

# Fall 2003 MAR Field Meet Field Guidebook



*50th Anniversary*

**1953 - 2003**

**Shippensburg, Pennsylvania**

**Hosted by**

**Greater Allentown Grotto**



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**LIST OF MAPS** (In Order of Appearance)

Aughenbaugh Cave ..... 8.5" x 11"

Baker Caverns ..... 11" x 17"

Buchanan Cave ..... 8.5" x 11"

Cleversburg Den Caves ..... 8.5" x 11"

Carnegie Cave ..... 11" x 17"

Cleversburg Sink ..... 11" x 17"

Cleversburg – Straight Gorge Extension 8.5" x 11"

Conodoguinet Cave ..... 8.5" x 11"

Frustration Pit ..... 8.5" x 11"

Goods Cave ..... 11" x 17"

Hershey – Coy Cave System ..... 11" x 17"

McGill's Pit ..... 8.5" x 11"

Niswander Cave ..... 11" x 17"

Peiper Cave ..... 11" x 17"

Platter Pit – Persistence Pit Cave System 11" x 17"

Python Pit Cave ..... 11" x 17"

Welsh Run Cave ..... 8.5" x 11"

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the FALL 2003 MAR Field Meet! This year MAR celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. If you're looking for logistical information, such as the schedule for the weekend, phones, food, etc., check with registration. This field guide is about caving! We have planned a good variety of caving trips, including a guided trip of Baker Caverns on Saturday, a trip to Wormers, and a trip to Hershey-Coy on Sunday.

Since this is the 50<sup>th</sup> year of the MAR, I thought it might be appropriate to take a look back at caving in Pennsylvania. Times certainly have changed since Ralph W. Stone published *Bulletin G3 - PENNSYLVANIA CAVES* in 1930. The early maps revealed little detail and many descriptions were brief. Over the years, detailed maps became more common and artistic renderings of passages began to show up on maps. However, throughout the evolution of cave mapping, there was one man who seemed to be ahead of his time, Bernard L. Smeltzer. "Bernie" was among the first to add detailed cross-sections showing the underlying geological formation of dips and strike. As shown in the profile on the Niswander Cave map included with this guidebook, he included artistic renderings such as the massive flowstone, as early as 1950. It would be years before caving caught up with his vision. I hope you enjoy looking back on the life and some of the contributions of one of Pennsylvania's finest cartographers.

Over the last spring and summer, most of the caves in this guidebook have been field checked and updated information is provided on cave conditions and landowner relations. Two new small caves are described for the first time. Please be respectful of the landowners and ask permission first. Permission has already been obtained for Niswander Cave this weekend, and many of the other cave owners are expecting us. When in doubt, ask permission.

See you underground!

– J. Michael Spencer, Editor



## Acknowledgements

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## MAR HISTORY

The Mid-Appalachian Region was established on June 13, 1953 by a small group of cavers meeting in Hagerstown, Maryland. It was originally called the Eastern Region and was intended to include Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia. Like its predecessors, the Northeastern Regional Association (NRO) and the Virginia Region (VAR), the MAR was set up as an organization of grottos, not an organization of cavers.

The boundaries of the Mid-Appalachian Region have always been a little vague. Pennsylvania was always included; DC was always out. Maryland was mostly in, but the Hagerstown Grotto that formed MAR, quickly became inactive. The Baltimore Grotto is often active in the Virginia Region. Northeastern Ohio, mainly Cleveland, participated sometimes. Northern West Virginia was often part of MAR and many field meets have been held in West Virginia. In the early days the boundaries were important because each Region elected a regional representative to the NSS Board of Governors (BOG). At present, Regions serve to outline areas of caving activity with undefined boundaries. The regions have been able to live with this very comfortably.

The founding father of the MAR was Challis N. Bruce of New Castle, Pennsylvania. He organized the first formal meeting which was held October 10-12, 1953 at Shippensburg State Teachers College, currently known as Shippensburg University. At this meeting the constitution and by-laws were drawn-up and were approved on November 12, 1953. The name was changed to the Mid-Appalachian Region. The Shippensburg meeting, under Bruce's leadership, also set the tone for the next several years. There were cave trips but the main part was a technical meeting of talks and slide shows. Although Bruce got the MAR off to a good start, his health failed shortly thereafter after he was forced to drop out of caving activities. For several years the MAR was moribund. It was rejuvenated in the late 1950's by cavers from Pittsburgh and Nittany Grottos. Meetings were again held under the constitution and by-laws to the form in which they stood for 30 years until some revisions were made in the late 1980s.

After the 1957 Council meeting, it became the custom to hold an annual business meeting. In the early 1960s the meeting convened at the home of Dr. Ralph W. Stone in Harrisburg, PA. After Dr. Stone's death, Jay Herbein took up the burden in 1964 and he and Kathy have been hosts to the annual MAR business meeting ever since.

There were two conventions of the MAR in 1957, one in February at State College, Pennsylvania and another on November 9-10 at the Washington County Museum in Hagerstown, Maryland. These were rather formal affairs with formal paper presentations and a banquet with speakers. There were no formal cave trips. However, the format of the annual Regional Convention, modeled as a mini-NSS Convention, proved unworkable. Although the constitution called for both an annual field meet and an annual convention, no further conventions were held after 1957, and instead two field meets, one in the spring and one in the fall became the Region's main membership activity. This format is still presently followed.

From the beginning, it was decided to produce a publication. Two of the papers given at the Shippensburg meeting in 1953 became MAR Bulletin 1. These were simply the typescripts of the papers, reproduced by mimeograph, and stapled back to back. MAR Bulletins 2 and 3 contained mainly the proceedings of the two 1957 MAR Conventions. Some abstracts and the full text of several short papers were included, along with some news, some politics, and a copy of the Region's constitution. With the demise of the MAR Conventions, there was little purpose for the MAR Bulletin. In 1958 the Bulletin was designated the vehicle for publication of the Pennsylvania Cave Survey and the publication of Region news and other commentary had to await the invention of the "MAR Breakdown" in 1986.



## THE PENNSYLVANIA CAVE SURVEY

The Pennsylvania Cave Survey is one of the oldest caving organizations. Their history includes at least four cycles of data collection and publications. The first cycle was the work of Ralph W. Stone in the early 1930s which resulted in a preliminary report of the State Geological Survey in 1930 (G-3 1st Edition) with 29 caves reported and then the better known Stone report in 1932 (G-3 2nd Edition) with 80 caves reported. The second cycle was the intensive field effort, guided by R.W. Stone but with field checking by William Devitt III and Bernard L. Smeltzer, that resulted in NSS Bulletin 15 in 1953. The third and fourth cycles are going on today, the county-by-county cave surveys coordinated through the MAR and the Pennsylvania Cave Data Base organized and managed by Keith Wheeland.

From its beginning the MAR took on responsibility for the Pennsylvania Cave Survey. Beginning with MAR Bulletin 4 in 1958, the MAR Bulletins have been county cave surveys. Responsibility for exploring and mapping caves, preparing written reports, and drawing together the survey document lies with individuals or grottos. The MAR provides coordination, does the final editing of the Bulletins, provides funds for publishing them, maintains the stockpile of previous Bulletins, and handles sales. It has been a good arrangement as currently 20 MAR Bulletins have been issued.

Unlike the county cave survey which has involved many cavers throughout the Mid-Appalachian Region, the Pennsylvania Cave Database is a one-man show. It is a computer file using a data processing system devised by Keith Wheeland, which can accept an extensive array of information on cave location, cave type, land owner, geology, and other features. The file is kept up to date through individual contributions and through careful scrutiny of the various Grotto newsletters.

As of February 2002, using the criteria established to designate a Pennsylvania cave, the number of caves in PA is currently 987 and the total number of references in the Pennsylvania Cave Database is 1557.

\*Credit is given to William B. White et. al., for providing the above information which was originally published in the *MAR Bulletin 1-4*, REPRINT, March 1992, with a few additions and updates by the MAR Webmaster from the online version. Credit is also given to Keith Wheeland for providing the current number of caves and references from the PA Cave Database.



**BERNARD L. SMELTZER**

Excerpts from Dale Ibberson's Obituary for Bernard L. Smeltzer, *York Grotto Newsletter*, Vol. 28, No. 4, July 1992.

Bernard first became interested in caves in 1947 when a family vacation to the southwestern United States introduced him to the wonders of Carlsbad Caverns. In 1948, relatives living near Reading in Berks County told him about South Temple Cave, and this became his first wild cave. An NSS member in Reading told him about *Bulletin G3 - PENNSYLVANIA CAVES* by Ralph W. Stone, and he immediately procured a copy. He joined the NSS, receiving his membership card with a letter dated Oct. 6, 1948. As he proceeded to visit the caves described in that publication he noted that many of the caves had no maps, the few maps included had little detail and did not show all the passages, and he was able to find caves which were not mentioned at all. This, coupled with artistic abilities and a desire to represent natural objects by drawing them led to his interest in cave mapping.

His first map was of Crystal Pit and his second map was of North York Cave, both in York County. The maps are undated but were done in 1948 or very early 1949. Other undated maps from this early period include Refton Cave in Lancaster County, Noecker Cave and Dreibelbis Cave in Berks County, and an early version of Peiper Cave in Cumberland County. They were all a bit crude by his later standards, but they showed some of the detail and cross-sections for which he would become famous in later years. After attending the NSS Convention in April, 1949, he started dating his maps and replaced the NSS symbol with "Prepared By The National Speleological Society". His first dated map was Parker Cave in Cumberland County, dated May 29, 1949. This was followed by maps of Brownstone Cave (Aug. 3, 1949), Peiper Cave (Aug. 14, 1949), and Carnegie Cave (Sept. 18, 1949).

He sent copies to the NSS Cave Files and to the Philadelphia Grotto, whose field trips he often attended. For his efforts at locating and mapping caves, the Philadelphia Grotto made him an Honorary Member on May 5, 1949.

His earliest caving companions were high school buddies Medford Smith and Marlin Kauffman. They both joined the NSS in mid-1949 and were issued

numbers 1311 and 1318. In a letter dated August 2, 1949, Bernard was asked to start an NSS Grotto by then secretary John Petrie. It was pointed out that if they signed up Ralph Stone, they would only need one additional member to meet the minimum requirement. For whatever reason, this was never done. Perhaps, like most teenage cavers, they were too busy exploring caves to be bothered with the organizational details of running a club.

In 1950 Charles Mohr was doing bat counts and biological work in Pennsylvania in preparation for the publication of *NSS Bulletin 15, CAVES OF PENNSYLVANIA*. Although still a teenager, Bernard was well known and was asked by Mohr to accompany him to central Pa. for a few days of caving. Mohr was also interested in seeing any of the local caves which might be of biological significance. Starting on Feb. 12, 1950 they spent several days in the field. Among the caves they visited were Wind Cave in Lancaster County, Peiper Cave in Cumberland County, and Aitkins, Seawra, and the Johnson Caves in Mifflin County. They also visited Kookan, Arch Spring, and Plum Creek Caves in Huntingdon County, as well as Woodward and Stover Caves in Centre County. At Stover they found a bat which Mohr had banded 9 years earlier. A second trip occurred March 12-14, 1950. Among the caves visited on this trip were Bootlegger Sink in York County, Boyer No. 2 in Snyder County, Woodward Cave in Centre County, and Maitland, Seawra, and Aitkin Caves in Mifflin County. At Maitland they found a bat which had been banded by Mohr 8 years earlier. The photographs of Bernard which appear in *NSS Bulletin 15* were taken by Mohr on these trips.

During the 1940's and 1950's the NSS encouraged members to seek favorable publicity for caving and the NSS. Bernard did his part, with no less than 15 newspaper articles in 1950 and 1951.

When *NSS Bulletin 15, CAVES OF PENNSYLVANIA* by Ralph Stone finally was published in 1954, 92 of the 272 cave descriptions and 22 of the 44 cave maps were done by Bernard. It is hard to imagine what this publication would have been like without his contributions. It should be noted here that his maps which appeared in *Bulletin 15* do not show his usual level of detail and cross-sections. To make his maps comply with standards of the day, his maps were re-drawn, deleting most of the detail and eliminating or simplifying the cross-sections. For his efforts he was awarded a Certificate of Merit at the 1954 NSS Convention. He was 23 years old at the time. When Fellows awards were created by the society in 1968, all Certificate of

Merit awardees automatically became Fellows of the NSS.

The Mid Appalachian Region was formed in 1953, in part due to the cooperation resulting from the gathering of material for *Bulletin 15*. At the initial meeting Bernard was elected a member-at-large of the board, representing independent members who were unaffiliated with any grotto.

A major article appeared in the Lancaster, Pa. *SUNDAY NEWS* for April 3rd, 1955. Headlined "Longest Limestone Cave In Lancaster Discovered, Mapped By Spelunkers", it told the story of the reopening of Mummau cave by Chuck Landis and Bernard. The article included a complete description and map.

The April, 1956 issue of *INTERNAL AFFAIRS* (Commonwealth of Pa.) contained a feature article entitled "Many New Caves Found in Southeastern Pennsylvania" by Bernard Smeltzer and Ralph Stone. This article contained new or updated information on 21 caves discovered since the publication of *Bulletin 15*.

In October of 1958, *MAR BULLETIN #4* was published, being devoted almost entirely to "Additional Data on Shippensburg Caves" by Bernard Smeltzer. This article included 11 caves and 10 new maps including Cleversburg Sink, Peipers Cave, and the Hershey and Huber Coys Caves before they were connected. In *THE MAR BULLETIN #9* on Huntingdon County was published in June 1975, containing five maps and descriptions by him.

For *MAR BULLETIN #10* (Dec. 1975) on Snyder County, two of his maps were re-drawn by others for publication.

In February 1979, *MAR BULLETIN #11* on Centre County was published, containing four additional maps.

*MAR BULLETIN #12* on Muffin County was published in July 1981. He supplied maps and descriptions for 13 caves, or about one quarter of the total.

Bernard was a major contributor to *MAR BULLETIN #13* on Perry County. Of the 13 caves presented, he wrote ten of the descriptions and all six maps, including Womers Cave, the largest cave he drew.

He contributed the map of Carpenter Cave which appeared in *MAR BULLETIN #16* on Northampton County, published in February 1989.

*MAR BULLETIN #17* on Northumberland County Caves, issued December 1990 included six maps and five descriptions by him.

The latest bulletin, *MAR BULLETIN #18* on Berks County, published December 1991, contains twelve maps and nine descriptions by Bernard Smeltzer.

In all he drew maps of about 145 caves in Pennsylvania and a few in Maryland. In addition he assisted in surveys which others drew up. His latest project involved doing the artwork for the *GUIDE TO CHATUM GEOLOGIC PARK* in New York State.

He will be remembered most for his excellent cave maps and descriptions, his museum quality collections of fossils and native American artifacts, his concern for the environment, his friendly manner, his illustrated talks on caves and numerous other subjects, and his interest in conveying knowledge of the environment and natural history to our youth.



**BERNARD L. SMELTZER'S CAVE LIST**

One of the ways to truly appreciate the tremendous impact that the unique maps and descriptions of Bernie Smeltzer have made on the caving world is to look back on the list of caves he indelibly left his mark upon. Countless times has a caver reached into their pocket and pulled out a mud stained map with those timeless words "DRAWN BY BERNARD SMELTZER." Many of us have come to affectionately refer to them as "Bernie Maps."

They are almost all instantly recognizable by his unique blend of passage and formation detail and vivid geological sections.

This list of caves below is graciously provided by Hope McAdam. Hope and Jeff Uhl compiled this list as part of an exhibition at the 1992 NSS Convention held in Salem, Indiana. The list was made possible through the contributions of Will and Bette White, Dale Ibberson, Steve Smeltzer, Jay Herbein and John Coolidge III.

**1949**

Brownstone Cave  
Carnegie Cave  
Crystal Pit Cave  
Noecker Cave  
Parker Cave  
Peipers Cave  
Veiled Lady Cave

**1950**

Aughenbaugh Cave  
Boiling Springs Caves  
Bootlegger Sink  
Carpenter Cave  
Cleversburg Sink  
Duffield Cave  
Emigs Cave  
Gable Cave  
Goods Cave  
Niswander Cave  
North York Cave  
Reese Cave  
Rupert Cave  
Warren Point Cave

**1951**

Arnold Cave  
Flemings Cave  
Hipple Cave  
Millheim Cave

**1952**

Blue Springs Cave  
Hesston Cave  
Shively Cave  
South Temple Cave  
Wind Cave

**1953**

Arnt Cave  
Baker #2  
Centerville Cave  
Cochlin Cave  
Curfman Cave  
Hobo Cave  
Hummer Cave  
Kreider Cave  
Redhill Cave  
Shaffer Farm Cave  
Welsh Run Cave  
Wildcat Cave

**1954**

Lime Sinks Cave  
Long Quarry Cave  
Mammau Cave  
Shady Grove Cave

**1955**

Boiling Springs #3, #4  
Hall Cave  
Hershey Cave  
Huber Coys Cave  
Pequea Cave  
Woodchuck Cave

**1956**

Allensville Cave  
Barrville Cave  
Craighead Cave  
Devil's Den  
Dragon Cave  
Johnson Cave  
Maye's Cave  
Siglerville Cave  
Wonderland Caverns

**1957**

Highland Park Cave  
Little Aitkin Cave  
Longs Cave  
Nale #2  
Needy Cave  
West York Cave

**1958**

Celversburg Den Caves  
Cressler Cave  
Hennigh Cave  
Stroudts Bridge Caves  
Taxville Quarry Caves

**1959**

Conodoguinet Cave  
Crooked Cave  
East York Cave  
Freeburg Cave  
Host Cave  
Marble Cave  
Pigeon Cave  
Sandy Cave  
Sharp Farm Cave  
Spider Cave  
Woodward Cave #2

**1960**

Hershey-Coys Cave System  
Paintersville Cave  
Springside Farm Cave



Bernard L. Smeltzer's Cave List (*continued*)

**1961**

Baker #3  
Baker Caverns  
Big Spring Cave  
Buchanan Cave  
Conodoguinet Rock House  
Crow-Bait Cave  
Deerdorff Cave  
Marl Cave  
Overcash Caves  
Railroad Rock House  
Scotland Cave  
Skelly Cave  
St. Thomas Sinks  
Stroughstown Cave  
Thrush Farm Cave  
Woodchuck Pit

**1962**

Brechbiel Cave  
Gorman Caves  
Indian Echo Cave  
Keefer Cave  
Martin Cave  
Red Bridge Caves  
Ron Martin Cave  
Scotland Bridge Cave  
Zimmerman Cave

**1963**

Bahners Cave  
Devil's Hole Rock Shelter  
Kiehl's Cave  
Moyer Caves

**1964**

Honeydew Caves  
Indian Cave  
St. Marks Cave

**1967**

Refton Cave

**1975**

Serafino Cave

**1977**

Linns Cave

**1978**

Hartman Cave  
Schofer Cave

**1979**

Boxwork Cave

**1980**

McGills Pit  
Quaker Hill Cave  
Woomers Cave

**1981**

Courtney Cave  
Patience Pit  
Persistance Pit  
Platter Pt  
Red Church Cave  
Womer Cave

**1982**

Frazer Cave  
John Long's Cave

**1983**

Addison's Cave  
Bernie's Cave  
Blain Cave  
Buckshot Cave  
Crystal Cave  
Part Time Cave  
Perserverance Pit  
Python Pit

**1992**

Borehole Cave