MAR and VAR web sites as they become available (<https://mar.caves.org/fieldmeets.htm> or <http://var.caves.org/index.php/events/spring-var>).

Elections: Randy Hurst moved and Paul Winter seconded to re-elect the current PCC officers to serve another year. The motion passed.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the PCC will be held during the 2022 Spring MAR/VAR at Grand Caverns in Grottoes, VA on Sunday, May 22, 2022 following the VAR Business Meeting that begins at 9:00am.

Special Thanks: Dave Briggs extended a special thank you to all the participating members of the PCC for their ongoing support of the PCC efforts. The PCC could not accomplish anything without all the amazing support from the grotto members. Thank you!

Randy Hurst moved and J.D. Lewis seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen (Red) Schock, Recording Secretary

2022 Fall MAR Field Meet

Out of Bounds Grotto will be hosting the 2022 Fall MAR Field Meet on September 16-18, 2022 at Lincoln Caverns in Huntingdon, PA. Save the date for this fun event! More details will be posted on the web site as they become available:

<https://mar.caves.org/fieldmeets.htm>

Spring MAR/VAR 2022 – May 20-22, 2022

Overview

The Spring MAR/VAR 2022 is scheduled for May 20-22, 2022 at Grand Caverns, Grottoes, Virginia, hosted by the **Seven Valleys** and **Charlottesville Grottos**. All details are subject to change as more information become available. Check the web site often for updates (<http://var.caves.org/index.php/events/spring-var>)!

COVID

- All Grand Caverns staff and visitors are required to wear face masks while indoors (including bath houses) if they are not vaccinated. Please be respectful of the choices made by others and staff while visiting.
- The cavern, gift shop, and cavern entrance building all have enhanced cleaning, disinfecting and sanitization protocols to ensure the safety of guests and staff.
- FDA approved disinfectants are being used in all areas of cleaning.
- Handrails in the cavern, all doorknobs, counter tops, bathrooms, and other high-touch areas are disinfected regularly throughout the day.
- Hand sanitizing stations are located in the gift shop and cavern entrance building.

Registration

Pre-registration price is \$33 for adults and \$25 for children 5-14. Children under 5 are free. To qualify for the pre-registration price, registrations must be post marked by May 4th, 2022. We cannot guarantee dinner or a t-shirt for those who do not make the pre-registration deadline.

On-site registration is \$38 for adults and \$30 for children 5-14.

T-Shirts

T-Shirts will be available but guaranteed only with pre-registration. Shirts will be light grey 50:50 cotton: polyester with the design embedded in the registration form. Cost is \$15 XS through XL and \$17 for larger sizes.

Camping

Shaded camping is available with ample picnic tables, shelters, and facilities. Smaller campers are welcome, but larger RVs might have a difficult time in that there are no hook-ups. Showers and water will be available.

Hotels

There are a number of h/motels in Harrisonburg and Verona VA (~10 miles from Grottoes, VA).

Alcohol

The park is under new management and **alcohol is strictly prohibited on park grounds** in accordance with Virginia State Law-"consumption or possession of an open alcoholic beverage in public is prohibited, regardless of age." We expect the local police to make periodic passes. **Please leave your alcohol at home this time.**

Dogs

Well-behaved and leashed dogs are welcome! You MUST clean up after your pets. Pets must be kept on a leash and restrained at all times. No pets (with the exception of service animals) are allowed in the caverns, gift shop, or pool area.

Caving

Well, you will be at Grand Caverns! And there are so many caves nearby!

Commercial Caves:

Grand Caverns, Grottoes, VA
Caverns at Natural Bridge, Natural Bridge, VA
Dixie Caverns, Salem, VA
Endless Caverns, New Market VA
Fountain Cave, Grottoes, VA
Luray Caverns, Luray, VA
Seneca Caverns, Riverton, WV
Smoke Hole Caverns, Seneca Rocks, WV
Skyline Caverns, Front Royal, VA

Wild Caves:

Breathing Cave
Crossroads Cave
Glade Cave
Hamilton Cave
Kee Cave
New Trout Cave

Other Activities

Don't want to get down and dirty? Don't blame you; there is so much to do above-ground!

Edith J. Carrier Arboretum, Harrisonburg VA
Rout 151 Tour Caver Beverages!

Hiking - Mountain View Park, Furnace Mountain Summit
Crozet Tunnel
River Access/Fishing/Paddling on the South Fork Shenandoah River.
Natural Chimneys in Mount Solon, VA
Mini golf (on site at Grand Caverns) will be offered to MAR/VAR attendees for \$2.

Vendors

- Sphireapdress - unique caving gear and fashion accessories
- Bash Gear LLC - a purveyor of cave packs, suits, knee pads, and more. Hand sewn in the USA
- Others TBD

Friday, May 20

We will open the weekend on Friday at noon for those who want to come for a long weekend. Most caving is on your own on Friday.

Friday Organized (Led) Caving trips include:

Porters Cave

Saturday Cave Trip Sign-ups

Cave trip sign-ups for Saturday's organized (led) cave trips will take place Friday evening. Time TBD.

Saturday, May 21

Saturday Organized (Led) Caving Trips include:

Butler Cave
Endless Caverns (wild section)
Fountain Cave (additional fee applies**)**
Grand Caverns (additional fee applies**)**
Madison Saltpeter Cave
Porters Cave
Trout Cave

Conservation Project

TBD

SWAP

11:00 a.m. Saturday at Pavilion I
 Now that you have upgraded your gear, it's time to spread the joy! Bring your gear to sell or trade!

Dinner

Saturday's dinner will be catered by Battarbee's and will include:

Roasted Chicken
Mashed Potatoes

Green Beans
Dessert
Drinks (Iced Tea & Lemonade)

****Vegetarian option upon request**

**** For those that are willing/able, we ask that you bring your own plate and silverware to use for Saturday's dinner to help reduce the amount of waste generated during the MAR/VAR event. We can all do our part to reduce the amount of trash going into landfills. Thank you!**

While we will attempt to accommodate all the hungry cavers, only those who pre-register will be guaranteed a meal.

Evening Program – Pavilion II

Carl Pierce will regale us with tales and photos of his Vietnam Caving Expedition!

DJ

DJ Tommy Carpenter will be on site to entertain, keeping John Fox's legacy alive.

Sunday, May 22

Breakfast

Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy (PCC) will offer a fundraising breakfast. Suggested donation: \$5/person

Pancakes
Sausage
Orange Juice
Coffee

**** For those that are willing/able, we ask that you bring your own plate and silverware to use for Sunday's breakfast to help reduce the amount of waste generated during the MAR/VAR event. We can all do our part to reduce the amount of trash going into landfills. Thank you!**

Meetings

VAR & PCC meetings beginning at 9:00 a.m.

SWAP

9:00 a.m. Sunday at Pavilion I
 Now that you have upgraded your gear, it's time to spread the joy! Bring your gear to sell or trade!

Spring MAR VAR 2022 Registration

Form May 20-22, 2022

Grand Caverns, Grottoes, VA

Name:				NSS#	
Street Address				Grotto:	
City/State/Zip					
Phone:			Email:		
Emergency Contact	Name:		Phone:		
Other Members of your household attending with you (one form per household)					
Name		Email Address			
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
Now for the Details....					
	Weekend Registration (#)	T-shirts (#)	Vegetarian Meal (#)	Advanced Registration Price*	Total
Adults (15+)					
Children (5-14)					
Children (under 5)				FREE	FREE
T-shirts (MALE SIZE)					
XS					
S					
M					
L					
XL					
XXL					
3XL					
4XL					
TOTAL					

* To qualify for the Advance Registration price, registrations must be post marked by May 4, 2022. We cannot guarantee dinner or a t-shirt for those who do not make the Advance Registration deadline. On-site registration is \$38 per adult and \$30 per child (5-14 years old).

* Alcohol is strictly prohibited on park grounds in accordance with Virginia State Law--consumption or possession of an open alcoholic beverage in public is prohibited, regardless of age.*

* Registration includes (MAR/VAR) membership, guidebook, and the next 4 issues of the Region Record... (a \$20 value!). Please make checks payable to Charlottesville Grotto and mail to:

Ed Smith
PO Box 343
Earlsville, VA 22936

* We can also accept PayPal. Send a PERSONAL transfer on <https://paypal.me/BlakeJordan61> and email a completed copy of this registration form to Ed at epsmith6@gmail.com.

Understanding the Recreational Use Of Land And Water Act (RULWA)

by Randy Hurst

In 1966 the Pennsylvania General assembly passed the Recreational Use of Land and Water Act (68 P.S. section 477 *et seq.*). The RULWA provides that landowners who make their lands available for recreational purposes have no duty to make the land safe for use, and cannot be held liable for injuries that occur during recreational use of the property. Cave exploration is included as a “recreational purpose.” The original version of the Act included a clause stating that it does not apply if the landowner charges the user.

For many years, cavers have relied on this statute to reassure landowners that they cannot be sued by people injured while caving on their property as long as they do not charge a fee for the use. Several court cases involving the RULWA have clarified that the protection applies to “undeveloped” property, so that commercial caves are not protected, but no case directly addresses the issue of previously developed but abandoned improvements such as old commercial caves, so it is unclear if the protections of the Act would apply if the cave had been improved at some point but was no longer operating as a commercial cave.

In 2018, the law was amended (Act 98 of 2018) to substantially liberalize the “no charge” provision. Specifically, an exemption to the definition of “Charge” was inserted which states that “contributions made to an owner... that are not retained by the owner... [and] that are used by the owner exclusively for (i) conserving or

maintaining the property, (ii) paying taxes on the property, or (iii) paying for liability insurance on the property” are not a “charge” that would invalidate the liability protection. This change means that owners can still invoke the liability shield even if they charge for admission, as long as the money is used for one or more of the stated purposes.

Although the changes were made nearly 4 years ago and the current version is posted on most conservation organization websites, I still occasionally hear people repeat the old version: that landowners may not charge for entry if they want to maintain their liability protection. That information is inaccurate and cavers should be aware that it no longer applies. If a cave owner informs you that she wishes to charge something for use of her land, the proper response is to pay the fee, not to tell her that she will lose the the protections of the Act if she does.

Finally, although this should go without saying, the RULWA does not negate trespassing laws and people entering property without the owner’s permission may still be liable either civilly or criminally. Trespassing law in Pennsylvania is a little complicated (*e.g.*, simple trespass onto posted property is a summary offense, but trespassing onto agricultural land enclosed by a fence is a misdemeanor), but should not be a concern if you have permission from the owner as all responsible cavers do.

Host Needed for the 2023 Spring MAR

As of April 2022 there is no grotto, or individual, slated to host the 2023 Spring MAR Field Meet. If you are interested in hosting this event, a helpful guide to hosting a MAR field meet can be found on the MAR website (<https://mar.caves.org/hosting.htm>). Think about it - can you or your grotto host the event? If there are no volunteers there will be no field meet. If you’re interested in hosting one of the events, please contact a MAR officer

PENNSYLVANIA TRESPASS LAWS

by Randy Hurst

Cavers frequently must enter rural lands to access the caves they are visiting. The majority of such visits are made with the knowledge and consent of the landowner. However, from time to time cavers might be unable to locate the landowner, or may want to do a quick reconnaissance of a property that looks promising for caves. Entry onto private property may invoke concerns about trespassing law, especially the amount of trouble you could get into by entering private property without permission. In Pennsylvania the law of trespass is a little bit complicated. This article may help to explain the various rules that apply. (Please note that this discussion is about Pennsylvania law; the rules and penalties in other states will vary.)

To start, remember that there are both civil and criminal laws, and each has quite different consequences. Generally, **civil liability** lies whenever you enter private property without permission, regardless of whether the property is “posted.” However, enforcement of private rights is only accomplished through litigation. That is, if a landowner wishes to charge you with civil trespass, she will have to sue you. The lawsuit raises two issues: (1) liability: did you do the deed, and, (2) what remedy is appropriate? While question 1 is usually not at issue because you were caught, the question of remedies is important. If no damage was done other than your intrusion where you were not wanted, courts will usually impose a nominal award of a few dollars payable to the landowner, along with a stern lecture

from the judge regarding your moral failings and civic responsibility

Pennsylvania has three levels of **criminal** trespass law enshrined in statute (18 Pa Consolidated Statutes, Section 3503). They are characterized as “simple trespass,” “defiant trespass,” and “agricultural trespass.” (A fourth offense, breaking and entering a building—a felony—should not be an issue for cavers and is not discussed here.)

Simple trespass is a summary offense and is defined as unlawfully entering onto a property for the purpose of threatening the owner or committing arson or vandalism, so it is never an issue for cavers.

Defiant trespass encompasses any entry onto property where the person “know[s] that he is not licensed or privileged to do so, [and] enters or remains in any place as to which notice against trespass is given” Notice is a required element of the offense, and is established by any of several means: (1) actual communication (such as “Hey, you! Get off my property!”); (2) posting of no trespassing signs or (recently added) vertical purple paint marks, similar to trail blazes, on trees or posts less than 100 feet apart; or (3) fencing or enclosure obviously intended to keep intruders out. The degree of offense depends on the circumstances. Simply entering a posted or fenced property is a summary offense, but if the owner or her representative “personally communicates” an order to leave and you remain, it is a third degree misdemeanor. (If the land is

school property, the offense becomes a first degree misdemeanor.)

Agricultural trespass applies to “agricultural and other open lands” and is the most likely offense that a caver might perpetrate. Agricultural land is any land that is used for farming or which has trees that could be harvested. The offense requires that the agricultural land be posted “in a manner reasonably likely to come to a person’s attention,” or fenced or otherwise enclosed. Agricultural trespass is a third degree misdemeanor, unless the owner has personally communicated “an order not to enter or to leave,” at which point it becomes a second degree misdemeanor. Hence, Agricultural trespass has more robust penalties than Defiant trespass (see Penalties discussion below).

Posting Old versions of the law prescribed specific criteria for posting “no trespassing” signs, and some people continue to recite these rules, especially a long-since-repealed provision that each sign must be signed by the landowner and no more than a year old. In fact, except for the rules for the size and location of the new purple paint blaze provisions, the only current statutory posting rule is that the signs must be “reasonably likely to come to the attention of intruders.” A hand painted piece of wood, and any wording to the effect of excluding everyone, such as “Private Property, Keep Out,” is just as enforceable as a No Trespassing sign from the hardware store. And remember: a fence is a valid notice to keep out; no sign necessary.

Penalties. Some people seem to think that misdemeanors are not a big deal, so discussing the penalties here seems appropriate. A summary offense can be considered minor and is sometimes inaccurately described as non-criminal. However, this level of offense can result in fines of up to \$300 and up to 90 days in jail! Generally, you can “plead and pay” for a summary offense without going to court. The trespass statute provides that a third-degree misdemeanor is punishable by up to one year in jail and a minimum fine of \$250. A second degree misdemeanor is punishable by up to two years imprisonment and a fine of between \$500 and \$5,000. You must appear in court for misdemeanor offenses, even if you intend to plead guilty. And, of course, all of these result in a criminal record that is reportable to potential employers, prospective landlords, and certain professional licensing boards (summary offense convictions can be expunged after a period of time if there have been no subsequent convictions).

Summary. It’s easy to keep this all straight: never enter without permission any lands enclosed by fencing or displaying any sort of No Trespassing or Private Property signs, including the purple paint blazes. And, if the land is not enclosed or posted and you are asked to stay out or to leave, skedaddle!

Finally, please note that this article is for informational purposes only and is not intended to constitute legal advice.

Upcoming Events

- 2022 VAR Spring Restoration** April 22-24, 2022
Endless Caverns
New Market, VA
Hosted By: VAR
URL: <https://var.caves.org/index.php/conservation/spring-cleaning>
- 2022 Spring VAR/MAR Field Meet** May 20-22, 2022
Grand Caverns
Grottoes, VA
Hosted By: Seven Valleys Grotto and Charlottesville Grotto
URL: <https://mar.caves.org/fieldmeets.htm> -or-
<http://var.caves.org/index.php/events/spring-var>
- 2022 NSS Convention** June 13-17, 2022
Rapid City, SD
URL: <http://nss2022.caves.org/>
- NCRC National Weeklong** July 16-23, 2022
Convington, VA
URL: <http://ncrc.regfox.com/ncrc-2022-national-seminar>
- Old Timers Reunion (OTR)** Sept. 1-5, 2022
OTR Site/Campgrounds
Dailey, WV (Randolph County)
URL: www.otr.org
- 2022 Fall MAR Field Meet** Sept 16-18, 2022
Lincoln Caverns
Huntingdon, PA
Hosted By: Out of Bounds Grotto
URL: <https://mar.caves.org/fieldmeets.htm>
- 2022 Fall VAR Field Meet** Fall 2022
Location: TBD
Hosted TBD
URL: <http://var.caves.org/index.php/events>
- 2022 Bridge Day** TBD 2022
New River Gorge Bridge
Fayetteville, WV
URL: www.bridgeday.info/
- 2023 MAR Annual Business Meeting** February 25, 2023
Mt. Laurel Church of God
1295 Piketown Road, Linglestown, PA
URL: <https://mar.caves.org/busnmtg.htm>

NSS MEMBER PRICE LIST

Effective October 2018

MID-APPALACHIAN REGION BULLETINS (including reprinted Bulletins)

1-4	Bulletins Caves of Shippensburg Area #1-4	REPRINT	7.00 + postage A
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6	Caves of S. Cumberland Valley	REPRINT 93 caves 69 maps+6 large maps	17.00 + postage B
7	Caves of Fulton Co., PA	<u>Revised/Corrected</u> 4 caves, 4 maps	5.00 + postage A
8	Caves of Blair Co., PA	REPRINT 89 caves, 40 maps	7.00 + postage A
9	Caves of Huntingdon Co., PA	REPRINT 94 caves, 36 maps	10.00 + postage B
10	Caves of Snyder Co., PA	20 caves, 14 maps	6.00 + postage A
11	Caves of Centre Co., PA	71 caves, 56 maps+1 large map	10.00 + postage B
12	Caves of Mifflin Co., PA	47 caves, 31 maps+5 large maps	10.00 + postage B
13	Caves of Perry Co., PA	13 caves, 6 maps	10.00 + postage A
14	Caves of Bucks Co., PA	REPRINT 24 caves, 6 maps	5.00 + postage A
15	Caves of Lehigh Co., PA	REPRINT 25 caves, 13 maps	6.00 + postage A
16	Caves of Northampton Co., PA	24 caves, 13 maps+1 large map	6.00 + postage A
17	Caves of Northumberland Co., PA	20 caves, 10 maps	5.00 + postage A
18	Caves of Berks Co., PA	64 caves, 32 maps	10.00 + postage B
19	Caves of Bedford Co., PA	54 caves, 33 maps	7.00 + postage A
20	Caves of Westmoreland Co., PA	337 caves, 187 maps/10 large maps	29.50 + postage C
21	Karst of Sinking Valley and Kookan Cave Huntingdon and Blair Counties	103 pages with color photos , 4 fold-out maps, 2 large maps	27.50 + postage B
22	Caves of Middle Susquehanna Valley	140 pages with color photos	16.00 + postage D

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